

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG PRESENTS THIRD ITERATION OF *SKYWAY: A CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATION*, FEATURING THE WORKS OF SEVEN ARTISTS

July 13 – November 3, 2024

SKYWAY

A CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATION 2024

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (JULY 1, 2024) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg announces [Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration](#), the third iteration of this celebration of artistic practices in the Tampa Bay Region. *Skyway 2024* is a multi-venue exhibition shared among five institutions: the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg; The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota; Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College Art and Design; the Tampa Museum of Art; and the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa. Working together, curators from each institution offer context for the diversity of art produced in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties.

Evan Garza is the guest juror for Skyway 2024. Currently a Curatorial Fellow at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Garza served as co-curator and artistic director of the 2021 Texas Biennial and co-founded Fire Island Artist Residency (FIAR), a New York nonprofit and the first residency program in the world exclusively for LGBTQ+ artists. He and curators from the five exhibiting venues have contributed to a fully illustrated catalogue that accompanies the exhibition.



Seven artists were invited to engage with the MFA collection galleries and architecture. Between the front columns of the MFA's neoclassical building hang three photo-based banners by **Will Douglas**. Each depicts a sunset in Finland, reddened by the haze of the devastating 2023 Canadian wildfires. **Kendra Frorup** has created a site-specific installation in the Museum's Rococo gallery, inspired by a portrait by Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun. In the Baroque gallery, **Emily Martinez** elevates figures traditionally left out of positions of power within the history of painting. Inspired by the ancient city of Pompeii, **Cynthia Mason** draws parallels to our current climate crisis, envisioning an entombed future in her room-sized site-specific installation Secret Garden in the Miriam Acheson Gallery. In the adjacent Ancient Western galleries, the work of **Anat Pollack** engages with ancient fertility figures. Her clay and cast bronze work exemplify the monumentality and power that can be found in the hand-made and the hand-sized. **Carola Miles** suggests an otherworldly visual language in this space through detailed drawings of alien spaceships based on descriptions of global sightings. In the MFA Store, **Emiliano Settecasì** presents *Department of Contemporary Art Tampa, FL Is Selling Out!*. His work is a critique of capitalist culture and

institutional power, as well as a larger reflection on the responsibilities one takes on as an artist and curator. *Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration* is on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg from July 13 through November 3, 2024.

Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration was established to highlight the diversity of talent in the Tampa Bay area, but it was also the beginning of a highly unique cross-venue collaboration that has grown over the years. The expansion of this project continues to foster a sense of collectivity, of feeling intertwined with our institutions and one another.

“*Skyway* continues to foster connections across counties, and it’s exciting to see it grow and evolve as a truly unique curatorial project,” states Senior Curator of Contemporary Art **Katherine Pill**. “It’s thrilling to witness artists engaging with the MFA collection and architectural spaces, a first for our institution under the *Skyway* initiative.”

Exhibition Dates and Artists

Each museum will host a distinct grouping of Tampa Bay area artists and art collectives in *Skyway 2024*, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to embark on a comprehensive journey through the vibrant contemporary art landscape of the Tampa Bay region.

On view at The Ringling from May 25 through January 26, 2025:

Caitlin Albritton, Ainaz Alipour, Mohsen Azar, Saumitra Chandratreya, Elisabeth Condon, Robyn “Avalon” Crosa, Rachel de Cuba, Jake Fernandez, Akiko Kotani, Carol Mickett and Robert Stackhouse, Libbi Ponce, Michael Vasquez, and Joo Woo.

On view at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg from July 13 through November 3, 2024:

Will Douglas, Kendra Frorup, Emily Martinez, Cynthia Mason, Carola Miles, Anat Pollack, and Emiliano Settecase.

On view at the USF Contemporary Art Museum from July 19 through November 23, 2024:

Elisabeth Condon, Keith Crowley, John Gurbacs, Karen Tucker Kuykendall, Caui Lofgren, Bruce Marsh, Eric Ondina, Sebastian Ore Blas, Andres Ramirez, Bradford Robotham, Erin Titus, and Susanna Wallin.

On view at Sarasota Art Museum from July 28 through October 27, 2024:

Kim Anderson, Ryan Day, Sue Havens, Dominique Labauvie, Tatiana Mesa Paján, Samantha Modder, Roger Clay Palmer, Herion Park, Gabriel Ramos, Eszter Sziksz, Jill Taffet, Rob Tarbell, Kirk Ke Wang, Willow Wells, and Corinne Zepeda.

On view at the Tampa Museum of Art from August 28 through January 5, 2025:

Marc Brechwald, Samo Davis, Aesopbookofrot (Danielle Dragani), Joe Fig, Adrian Gomez, JD Hardy, Sami Harthoorn, Cort Hartle, Latonya Hicks, Dallas Jackson, Aimee Jones, Candace Knapp, David Mack, David McCauley, Marina Shalthout, David Sibbitt, Yajaira Urzua-Reyes, and Corinne Zepeda.

Collaborative Curation and Community Engagement

The selection of artworks for *Skyway 2024* was a collaborative endeavor, with curatorial teams from each museum working together to showcase the region’s dynamic and varied artistic talents. Museum curators reviewed over 300 submissions in response to an open call to artists from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties. This initiative highlights local artists’ creativity and strengthens the

community's connection to contemporary art. The curators working together for this third iteration of *Skyway* include the following:

- **Evan Garza**, Guest Juror for *Skyway 2024* and Independent Curator
- **Christopher Jones**, the Stanton B. and Nancy W. Kaplan Curator of Photography and Media Art, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
- **Katherine Pill**, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg
- **Joanna Robotham**, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Tampa Museum of Art
- **Christian Viveros-Fauné**, Curator-at-Large, USF Contemporary Art Museum
- **Ola Wlusek**, the Keith D. Monda Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
- **Rangsook Yoon**, Ph.D., Senior Curator, Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College of Art and Design

Skyway 2024: A Contemporary Collaboration is more than an exhibition; it is a celebration of artistic innovation and a testament to the collaborative spirit of the Tampa Bay art community. This project promises to leave a lasting impact on the region by shining a spotlight on the artistic voices of the central gulf-coast Florida region, inspiring future generations of artists and art enthusiasts alike.

A full-color catalog accompanies the exhibition. It includes curatorial essays and information about each artist and their work.

This exhibition is supported by the Gobioff Foundation and the Stanton Storer Embrace the Arts Foundation.

Image Credit:

Emily Martinez, *27 DIC. 1974 (Mother's Embrace)* (detail), 2024, Acrylic on canvas and wood.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) has an encyclopedic collection of art from around the globe and across the centuries, with almost 5,000 years of civilization represented in over 20,000 objects extending from antiquity to the present. The collection includes works by Georgia O'Keefe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, Jacob Lawrence, and many others, as well as ancient Greek and Roman, Asian, African, Art of the Americas and Native American art. The Museum's photographic collection is one of the largest and most well-respected in the Southeast. The museum's rotating exhibition galleries feature a diverse selection of temporary exhibitions from all over the world, as well as exhibitions curated from the museum's extensive collection. In addition to its robust exhibition program, the MFA engages the community through exciting public programs and events and serves students through youth programs and a partnership with the Pinellas County School System. For more information, please visit mfastpete.org and follow @mfastpete on social.

