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mmaa.org

MANY WATERS:
A MINNESOTA BIENNIAL

The M is delighted to present Many Waters, an exhibition exploring the creative practices of more than 50 jury-selected artists with relationships to the water systems of Mni Sota Makoce.

July 7, 2021—St. Paul, MN—Many Waters: A Minnesota Biennial is a look into some of the imaginative and dedicated ways that artists and culture bearers from across the state are engaging with water. The exhibition will be on view from July 24 through October 2, 2021 in the M’s window galleries on Robert and 4th streets, in the M’s skyway Ecolab Entrance, and at NewStudio Gallery in St. Paul. Featured creative practices are based in both observation and engagement; some are solitary, while others are collaborative. Many Waters includes multisensory art in a wide range of media.
The exhibition is informed by the M’s proximity to the complex and storied Mississippi River—the third largest river in the world, which goes by many names. A number of featured artists work in close conversation with the watershed, exploring and bringing to greater public consciousness its critical histories. In her video installation, Sisseton-Wahpeton media artist Mona Smith weaves together Dakhóta reflections on the river to foster remembrance, understanding, and acknowledgement of relationship to place.

While some artists are informed by engagement with specific sites, others take a broad, poetic view. Zamara Cuyun’s kaleidoscopic painting *Midwife* reflects on the relationship between women and water as life givers and sustainers. Karen Goulet’s quilt honors the water journeys of her Ojibwe, Métis, and Sámi/Finnish ancestors, as well as the longing the sky has to see its reflection in the water in the winter months.

A number of artists use found materials drawn from daily walks or other creative rituals. Presley Martin’s sculptural installation, for example, is made up of hundreds of pieces of foam he often first mistakes for natural materials and collects from the banks of the Mississippi. Annie Hejny creates her luminous paintings—suggestive of gateways to watery worlds beyond human reach—with respectfully gathered Mississippi water and sediment.

A theme that runs through the exhibition is a concern for the environmental impact of human activity on bodies of water. A selection of projects from a collective of artists and researchers, spanning the Headwaters to the Gulf of the Mississippi River, explore the ongoing devastations of white settler colonialism, as well as indigenous revival along the river. Additional works by artists from this group will be on view at a companion, artist-organized exhibition, *OVERFLOW*, at the Q.arma Building.

The work in *Many Waters* fosters conversation, awareness, a sense of care, as well as new ways of thinking about water and water stories through many different lenses, including ecological, social, political, historical, spiritual, and creative.

The exhibition was juried by a panel that includes Matthew Fluharty, a visual artist, writer, and Executive Director of Art of the Rural; Dakota Hoska, Assistant Curator of Native Arts at the Denver Art Museum; Laura Joseph, Curator of Exhibitions at the M; and Jovan C. Speller, a visual artist, curator, and Program Director at Metro Regional Arts Council.

**FEATURED ARTISTS**

David Andree · Alyssa Baguss · Moira Bateman* · Barbara Bend* · Casey Bennett* · Vernal Bogren Swift* · Kelsey Bosch* · Nick Brown, Ryan Griffis, and Sarah Kanouse with contributions from Rozalinda Borcilă, Dylan A.T. Miner, Heather Parrish, and Corinne Teed · Isabelle Carbonell with contributions from Andres Camacho · Andrea Carlson, Tia-Simone Gardner, John Kim, and Jenny Schmid · Morgan Clifford* · Melissa Cooke Benson · Zamara Cuyun · Emily Donovan* · Gregory Euclide* · Regina Flanagan* · Billy Flynn* · Linda Gammell* · Tia-Simone Gardner* · Ruthann Godollei · Karen Goulet* · Ian Hanseworth* · Annie Hejny* · Joan Bemel Iron Moccasin · Ethan Jones · Jes Lee* · Curt Lund · Presley Martin · Charles Matson Lume · James Meyer* · Ben Moren* · Monica Moses Haller* · Brian Holmes · Sarah Nassif* · Lisa Nebenzahl* · Kimber Olsen · Kristin Maija
Peterson* · Sonja Peterson · Niki Pico* · Alison Price · Lindsay Rhyner · Mona Smith · Moheb Soliman · Sandra Spieler · Holly Newton Swift* · Keith Taylor* · Moira Villiard · Megan Vossler* · Josh Winkler

* Artists whose work will be on view at NewStudio Gallery are indicated above with an asterisk.

NewStudio Gallery is located at: 2303 Wycliff St, St Paul, MN 55114. Free parking is available on-street and in two adjacent surface lots. A bike rack is also available outside the building.

Please visit NewStudio Gallery’s website for hours: https://www.newstudiogallery.com/.

Above images (l to r; courtesy of the artist unless otherwise noted):

Top row:
- Joan Bemel Iron Moccasin, Lake Superior Strong, 2019, pigment print
- Kimber Olson, Reed, Root and Rhizome, 2020, wool felt
- Ethan Jones, Missouri River, Chamberlain, 2017, archival pigment print mounted on dibond

Bottom row:
- Ian Hanseworth, Currents III, 2019, relief print on kozo paper
- Moira Villard, Waters of Tomorrow, 2019, acrylic and oil on canvas
- Sarah Nassif, Ripple Effect, 2019, natural fibers, recycled cloth, copper pipe, courtesy of Great River Coalition

MANY WATERS RELATED PROGRAMS

OVERFLOW
July 24–October 1
The Q.arma Building, 1224 Quincy St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Additional works produced by artists affiliated with the Mississippi watershed collective can be experienced at a companion, artist-run exhibition, OVERFLOW. This extensive network of artists gathered in 2019 to bring all their senses to the Mississippi River—paddling downstream in canoes, venturing up multiple tributaries, clambering over collapsing infrastructures, trudging in its muddy banks, and experiencing the river's seasonal pulse. From the Headwaters in Minnesota to the Bird's Foot Delta in New Orleans, they set up research hubs, delved deep into written and oral histories, and created works of all kinds, including guided tours, performances, pamphlets, lectures, shared meals, and temporary shows for visitors and local inhabitants. Their concerns ranged across river ecologies, Indigenous, Black and settler-colonial histories, agriculture, urbanization, engineering, state and corporate violence, and the overflowing of liberation struggles that continue today. How to put all that into a single retrospective? What they've developed is an artist-run exhibition curating both new and existing works, gathering energy with an opening in Minneapolis before setting out on meanders further downstream. Love and chaos are the keys. For more information visit: mediaculturalstudies.com/overflow/

MANY WATERS: A MINNESOTA BIENNIAL OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, July 31, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
NewStudio Gallery, 2303 Wycliff St, St Paul, MN 55114

Celebrate the opening of the M's water-themed biennial, see the artwork featured at NewStudio, and meet some of the artists featured in the exhibition. Light refreshments provided.
FAMILY DAY: WE ARE WATER
Sunday, September 12, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Hidden Falls Regional Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Dr, St Paul, MN 55116

Gather along the Mississippi River bluffs to enjoy hands-on, artist-designed activities that explore our most essential natural resource—water. Pick up a free art kit featuring a card deck of instructional poems created by the artists featured in the Many Waters exhibition. Presented in partnership with Mississippi Park Connection, Great River Passage Initiative, and Lower Phalen Creek Project. Art kits are designed for ages 5 and up with some help from an adult. This is a rain or shine event.

TIA-SIMONE GARDNER’S UNVESSEL AND MONICA MOSES HALLER’S LISTENING TO THE MISSISSIPPI
Organized in partnership with Great River Passage Initiative
Dates to be announced at mmaa.org
Pickerel Lake, Lilydale Regional Park, Lilydale Road

Experience Tia-Simone Gardner’s experimental site-based work exploring landscape photography and the Mississippi which draws on historical connections between Blackness and the river. Taking the form of a floating camera obscura—a small box, experienced in total darkness, that projects an image of the outside world onto the walls of its interior—in the shape of an inverted ship, UnVessel seeks to unsettle the way we passively observe and experience the river and the body’s relationship to it.

Check out a “listening kit” and hear underwater and aboveground recordings of the Mississippi, gathered in 2015 by artists Monica Moses Haller and Sebastian Muellauer, shared in this iteration as a composition by Michi Wiancko and Judd Greenstein. Moses Haller’s Listening to the Mississippi asks listeners to orient themselves to the river through their sense of sound. It invites a perceptual adjustment to the river and attunement to critical histories, present and futures both human and non-human. Rent a self-serve kayak from Pickerel Lake Station online in advance, and listen on the river. For more information about kayaking with Paddle Share visit https://www.paddleshare.org/how-it-works. Come dressed for the weather.

Minnesota Museum of American Art
mmaa.org

Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M), based in St. Paul, has evolved and adapted over the course of its history dating back to the 19th century. Recognizing that art is a tool for facilitating understanding across difference, the M is dedicated to amplifying the power of art and artists who represent diverse perspectives, identities, and lived experiences.

First introduced as an innovative way to present engaging exhibitions while remaining closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the M will continue to exhibit work in its window galleries as well as in the skyway, virtually, and at partner facilities, in anticipation of commencing construction work on the final phase of the M’s facility.

Minnesota Museum of American Art • 350 Robert Street North • St. Paul, MN 55101 • mmaa.org

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