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SKYWAY

A CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATION 20/21

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG KICKS OFF THE “SKYWAY 20/21: A CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATION” EXHIBITION TAKING PLACE ACROSS FOUR TAMPA BAY MUSEUMS

(ST. PETERSBURG, FL – May 17, 2021) Four Tampa Bay regional museums—the **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg**, **The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art**, the **Tampa Museum of Art**, and the **University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum**—are highlighting a diverse group of local contemporary artists in the second iteration of the triennial exhibition, [*Skyway 20/21: A Contemporary Collaboration*](#). Initiated in summer 2017, this second exhibition builds on an exceptional institutional alliance and cultural partnership celebrating the diversity and talent of artists in the Tampa Bay area. *Skyway 20/21* debuts at the MFA, St. Petersburg **May 22-August 22, 2021**. The exhibition opens at the other museums in June, and will be on view through October.

Due to the devastating and challenging circumstances of the global health pandemic COVID-19, *Skyway 20/21* was postponed from its original date of summer 2020 to allow for the artists and their work to be fully celebrated.

Skyway 20/21 features the work of 49 artists and art collectives working in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties. Following an open call for submissions, the artists were selected by the museum curators and guest juror Claire Tancons, an independent curator and scholar whose practice takes a global focus on the conditions of cultural production.

After numerous studio visits conducted in 2019, the MFA selected works by 15 artists that address, in various media, the natural environment. With striking and unique points of views, the artists celebrate the natural wonders of subtropical Florida—with its beaches, forests, springs and wetlands—and explore the impact of threats by hurricanes, flooding, and erosion as well as pollution and human-related degradation. Taken together, the exhibition not only highlights the talents of artists working in the Tampa Bay region, but also examines one of the most pressing issues of our time — the care of our national environment.

“Some of the artists celebrate and honor the natural world, such as Lynne Railsback’s watercolors of highly realistic native plant life, or Karl Kelly’s abstract response to the Floridian landscape,” said MFA Curator of Contemporary Art Katherine Pill. “Others take an investigative approach, as seen with photographer Jon Notwick, who sheds light on the military test sites that sit below our parks and forested areas, and sculptor Robert Aiosa, whose site-specific work looks at the social, economic and environmental impacts of our built environments, and the histories that live beneath.”

A full-color exhibition catalogue accompanies *Skyway 20/21*, and includes curatorial essays and information about the participating artists.

MFA Executive Director and CEO Kristen A. Shepherd said *Skyway* is an innovative partnership the regional arts community enthusiastically embraces and supports.

“The Tampa Bay area is fortunate to attract an abundance of talented artists working across all media, and we are proud to be able to give them a platform to elevate artistic exploration, share their voices and build connections across our communities and beyond,” Shepherd said.

SKYWAY 20/21 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL

May 22 – August 22, 2021

Featured artists: Robert Aiosa, Dolores Coe, Keith Crowley, Becky Flanders, Dakota Gearhart, Bassmi Ibrahim, Morgan Janssen, Ezra Johnson, Karl Kelly, Savannah Magnolia, Jon Notwick, Lynne Railsback, Gabriel Ramos, Matthew Wicks, and Janelle Young

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL

June 20 – September 26, 2021

Featured artists: Carrie Boucher, Ya Levy La'ford, Kalup Linzy, Noelle Mason, OK! Transmit, Eric Ondina, Heather Rosenbach, and Jake Troyli

Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL
June 3 – October 10, 2021

Featured artists: Jaime Aelavanthara + Amanda Sieradzki, Kim Anderson, Wendy Babcox, Janet Folsom, Samson Huang, Cassia Kite, Jason Lazarus, Jenn Miller, Sarah O'Donoghue, Herion Park, Anat Pollack, Libbi Ponce, Selina Román, John Sims, Mike Solomon, Jill Taffet, and Kirk Ke Wang

USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL
June 14 – September 1, 2021

Featured artists: Rosemarie Chiarlone, Danny Dobrow, Babette Herschberger, Akiko Kotani, Cynthia Mason, Ry McCullough, Casey McDonough, and Kodi Thompson

MFA EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

[Homeschool Hours: Our Excellent Environment](#)

May 26 | 10 am – 12 pm

[Explore More! Days](#)

June 5 | 10 am – 12 pm

[Virtual Cocktails & Collections: Exhibition Tour with Katherine Pill](#)

June 10 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm

[Sensory Saturdays: Our Environment](#)

June 12 | 10 am – 12 pm

[Artist Panel Discussion: Savannah Magnolia Bonnette, Ezra Johnson and Janelle Young](#)

June 24 | 7 – 8:30 pm

[Art & Nature Camp \(Grades 1-5\)](#)

July 19-23 | 9 am – 4 pm

The *Skyway 20/21* exhibition catalogue is generously supported by Brown & Brown Insurance and The Stanton Storer Embrace the Arts Foundation. *Skyway 20/21* is made possible with funding from the City of St. Petersburg, Office of Cultural Affairs; Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; the Gobiuff Foundation; Gulf Coast Community Foundation; The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation; Dr. Allen Root; Arthur F. and Ulla R. Searing Ringling Endowment; Tampa Museum of Art Foundation; and the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum Lee and Victor Leavengood

Endowment. Additional support provided by Sarasota County Tourist Development Council and media partners Herald-Tribune Media Group, *Tampa Bay Times*, and WUSF.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive NE is St. Petersburg's first art museum, and houses the largest encyclopedic art collection in Florida. The collection includes works of art from ancient times to the present day and from around the world, including ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, Native American, European, American, and contemporary art. The photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast. Kristen A. Shepherd is the Executive Director and CEO. For more information on hours, admission and COVID-19 safety protocols, please visit mfastpete.org

ABOUT THE JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART

The Ringling is a preeminent center for the arts, history and learning that is dedicated to bringing the past and contemporary culture to life through extraordinary visitor experiences. From its inception, The Ringling has joined the diverse visual traditions and theatrical spectacle of yesterday with the genre-defying global practitioners of today. A place of exploration, discovery and respite, The Ringling's campus in Sarasota, Florida—which includes the Museum of Art, Circus Museum, a historic home, an 18th-century theater and bayfront gardens—is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As the State Art Museum of Florida and part of Florida State University, The Ringling fulfills an important educational mission. The Ringling offers formal and informal programs of study serving as a major resource for students, scholars and lifelong learners of every age across the region and country and around the world. ringling.org

ABOUT TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART

The Tampa Museum of Art (TMA) opened its award-winning new home in 2010 with a commitment to providing innovative public programs with a strong focus on classical, modern, and contemporary art. The Museum balances a growing collection, including one of the largest Greek and Roman antiquities collections in the southeastern United States, with a dynamic annual schedule of special exhibitions. It is the region's largest museum devoted to art of our time and has built a reputation for embracing contemporary photography and new media; most notably, Leo Villareal's *Sky (Tampa)*, the 14,000-square-foot LED installation on the Museum's south façade, has become an iconic image for Tampa. Since its founding in 1979, the Museum has been dedicated to providing quality education to students and adults, with more than half of its programs offered free of charge. The Museum is home to the Riverwalk Café at TMA, a café overlooking the Hillsborough River that has emerged as Tampa's premier venue for special events. tampamuseum.org

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to

explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works. cam.usf.edu