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On behalf of Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Art Museum Announces Ambitious and Expansive *[re]Frame* Exhibitions

What is the art of the American West? The answer is more expansive than you might imagine. Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) is pleased to announce that *[re]Frame: Haub Family Collection of Western American Art*, a major reinstallation of the Haub Family Galleries, will open on May 18, 2024. The *[re]Frame* project meaningfully expands on the stories and perspectives about the art of the American West by opening four brand new exhibitions developed by notable guest curators from around the country who draw inspiration from TAM's Haub Family Collection.

The Haub Family Collection of Western American Art is one of the highlights of a visit to TAM. The important collection includes approximately 250 works that span the 20th century, with remarkable works from 18th, 19th, and 21st centuries, as well. "The Haub Family Collection has a strong reputation in the Pacific Northwest and beyond, as it includes exceptional paintings and sculptures," says Andy Maus, executive director of Tacoma Art Museum. "We have been building on this legacy gift in order to prepare for four new exhibitions that will deepen our understanding of the art of the region and provide exemplary leadership for other museums with similar permanent collections."

The four new exhibitions will open in the Haub Family Galleries and invite visitors to connect with art from and about many important communities in the American West, including Indigenous communities in the southwest and specifically Genízaro communities, the Chinese American experience, and artists in the African and Arab diasporas.

The four new exhibitions are on long-term view at Tacoma Art Museum:

- *Finding Home: The Chinese American West* on view from May 18, 2024—September 5, 2027;
- *Blackness is... the Refusal to be Reduced* will be on view from May 18, 2024—March 14, 2027;
- *Nepantla: The Land is the Beloved* on view from May 18, 2024—September 6, 2026; and
- *The Abiqueños and The Artist* on view from May 18, 2024—May 31, 2026.

The four separate and distinct exhibitions individually explore a range of important themes about the American West, and in so doing the Haub Family Galleries will demonstrate how western art can be more inclusive of diverse narratives. "The Haub Family Collection of Western American

Art provides a wonderful starting point for considering art and ideas about the American West,” stated Faith Brower, Haub Curator of Western American Art. “By pairing the Haub Family Collection with additional artworks, as selected by the guest curators, we can broaden the meaning and relevance of the collection for visitors today.”

The four exhibitions combined will present artwork by 17 contemporary artists who have not often been considered in the context of the art of the American West. “The art of the American West is not static,” said Brower “there are many artists creating work that will further our understanding and deepen our connections to this iconic region.”

Select artists featured:

- Lele Barnett’s exhibition *Finding Home: The Chinese American West* will present a newly commissioned 65-foot site-specific mural created by Seattle-based artist Monyee Chau that will be paired with a large painted scroll by Zhi Lin, along with artwork from the Haub Family Collection.
- Nikesha Breeze is presenting the work of six contemporary artists in *Blackness is... the Refusal to be Reduced* that includes a range of media from paintings, drawing, and sculpture to site-specific installations and film.
- Maymanah Farhat’s exhibition *Nepantla: The Land is the Beloved* will include six artists from the Arab diaspora along with other contemporary work from the museum’s permanent collection, also highlighting a range of mediums including paintings, sculpture, photography, textiles, and more.
- Dr. Patricia Marroquin Norby’s exhibition *The Abiqueños and The Artist* features two disparate artists, Russel Albert Daniels and Georgia O’Keeffe, in a riveting dialogue.

Tacoma Art Museum’s Haub Family Galleries will be closed in early 2024 to prepare for the major reinstallation. The Haub Family Galleries will open with four new exhibitions on May 18, 2024, in anticipation of the 10-year anniversary of the Haub Family Galleries in November 2024. All exhibitions in the *[re]Frame* project are organized by Tacoma Art Museum and funded in part by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Exhibition descriptions:

Finding Home: The Chinese American West honors the Chinese immigrants of the American West. The exhibition touches on the history of racism and violence against the Chinese in America—specifically Tacoma’s exclusionary past—but it also offers artists’ views into Chinese immigrants finding a sense of home and hope. The exhibition will explore the spiritual, the mythical, and the laborious path of these seekers of the American dream in a counter-narrative to the conventional picture of America’s history. *Finding Home: The Chinese American West* is guest curated by Lele Barnett.

The exhibition ***Blackness is... the Refusal to be Reduced*** focuses on contemporary art that explores intertwined concepts of materiality, the body, memory, and resilience. The exhibition centers Blackness, offering a counternarrative to the homogenous story often told in museums, making visible the often invisible with ephemeral materials and conceptual works by contemporary Black western art and artists. *Blackness is... the Refusal to be Reduced* is guest curated by Nikesha Breeze.

Nepantla: The Land is the Beloved features a group of artists identifying with the Arab diaspora who live and work in the western United States and are drawn to landscapes that are as dramatic and ancient as those found in their own homelands. These artists, however, complicate traditional representations of the region, acknowledging and resisting its settler-colonial history, thus deepening our understanding of these places. *Nepantla: The Land is the Beloved* is guest curated by Maymanah Farhat.

The Abiqueños and The Artist examines Indigenous and non-Indigenous understandings of land and landscape in Abiquiú, New Mexico, through a provoking dialogue of works by the notable Diné and Ho-Chunk photographer Russel Albert Daniels and the eminent American artist Georgia O’Keeffe. Avéshu or Abiquiú is a place that American art scholars have consistently referred to as “O’Keeffe Country.” However, this region is the site of ancestral architecture, sacred sites, and important historical events for Genízaro peoples who have lived in this region for centuries, long before O’Keeffe arrived. In this exhibition, these disparate artworks are united to provide depictions of Abiquiú through different perspectives; together they work to convey a deeper understanding of the identities, aesthetics, and the intergenerational ties to Genízaro homelands. ***The Abiqueños and The Artist*** is guest curated by Dr. Patricia Marroquin Norby.

Guest Curator biographies:

Lele Barnett is an art advisor and independent curator based in Seattle, Washington. She has curated for Wing Luke Museum, Meta (previously Facebook) Open Arts, Microsoft Art Collection, and Starbucks Art Program. She was a Producer on Emerging Radiance, a recent project that combined art with Spark AR technologies, which won the Tribeca X Immersive Award at the Tribeca Festival New Voices Competition in 2022.

Working from a Global African Diasporic, Afro-Centric and Afro-Futurist perspective, **Nikesha Breeze** is an artist whose interdisciplinary work reimagines inter-generational traumatic inheritance through the intersection of art and ritual. Nikesha’s work centers Black, Brown, Indigenous, Queer and Earth bodies existing within realms of past, present, and future. Nikesha has shown work both nationally and internationally in museums, galleries, and art fairs across the globe, including a major sculptural installation at the new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery, Alabama.

Maymanah Farhat is an art historian, independent curator, and adjunct lecturer at California State University, Fresno. Her research and scholarship focus on underrepresented artists and forgotten art scenes. She has curated exhibitions at museums, galleries, and art spaces throughout the US and abroad, and has contributed to a wide range of art publications. Her work has been praised by *Foreign Policy’s* annual list of 100 Leading Global Thinkers and the Arab America Foundation.

Patricia Marroquin Norby, PhD (Purépecha) is the inaugural Associate Curator of Native American Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Her curatorial approach has garnered acclaim from the New York Times, Forbes Magazine, and Hyperallergic. Her forthcoming book, *Water, Bones, and Bombs: 20th-Century Art and Environmental Conflicts in Northern New Mexico* (University of Nebraska Press) examines art production and environmental issues concerning the American West.

Associated Programming

- Opening Event, Friday, May 17, from 7-9 p.m.
- Opening Program, Saturday, May 18
- Additional details and events will be announced at tacomaartmuseum.org and on social media.

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About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,400 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums.

Visit Tacoma Art Museum

Wednesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., free admission 5 p.m.–8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Contact: 253-272-4258 / www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Admission: \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+), \$15 Military (active duty or retired with ID), \$10 (youth 6-18), free for TAM members