

# THE JOSLYN

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## Largest museum exhibition for Cannupa Hanska Luger opening in Omaha

Chadd Scott | Nov 5, 2025



Cannupa Hanska Luger with  
*Nuxbaagaʔihdia: To Go Forth*, 2024–25,  
from the series *Future Ancestral  
Technologies*, made from repurposed  
afghan blanket, industrial wool remnants,  
and yarn. Photograph by Shayla Blatchford  
(Diné), 2025.

Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha presents *Dripping Earth: Cannupa Hanska Luger*, the artist's most expansive museum project to date. Opening November 15, 2025, this ambitious and immersive exhibition invites visitors on a journey into the acclaimed artist's world, where time is nonlinear, scale is skewed, and cultural identity is fluid. In *Dripping Earth*, [Luger](#) will situate visitors within Missouri River landscapes now submerged by colonial damming projects, revealing how such interventions continue to shape the land and its people.

The artist draws inspiration from his ancestral connection to the [Northern Plains](#), referencing the arts and technologies of past generations to envision a future rooted in Indigenous knowledge.

Presenting new work across media, the exhibition expands Luger's speculative fiction series, *Future Ancestral Technologies*, an ongoing project spanning sculpture, printmaking, video, and performance that embraces the role of imagination in shaping cultural narratives. A significant point of departure for the artist is The Joslyn's important collection of watercolors, journals, and archives documenting the North American expedition (1832–34) of the German naturalist Prince Maximilian of Wied and the Swiss artist Karl Bodmer. Luger, who is Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Lakota, reimagines Bodmer's depictions of his ancestors.

*Dripping Earth* takes its title from Luger's Hidatsa clan, the Awa xee (Dripping Dirt), who oversaw the repair of earth lodge dwellings. A trained ceramicist, Luger cites his application of clay as a natural extension of his lodge-building forebears' labor and care for their communities. New work for the exhibition incorporates customary clay practices into a range of forms, from vessels to monumental sculpture. In using his hands to shape and transform wet earth, Luger connects with ancestors past, present, and future.

"I am from a people at the edge of the river and shore," Cannupa Hanska Luger said. "Our history shows the adaptations of that line constantly changing. Like sand and clay at the banks of the river, our stories remain in the *Dripping Earth*. My practice is rooted in the continuum of generations before me, the urgency for Indigenous visibility in this moment, and the dreaming of Indigenous futures. I'm excited to see these new ideas unfold through The Joslyn galleries near the Missouri River."

The exhibition features Luger's iconic bison regalia *Midéegaadi* scaled to his own body, as well as dramatic, monumental sculpture including a life-sized bison work created from 20,000 individual clay beads and a 16-foot steel figure. Additional highlights include new ceramic vessels, immersive video projections, and other works utilizing willow branches, crocheted blankets, industrial grade felt, used sports equipment, and other detritus, which come together to tell new stories and disrupt expectations.

"On behalf of the Joslyn Art Museum, I extend our gratitude to Cannupa Hanska Luger, who has been generous with his attention, creativity, spirit, and time that he spent here at the Museum, in Omaha, and throughout Nebraska, developing ideas for *Dripping Earth*," Jack Becker, Joslyn Art Museum Executive Director & CEO, said.

“The Joslyn is honored to have originated this project that directly engages our renowned Maximilian-Bodmer Collection and its depictions of the Missouri River landscape and Luger’s Mandan and Hidatsa ancestors. His connections with Indigenous community members, including youth, elders, and relatives on the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations, as well as educators, fellow artists, and the public through exhibition-related workshops make this presentation that much more meaningful.”

*Dripping Earth: Cannupa Hanska Luger* is organized by the Margre H. Durham Center for Western Studies at the Joslyn Art Museum.

“At a time when the art world and American society more broadly are paying renewed attention to Indigenous stories, (Cannupa’s) work asks viewers to engage with the complexities of Native identities and envision new futures,” Curators Karin Campbell, Phil Willson Curator of Contemporary Art, and Annika K. Johnson, Stacy and Bruce Simon Curator of Native American Art, said. “A true collaborative endeavor across curatorial areas, *Dripping Earth* foregrounds Luger’s Mandan and Hidatsa lineage, while also highlighting his distinct contributions to the contemporary art landscape.”

## Selected Exhibition Programming

- **Artist Talk, Saturday, November 15 at 2 pm CT:** The Joslyn will present a conversation with Cannupa Hanska Luger, joined by exhibition co-curators Karin Campbell, Phil Willson Curator of Contemporary Art, and Annika K. Johnson, PhD, Stacy and Bruce Simon Curator of Native American Art. The program will begin with a customary welcome by the artist’s mother, Kathy Elkwoman Whitman. This event is part of The Joslyn’s Graham & Sally Lusk Lecture series, which for the past decade has hosted distinguished speakers who engage and inspire audiences wishing to better understand and appreciate art from around the world and throughout time. Free for Joslyn members; \$15 for general public (includes admission to the program and exhibition)
- **Art-making Workshops, December 20 (10 am–noon CT), January 15 (4–6 pm CT), and February 26 (4–6 pm CT):** The Joslyn will host a series of free, drop-in art-making workshops to create clay beads for Luger’s Bison Bead Project, an ongoing collaborative art effort honoring the resilience of Plains bison. These workshops will produce beads that will be utilized in new works of art by Luger, including the sculpture *Census* – on view in the *Dripping Earth* exhibition – which will be continually updated to include more beads as the workshops progress.
- **Storytelling, Tuesday, January 20 and Wednesday, January 21 from 5-9 pm CT:** The Joslyn will present *Stories of Our Being: Indigenous Origins in Nebraska* to honor the winter storytelling season of the Northern Plains. For two nights only, a traditional lodge, or tipi, will rise in The Joslyn, and all are invited to listen to stories that have been generously shared with Steve Tamayo (Sicangu Lakota), Omaha-based artist and National Heritage Fellow. The tipi canvas will light up with live image mapping

projection art, as people of all ages are welcomed inside to hear stories of origin and belonging. Free program includes admission to the exhibition, registration required; walk-ins are permitted as space allows; 20-minute sessions begin every half-hour.

- **Digital Guide & Playlist:** Visitors to the exhibition can also enjoy a bilingual mobile tour featuring the artist's reflections on the exhibition in his own words. The 12-stop experience includes an original poem written by Luger and read by his son, 'io Kahoku Lahuikoa Luger. Assistive listening devices are available for small group tours and public tours, and American Sign Language or Spanish interpretation can be requested in advance. A playlist inspired by the exhibition is available on Spotify and Apple Music (search the exhibition title). More information about access resources and additional programs can be found at [joslyn.org](http://joslyn.org).

## About Cannupa Hanska Luger

[Cannupa Hanska Luger](#) (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Lakota, b. 1979) was born on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota and is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold. His work has been featured in exhibitions at venues including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; Nevada Museum of Art, Reno; The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

## The Joslyn Art Museum

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.