

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Linda Koller, Director of Marketing & Special Events
linda@virginiamoca.org | (757) 425-0000 ext. 319

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)

Raydel Blanco	Alexandria
Forrest Lawson	Alexandria
Pedro Ledesma III	Alexandria
Meesha Goldberg	Barboursville
Michael Borowski	Blacksburg
Ju Yun	Chantilly
Morgan Ashcom	Charlottesville
Federico Cuatlacuatl	Charlottesville
Anna Hogg	Charlottesville
Abby Kasonik	Charlottesville
AnaMarie Liddell	Charlottesville
Lauren Moses	Charlottesville
Victoria Jensen	Chesapeake
Meg Roberts Arsenovic	Diggs
Nanette Nacorda Catigbe	Fairfax
Kara Braciale	Falls Church
Corrin Pumphrey	Fredericksburg
Eirotropot	Harrisonburg
Vivian Chiu	Henrico
Lenny Lyons Bruno	Lexington
Jeffrey Kenney	Linden
Robin Croft	Manassas
Susan Iverson	Montpelier
Nadd Harvin	Newport News
Ryan Lytle	Newport News
Hank the Aquarian	Norfolk
Kole Bennett	Norfolk
Gina Warren Buzby	Norfolk
Kim Hardy	Norfolk
Megan Obenaus	Norfolk
Seville Marina Meyn Partida	Norfolk
Jing Qin	Norfolk

YunKyoung Cho	Oakton
Sidra Kaluszka	Radford
Jalen Adams	Richmond
Jordan Bruner	Richmond
Hannah Diomataris	Richmond
Isa Dray	Richmond
Chelsea A. Flowers	Richmond
Niki Jiang	Richmond
Emma Knight	Richmond
Jonathan Lee	Richmond
Sean McClintock	Richmond
Evie Metz	Richmond
Andrew Norris	Richmond
Rebecca Oh	Richmond
Cameron Ritcher	Richmond
Ying-Fang Shen	Richmond
Fanxi Sun	Richmond
Andy Van Dinh	Richmond
Amanda Kelly	Roanoke
Pooja Campbell	South Riding
Susan J. Lapham	Vienna
Rowena Federico Finn	Virginia Beach
Jaimee Foster	Virginia Beach
Maggie Kerrigan	Virginia Beach
Nadia Msalek	Virginia Beach
Melissa Schappell	Virginia Beach
Paulina Archambalt	Williamsburg
Steve Prince	Williamsburg
Nicole M. Santiago	Williamsburg

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](#).

###

Media contact:

Linda Koller, Director of Marketing & Special Events | linda@virginiamoca.org | 757.425.0000 x319
 Summer Peszko, Marketing & Special Events Coordinator | summer@virginiamoca.org | 757.425.0000 x314