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61 VIRGINIA ARTISTS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRGINIA MOCA’S INAUGURAL BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

*Made in VA Biennial* will present a robust selection of contemporary art being made throughout the state.

**Virginia Beach, VA.** (June 6, 2024) – On July 12, 2024, the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (Virginia MOCA) will open the inaugural *Made in VA Biennial* to the public. The exhibition will display 87 works of art by 61 artists from across Virginia. Works span a diverse array of mediums and approaches, ranging from painting and sculpture to fiber and film. The exhibition will run through January 5, 2025.

For 30 years, Virginia MOCA's commitment to Virginia’s creative community has been anchored by the annual presentation of work by Virginia artists, *Made in VA*. Beginning this summer, *Made in VA* expands to a biennial event, featuring work created by Virginia artists in the preceding two years. This expansion promises to provide an even larger platform for Virginia artists to share their voice and express their vision, with a larger prize fund and more professional opportunities for each artist.

"At Virginia MOCA, we're deeply rooted in our community," said Alison Byrne, interim director, director of exhibitions at the Museum. "Our upcoming exhibition featuring Virginia talent is a perfect example—exceptional contemporary art that resonates on every level."

One artist will receive the first-ever Goode Prize, a $10,000 best-in-show award and a solo exhibition that will run concurrently with the 2026 *Made in VA Biennial*. Additional awards include Second Place ($3,000), Third Place ($1,500), Honorable Mentions ($750, 3 awarded), the Director’s Prize ($1,000), and People’s Choice ($750). Awards will be announced the night of the Members’ Opening, Thursday, July 11, 2024.

This year, the artists were selected by three jurors representing regional and national perspectives: Maya Brooks assistant curator of Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art and Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art; Lauren Levin, a curator and writer based in Chicago and Cleveland; and Virginia MOCA Senior Curator Heather Hakimzadeh. Artists were chosen from an applicant pool of 699, a record for this exhibition.

“Virginia's artistic wealth is undeniable, and this year's submissions to *Made in VA* confirmed it," said Hakimzadeh. "The quality of work was superlative, making the decision to transition to a Museum-wide biennial format even more exciting."

**MADE IN VA BIENNIAL ARTISTS (ALPHABETICAL BY CITY)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raydel Blanco</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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<td>Forrest Lawson</td>
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<td>Pedro Ledesma III</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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<td>Meesha Goldberg</td>
<td>Barboursville</td>
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<td>Michael Borowski</td>
<td>Blacksburg</td>
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<td>Ju Yun</td>
<td>Chantilly</td>
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<td>Morgan Ashcom</td>
<td>Charlottesville</td>
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<td>Federico Cuatlacuatl</td>
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<td>Anna Hogg</td>
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<td>Abby Kasonik</td>
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<td>AnaMarie Liddell</td>
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<td>Lauren Moses</td>
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<td>Victoria Jensen</td>
<td>Chesapeake</td>
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<td>Meg Roberts Arsenovic</td>
<td>Diggs</td>
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<td>Nanette Nacorda Catigbe</td>
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<td>Kara Braciale</td>
<td>Falls Church</td>
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<td>Corrin Pumphrey</td>
<td>Fredericksburg</td>
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<td>Eirotropot</td>
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<td>Vivian Chiu</td>
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<td>Lenny Lyons Bruno</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Kenney</td>
<td>Linden</td>
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<td>Robin Croft</td>
<td>Manassas</td>
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<td>Susan Iverson</td>
<td>Montpelier</td>
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<td>Nadd Harvin</td>
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<td>Ryan Lytle</td>
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<td>Hank the Aquarian</td>
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<td>Kole Bennett</td>
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<td>Gina Warren Buzby</td>
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<td>Kim Hardy</td>
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<td>Megan Obenaus</td>
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<td>Seville Marina Meyn</td>
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<td>Jing Qin</td>
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<td>YunKyoung Cho</td>
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<td>Sidra Kaluszka</td>
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<td>Jalen Adams</td>
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<td>Jordan Bruner</td>
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<td>Hannah Diomataris</td>
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<td>Isa Dray</td>
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<td>Chelsea A. Flowers</td>
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<td>Niki Jiang</td>
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<td>Emma Knight</td>
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<td>Sean McClintock</td>
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<td>Evie Metz</td>
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<td>Andrew Norris</td>
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<td>Rebecca Oh</td>
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<td>Cameron Ritcher</td>
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<td>Ying-Fang Shen</td>
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<td>Fanxi Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Van Dinh</td>
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<td>Amanda Kelly</td>
<td>Roanoke</td>
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<td>Pooja Campbell</td>
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<td>Susan J. Lapham</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<td>Rowena Federico Finn</td>
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<td>Jaimee Foster</td>
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<td>Maggie Kerrigan</td>
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<td>Nadia Msalek</td>
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<td>Melissa Schappell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulina Archambalt</td>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
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<td>Steve Prince</td>
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<td>Nicole M. Santiago</td>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
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For additional information on the exhibition, please visit virginiamoca.org. Follow Virginia MOCA at @virginiamoca on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to receive the latest updates.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
An AAM (American Alliance of Museums) accredited non-collecting museum, Virginia MOCA presents exceptional, locally relevant, and nationally resonant exhibitions that invite neighbors, strangers, students, families, communities, and cultures to explore our shared humanity through contemporary art, in all of its timeliness, restlessness, and beauty. More information about Virginia MOCA can be found at virginiamoca.org.

High-resolution images are available here.

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