

**News Release**  
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**JUN 7—SEP 21, 2025**

**JOSLYN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS**

# MADE IN THE PLAINS

New and Recent Work by Twenty Artists Living in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota

Omaha, NE—Showcasing the vibrant and diverse artistic communities of the region, *Made in the Plains* features new and recent work by twenty artists living in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. The exhibition, organized by the Joslyn Art Museum, is on view June 7 through September 21.

While not a comprehensive survey of art being produced here, the exhibition highlights a range of materials and approaches artists engage to respond to the current moment. Universal human themes, including history, landscape, and representation will be explored alongside timely concerns, like climate change, land use, gender norms, bodily autonomy, and geopolitical conflict. Through painting, sculpture, photography, installation, ceramics, and performance, these artists exemplify the creative landscape of the Plains today.



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Annette & Paul Smith  
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Polina & Robert Schlott

*Made in the Plains* featured artists (pictured page one in alphabetical order, left to right, top to bottom):

**Wesaam Al-Badry (American, born Iraq, 1984)**

Lincoln, NE

Wesaam Al-Badry explores identity, migration, and war through photography, video installation, sculpture, and painting.

**Jess Benjamin (American, born 1979)**

Omaha, NE

An adjunct assistant professor of art at Creighton University, Jess Benjamin's ceramic sculptures and installations address issues related to water resources, including usage rights, drought, and preservation efforts.

**Larry Buller (American, born 1958)**

Lincoln, NE

Larry Buller's ceramic works mine the relationship between the domestic and the erotic, challenging norms and ideas of "good taste," while celebrating queer identity.

**Andrew Casto (American, born 1977)**

Iowa City, IA

An associate professor and head of ceramics at the University of Iowa, Andrew Casto engages an experimental approach to ceramics, exploring unconventional techniques and forms as he considers chance, acceptance, and perseverance.

**Rachel Cox (American, born 1984)**

Iowa City, IA

An assistant professor of photography at the University of Iowa, Rachel Cox enlists innovative photographic techniques to explore a range of lived experiences, including health, fertility, mortality, longing, and grief.

**T.J. Dedeaux-Norris (American, born Guam, 1979)**

Iowa City, IA

An associate professor of painting and drawing at the University of Iowa, T.J. Dedeaux-Norris uses painting, fiber, performance, video, and music to explore the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and class.

**Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez**

**(Colombian and American, born 1961)**

Lincoln, NE

Spanning painting, sculpture, and installation, Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez's work weaves together personal narratives and broader cultural and feminist themes to explore cultural hybridity, migration, and identity.

**Neil Griess (American, born 1989)**

Omaha, NE

An instructor of painting at the University of Nebraska Omaha, Neil Griess uncovers the layered history of the Nebraska landscape through painting, drawing, and sculpture.

**Becky Grismer (American, born 1978)**

Spearfish, SD

Becky Grismer's sculptures and installations in an array of materials, including clay, wood, and tree bark, consider familial bonds, belonging, and our deep connection to the land.

**Shabnam Jannesari (American, born Iran, 1991)**

Hastings, NE

An assistant professor of art at Hastings College, Shabnam Jannesari creates layered compositions that portray both the struggles and strengths of women whose lives are impacted by traditionally patriarchal Iranian culture.

**Larassa Kabel (American, born 1970)**

Des Moines, IA

Larassa Kabel's meticulous drawings, paintings, and photographs, often featuring animals as subjects, wrestle with humans' inability to confront mortality.

**Sarah Rowe (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska/Lakota, born 1981)**

Omaha, NE

Working across painting, performance, and social practice, Sarah Rowe reimagines Indigenous symbology and ceremony, encouraging viewers to participate in reshaping long-held perceptions of Native communities.

**Nathaniel Ruleaux (Oglala Sioux Tribe, born 1990)**

Rapid City, SD

A founding member of Unceded Artist Collective, Nathaniel Ruleaux's work blends contemporary techniques with traditional Native imagery to explore identity, heritage, and issues impacting Indigenous communities.

**Lee Emma Running (American, born 1978)**

Omaha, NE

Lee Emma Running considers the impact of human intervention on the natural world through monumental public installations and sculptural objects in a range of media, including cast iron, enamel, glass, animal bone, and handmade paper.

**Angie Seykora (American, born 1987)**

Omaha, NE

Angie Seykora deploys the pared-down aesthetic of Minimalism and Op art to transform common materials into whimsical sculptures and site-specific installations.

**Lauren Simpson (American, born 1983)**

Omaha, NE

Choreographer and educator Lauren Simpson conceives site-specific performances that emphasize collaboration across disciplines and call attention to the relationships among movement, sound, and space.

**Francisco Souto (American, born Venezuela, 1973)**

Lincoln, NE

Director of the School of Art, Art History and Design and a professor of art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Francisco Souto creates highly detailed images that address sociopolitical turmoil, migration experiences, and the human capacity for resilience.

**Christine Stormberg (American, born 1986)**

Omaha, NE

Christine Stormberg works across media to investigate the body as a site of power and excess, creating large-scale ceramics and paintings blurring the boundaries between the beautiful and the grotesque.

**Mallory Wetherell (American, born 1983)**

Kearney, NE

A professor of art and head of ceramics at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Mallory Wetherell's porcelain sculptures and vessels explore topics including reproductive justice, fertility, privacy, and the long art historical tradition of treating women as muses or reducing them to objects of desire.

**Jave Yoshimoto (American, born Japan, 1974)**

Omaha, NE

An assistant professor of art at the University of Nebraska Omaha, Jave Yoshimoto works across media, drawing on the aesthetics of Japanese woodblock prints, Art Deco design, and pop culture to address themes ranging from migration and the refugee crisis to natural disasters and public service.

## ART CONVERSATIONS & COCKTAILS

Select Wed, 5:30–7 pm

**Jul 16:** Francisco Souto & Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez

**Aug 20:** Lauren Simpson & Sarah Rowe

**Sep 17:** Andrew Casto & Mallory Wetherell

Join us for casual, engaging evenings with *Made in the Plains* artists and curators. Each month, two artists will discuss thematic and material connections between their work and artistic practices.

\$30 for general public per event (includes a signature cocktail or mocktail, appetizers, and an exhibition ticket); \$20 for Joslyn members per event; **advance registration required at [joslyn.org](https://joslyn.org)**; walk-ins accepted as space allows.

## ARTIST PERFORMANCES

**Lauren Simpson: *Desire Lines***

**Thu, Aug 7; 5–7 pm**

**Fri, Sat & Sun, Aug 8–10; 2–4 pm**

Choreographer and educator Lauren Simpson and her collaborators will enact movement installations throughout The Joslyn's Rhonda & Howard Hawks Pavilion and gardens. Simpson conceives site-specific performances that call attention to the relationships among movement, sound, and space.

Free, drop-in programs.

**Sarah Rowe: *Super★vision***

**Thu, Sep 11; 6 pm (rain date: Sat, Sep 13)**

Sarah Rowe frames her practice as a call to action, encouraging viewers to participate in reshaping long-held perceptions of Native communities. Using painted sails from the exhibition, Rowe and her collaborators will take visitors on a journey in the Museum and across the grounds.

Free, drop-in program.

## MORE MADE IN THE PLAINS

**Nights at The Joslyn: Thu, Sep 4; 5–8 pm**

**Art-tastic Saturdays: Sat, Sep 6; 11 am–2 pm**

Come out to celebrate artistic creativity as we shine a spotlight on the twenty artists featured in *Made in the Plains*. Both events offer gallery activities, art making in the studio, special presentations, and other creative exploration for all ages. **On Thursday night, don't miss the 6 pm Curator Conversation with artist Lee Emma Running** (ASL interpretation provided).

Free, drop-in programs.

## OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

### Member Preview

**Fri, Jun 6; 5:30–7:30 pm**

Joslyn members are invited to an evening preview of the exhibition the day before it opens to the public. Explore the exhibition and enjoy a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Invitations with registration details have been mailed to all Museum members.

### Public Program

**Sun, Jun 8; 2 pm**

Join us for a conversation with the curators who developed *Made in the Plains*, an exhibition highlighting how artists from the region respond to our current moment. The program features Taylor J. Acosta, PhD, Chief Curator & Director of Collections; Karin Campbell, Phil Willson Curator of Contemporary Art; and Annika K. Johnson, PhD, Stacy and Bruce Simon Curator of Native American Art.

\$15 for general public (includes admission to the talk and exhibition); FREE for Joslyn members; **advance registration is required at [joslyn.org](https://joslyn.org)**; walk-ins accepted as space allows.

## TICKETS, HOURS & TOURS

*Made in the Plains* is a ticketed exhibition. Tickets may be purchased upon arrival at the Welcome Desk; no advance reservations. \$10 for general public ages 13 and up; FREE for Joslyn members and those 12 and under.

For every ticketed exhibition, The Joslyn schedules days when tickets are free to all. *Made in the Plains* public free days:

### First Weekends:

Jun 7, Jul 5–6, Aug 2–3, Sep 6–7; 10 am–4 pm

**First Wednesday evenings:** Jul 2, Aug 6, Sep 3; 4–8 pm

**First Thursday evenings:** Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4; 4–8 pm

Free guided public tours: Sat & Sun at 11 am: July 5–6, Aug 2–3, Sep 6–7

Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program.

Art Bridges  
Foundation

ACCESS  
FOR ALL

### Regular Museum hours:

Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm;  
late until 8 pm Wednesday & Thursday.  
Closed Monday & major holidays.

## Adult Group Visits

Interested in visiting *Made in the Plains* with a group of twelve or more adults? Book a self-guided visit or a guided tour, led by the Museum's Gallery Volunteers. Adult Group Visit Request Form required four weeks in advance at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org)

## Studio Programs

Details about exhibition-inspired classes for teens and adults are available at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org).



**THE JOSLYN BRINGS  
PEOPLE TOGETHER TO  
EXPLORE ART ACROSS  
TIME AND CULTURES.**

Joslyn Art Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George. From its first day, November 29, 1931, to today, the Museum has welcomed millions of visitors from around the world. The Joslyn's collection of over 12,000 objects represents 5,000 years of human creativity and the world's diverse cultures. The campus comprises three stunning buildings—distinct yet connected—surrounded by sculpture gardens. Learning and engagement opportunities abound, and general admission is free to all, always.

**THE JOSLYN**

Joslyn Art Museum  
2200 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68102