

# ARTNOW 2025

*Materials and Boundaries*

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| C | O | N | T | E | M | P | O | R | A | R | Y |

Aaron Jones  
Amy Sanders de Melo  
Andy Mattern  
Behnaz Sohrabian  
Carlos Barboza  
Đan Lynh Phạm  
Denise Duong  
Ebony Iman Dallas  
Gabriel Friedman  
Hank Ehrenfried  
Hong Hong  
Irmgard Geul  
Kirsten Griffin  
John Salame  
Katelynn Noel Knick  
Kendall Ross  
Le'Andra LeSeur  
Leticia R. Bajuyo  
Lindsey Cox  
Maria Do Anderson  
Marwin Begaye  
Mary Claire Becker  
Micah Wesley  
Nic Annette Miller  
Riley Joseph  
Sarah Sullivan Sherrod

**ARTNOW** 2025  
*Materials and Boundaries*

September 18, 2025 - February 16, 2026  
Eleanor Kirkpatrick Main Gallery

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# Curatorial Statement

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Oklahoma exists at a crossroads—geographically, culturally, and artistically. *Materials and Boundaries* emerges from this unique position, drawing attention to how place, identity, and medium intersect in contemporary art practices across the state. The exhibition invites viewers to consider how artists navigate dualities: tradition and innovation, personal narrative and collective experience, rootedness and international reach.

The twenty six featured artists engage deeply with their chosen materials, using them to explore ideas of identity, place, and transformation. Spanning a wide range of media—from traditional techniques to experimental forms—the works collectively demonstrate a critical engagement with materiality and a sustained inquiry into the evolving parameters of contemporary artistic practice.

With thoughtful support from Curatorial Assistant Virginia Sitzes, we looked for artists whose work reflects a clear point of view and a sensitivity to both place and process. These are not transient creators—they are shaping the identity of Oklahoma’s contemporary art landscape while engaging with global currents. Ultimately, *Materials and Boundaries* offers a portrait of a state in motion. It’s a testament to Oklahoma as a site of artistic innovation and dialogue—a place where boundaries are not fixed lines, but spaces for exploration, friction, and transformation.

- Alexa Goetzinger, Guest Curator



Alexa Goetzinger (right) Guest Curator and Virginia Sitzes (left), Curatorial Assistant. Photo by Keith Oler.

## ***MATERIALS AND BOUNDARIES***

# ARTISTS



*Quadraphonic Spring* (detail), 2025

**Aaron Jones** is a Tulsa-based artist and registered architect who co-leads Pfeifer Jones Architecture (PfJ/A), a studio engaged in culturally significant projects across scales and disciplines. His creative practice explores media structures through pop-up theaters, immersive installations, and performance environments, often developed in collaboration with global artists and institutions. Jones's work has been supported by Art Omi, MacDowell, the Venice Architecture Biennale, NEA, and NEW INC, with recent exhibitions at MoCAD and BMoCA. He holds a Master of Architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art, where he later taught, and currently serves as Affiliate Faculty at the University of Oklahoma.



*Am I?* (foreground), 2025  
and *Myself* (background, detail), 2025

**Amy Sanders de Melo** is a Colombian American artist, educator, and arts advocate based in Tulsa. Her ceramic-centered practice explores disability, identity, and healing through tactile storytelling. Living with vision and hearing loss, she incorporates Braille on clay to make emotion and narrative physically accessible. Sanders de Melo holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma and is active in community arts education and inclusion. She has exhibited nationally and received honors including the American Craft Council Emerging Artist Cohort and Mid-America Arts Alliance Interchange Fellowship. She is currently a resident artist at Red Heat Ceramics in Tulsa.



*Just Noticeable Difference*, 2019-2025

**Andy Mattern** is a visual artist working in the expanded field of photography. His photographs and installations dissect the medium itself, reconfiguring expectations of photography's basic ingredients and conventions. His work is held in the permanent collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the New Mexico Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others. His photographs and exhibitions have been reviewed in publications such as *Artforum*, *The New Yorker*, *Camera Austria*, and *Photonews*. He holds an MFA in Photography from the University of Minnesota and a BFA in Studio Art from the University of New Mexico.



*Warm Hands*, 2025

**Behnaz Sohrabian** was born and educated in Tehran, Iran, and began painting professionally at age ten. Her early devotion to art developed in contrast to the restrictive cultural environment she grew up in. She holds degrees in Applied Chemistry, Painting, and Art Studies. In 2010, she immigrated to the United States and became a naturalized citizen in 2017. Her work focuses on the female nude—an act of defiance and liberation, as such imagery is banned in Iran. Through expressive brushwork, Sohrabian explores identity, vulnerability, and strength. She now lives and works as a full-time artist, exhibiting widely across the country.



*What We Buried (We Became)*, 2025

**Carlos Barboza** is a Costa Rican-born artist and muralist based in Oklahoma City. Immigrating to the United States at age ten, he discovered his passion for public art early, drawing inspiration from his creative family. Since 2019, he has completed over 50 large-scale murals nationwide. Known for bold portraiture and emotive figurative work, Barboza's murals explore identity, community, and human connection. He co-founded Canopy Art Center in Oklahoma City's Plaza District and has been featured in *Oklahoma Magazine* and *The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Magazine*. His work transforms public spaces into landmarks that invite reflection, foster dialogue, and celebrate shared stories.



*I Bear the Fruit of My Ancestors* (detail), 2024  
and *Tre Già, Mãng Mọc* (detail), 2025

**Đan Lynh Phạm** is a Vietnamese interdisciplinary artist and illustrator based in Tulsa. Born in Vietnam, she holds a BFA in Studio Arts from Oklahoma State University, specializing in watercolor and sculpture. Blending graphic sensibilities with Vietnamese artistic traditions, her work functions as a visual diary—exploring identity, socialization, and her lived experience as a refugee through both 2D and 3D media. Phạm's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with solo shows across Oklahoma and Texas. She is a recipient of the Artist Creative Fund Grant and THRIVE Grant and has shown at institutions including Oklahoma Contemporary and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans.



*I give to you a piece of me*, 2025

**Denise Duong** and **Gabriel Friedman** are multidisciplinary artists based in Oklahoma City. Partners in both life and art, they create individually and collaboratively across painting, illustration, and large-scale sculpture. Duong has worked as a professional artist for over two decades, while Friedman's creative path spans multiple disciplines. Together, they produce sculptural works that blend narrative, material exploration, and whimsy—many of which have been acquired by public institutions and private collections. Their collaborative practice reflects a shared commitment to storytelling and place. Parenting and working in Oklahoma City, they continue to build a life rooted in creativity, curiosity, and community.



*You Can't Erase Us*, 2025

**Ebony Iman Dallas** is a fifth-generation Oklahoman and second-generation Somali American mixed-media artist whose work blends African woodcarving, textiles, and Somali henna-inspired linework. Her art has been exhibited nationally, including at Oklahoma Contemporary, Joyce Gordon Gallery, and The Romare Bearden Centennial in New York. Dallas co-lead the mosaic mural honoring Willa D. Johnson in Oklahoma City and participated in Tulsa's Greenwood Art Project. She holds an MFA from California College of the Arts and founded Afrikanation Artists Organization in Somaliland. A 2023 Paseo Artist of the Year, Dallas is a founding fellow of the Oklahoma City Thunder Artist Group.





*Angelus Novus in Black and White with Two Wings and Tail*, 2025

**Hank Ehrenfried** is a painter based in Oklahoma City. He holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and an MFA in Painting from Pratt Institute in New York. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with solo shows in galleries from New York to Los Angeles and group exhibitions stretching the Atlantic, from New York to Paris. He has participated in residencies at The Macedonia Institute and Trestle Art Space, and his work has been featured in *Whitewall Magazine*, *Two Coats of Paint*, and *New American Paintings*, earning recognition for his thoughtful and expressive painting practice.



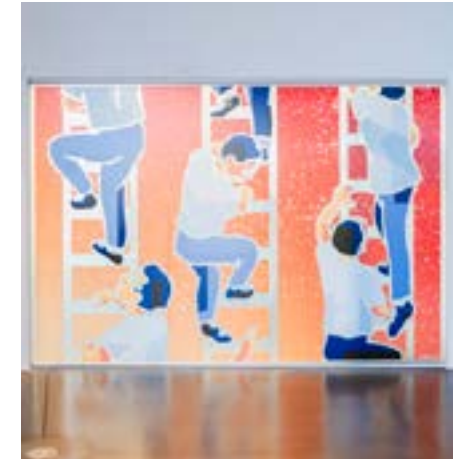
*No Mother Tongue* (detail), 2019-2025

**Hong Hong** is a visual artist whose work explores relationships between landscape, time, and the body through papermaking, painting, and text. Each summer and fall, she creates site-specific paper works in remote locations; in winter and spring, she produces large-scale floor paintings in her studio. Hong is a 2025 Guggenheim Fellow and Chiaro Award recipient, a 2024–26 Tulsa Artist Fellow, and has received honors from United States Artists, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, and MacDowell. Her work has been exhibited at Arkansas's Crystal Bridges, Real Art Ways in Connecticut, the Georgia Museum of Art, and Texas Asia Society, among many others.



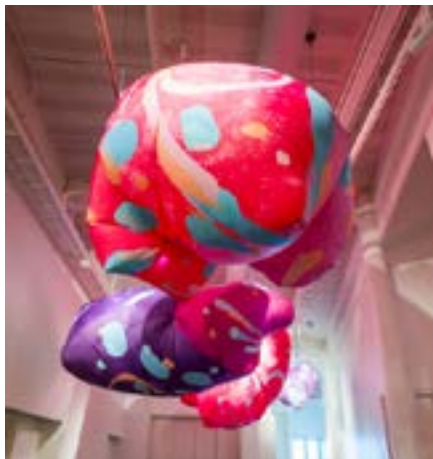
*A Landscape Of Memories* (detail), 2025

**Irmgard Geul**, originally from Blaricum, The Netherlands, studied at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht before relocating to Oklahoma to pursue a career with horses. Now based in Pauls Valley, she works from her studio on a ranch, blending embroidery and acrylic paint to create richly textured, rural-inspired landscapes. Deeply influenced by her mother's couture studio, Geul incorporates inherited threads and tools, weaving memory into every piece. Her award-winning work has been featured in national and international exhibitions, publications, and public television. Each stitch in her work is a tribute to place, memory, and the enduring beauty of the scenic route.



*Talking Backwards*, 2025

**John Salame** is an Oklahoma City-based mixed media artist, illustrator, and designer with degrees in both music and design from the University of Central Oklahoma and New York University. His work blends influences from cubism, futurism, cartoons, and architecture, with concept and communication at the core of his creative process. Favoring minimalism, Salame creates imagery that invites viewer participation and thoughtful engagement. Whether working by hand or digitally, he balances artistic expression with analytic problem-solving. Known for his wit and collaborative spirit, Salame values dialogue in the creative process and uses humor to shape both his visual and design work.



*space for joy*, 2025

**Katelynn Noel Knick** is a professional artist, educator, and creative coach based in Oklahoma City. She earned her BFA in Studio Art from the University of Oklahoma in 2015. Her vibrant solo projects have been featured at venues such as the Ft. Smith Regional Art Museum, ahha Tulsa, Plaza Walls Mural Expo, and MAINSITE Contemporary Art. Passionate about artist empowerment and community building, Knick founded the online platform Art Friends and co-founded the Oklahoma-based collective Art Group. She also works as an independent teaching artist and consultant, supporting creative growth for artists of all ages across Oklahoma.



*I Remember Thinking It Would Change*, 2024

**Kendall Ross**, known online as “I’d Knit That,” is a fiber artist based in Oklahoma City and celebrated for her vivid, hand-knitted wearable art. Using techniques like intarsia and fair isle, she weaves imagery and original text into each meticulously crafted piece. Rooted in childhood memories of learning to crochet from her grandmother, Ross’s practice is deeply influenced by intergenerational connection and women’s history. She holds a BA in American History from Pepperdine University in California, where she researched racial divides in knitting communities during World War I. Her work blends historical inquiry with contemporary craft, transforming wool and stitches into powerful visual narratives.



*Country Road*, 2023

**Kirsten Griffin** is an award-winning fine-art photographer known for capturing the raw beauty of the natural world. Driven by a love for remote landscapes, she has photographed striking scenes in Iceland, Kenya, the Camargue region of France, and the American West. Her work has earned multiple honors, including Gold and Silver medals from the Prix de la Photographie in 2015 and a Bronze in 2020, as well as a Silver medal from the International Photography Awards. Griffin’s photographs are held in private collections across the United States. She lives in Oklahoma City with her husband and their three children.



*There is no movement without rhythm* (detail), 2021

**Le’Andra LeSeur** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans video, installation, photography, painting, and performance. Centering Blackness, queerness, and femininity, her practice challenges systems of power and explores themes of identity, family, grief, joy, and visibility. By incorporating her own body and voice, LeSeur creates space for reflection and reclamation. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Tulsa Artist Fellowship (2024), the Leslie-Lohman Museum Artists Fellowship (2019), and the Juried Grand Prize at ArtPrize 10 (2018). Her work has been exhibited at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn; MFA Boston; The Shed, New York City; Atlanta Contemporary; A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn; and others. Residencies include Pioneer Works, iLab at the University of the Arts, Visual Studies Workshop, ArcAthens, NARS Foundation, Marble House Project, and MASS MoCA.



*Loop: Gravity Repeated*, 2025

**Leticia R. Bajuyo** is a Filipinx American artist whose drawings, sculptures, and site-responsive installations explore cycles, cultural negotiation, and the byproducts of human ingenuity. Raised in Metropolis, Illinois, her work is shaped by the intersection of Midwestern landscapes and multi-national family dialogues, prompting reflections on identity, consumerism, and assimilation. Bajuyo earned her BFA from the University of Notre Dame and MFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Now based in Norman, she is Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and she actively contributes to artist collectives and arts advocacy through community engagement.



*stepmom TV Wall* (detail), 2024

**Lindsey Cox** is a multidisciplinary artist, musician, director, producer, talent booker, event curator, and radio host of *Lindsey's Lounge* on KOSU/The Spy. Based in Oklahoma City, she is the creative force behind the art-punk band stepmom and is known for crafting meaningful, community-centered art experiences. Her stop-motion music video for stepmom's "Damage Control" was featured in deadCenter Film Festival, New York Lift-Off, and Free the Kitch in Athens, Greece. Her latest project, the music video "Chaos Candy," which she co-directed and produced, won Best Music Video at deadCenter, reflecting her bold vision across art and film.



*1968 Stitches*, Vinh, 2025

**Maria Do Anderson** is a Vietnamese American artist from Muskogee, whose work explores themes of trauma, memory, and family. Rooted in hand embroidery, her practice extends into photography, painting, and installation, with each medium selected to best serve the concept at hand. Guided by emotion and storytelling, she uses material and process as vehicles for reflection and connection. Do Anderson is currently pursuing her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She lives in Norman with her husband, daughter, and pets, continuing to build a practice grounded in personal history and lived experience.



*Oklahoma Blossom*, 2025

**Marwin Begaye** is a Navajo artist and internationally exhibited printmaker born in Ganado, Arizona, and currently based in Norman. He is a professor of studio art at the University of Oklahoma, School of Visual Arts. Begaye's work explores cultural identity at the intersection of Native and popular cultures, using printmaking and mixed media to investigate contemporary Indigenous experience. He has received numerous awards through residencies and juried exhibitions, and his work is held in private and public collections, including the U.S. Library of Congress. His art has been exhibited globally in New Zealand, England, Argentina, Italy, and beyond.





*Tulipmania* (detail), 2019-2025

**Mary Claire Becker** is a printmaker and sculptor whose work explores artificiality in media representations of nature within industrialized societies. She holds an MFA from the University of Iowa and a Certificate of Book Arts from its Center for the Book, and a BFA from University of North Carolina, Asheville. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at Changsha Normal University, China, the New York Center for Book Arts, and Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville. She is the recipient of awards such as Oklahoma State University's 2025 Humanities, Arts and Design Grant, and the Barstow Fellowship. Becker is currently Assistant Professor of Printmaking at Oklahoma State University.



*The Bonds of Antiquity: Millimillenary*, 2025

**Micah Wesley** is a Mvskoke Creek and Kiowa artist born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He holds an MFA in Painting from the University of Oklahoma and a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Influenced by the work of T.C. Cannon, Fritz Scholder, Francis Bacon, and his father Tillier Wesley Jr., Wesley draws inspiration from both Native painting traditions and pop culture. His work reflects themes of survival, transformation, and identity shaped by childhood memories of sci-fi and Westerns. He exhibits regularly in solo and group shows as well as major art markets.



*Beehive States* (detail), 2024

**Nic Annette Miller** is an interdisciplinary artist based in Tulsa, whose installations merge woodcut relief prints, sculpture, video, and poetry to explore environmental themes, multilingualism, and heritage. Her practice expands printmaking into immersive storytelling that centers flora, fauna, food, and memory. She has been the recipient of many grants, including the TYPROS Foundation Grant, Artist Creative Fund, and OVAC Grants for Artists, and has exhibited widely across the country and internationally. Miller's research and community engagement focus on the Vietnamese diaspora and the Deaf community; she co-founded LoLoLook, a nonprofit elevating Sign Language programming in cultural institutions, and leads NAM Common.



Representative of *Temporary Spaces Soundscape*, 2025. Photo by Scott McDonald.

**Riley Joseph** is a musician, photographer, and software engineer based in Oklahoma City. With over 25 years of musical experience, he draws inspiration from a wide range of genres including jazz, flamenco, and Native American and Eastern traditional music. While he enjoys experimenting with global sounds and instruments, the guitar remains his primary focus. In addition to his creative work, Joseph serves on the board of directors for Oklahoma Children's Theatre and performs in several local bands, including Coat. His multidisciplinary practice reflects a deep curiosity, technical skill, and a passion for community-driven artistic expression.



*Reminder* (top), 2025 and *Rewinder* (bottom), 2025

## Sarah Sullivan Sherrod

is a Tulsa-based fiber artist whose work blends weaving, painting, and color theory into vibrant, playful compositions. She holds a BFA in Textile Design from the University of Kansas (2011) and has exhibited in galleries across the United States. In addition to her fiber work, Sherrod has completed over thirty murals, bringing her bold, joy-filled aesthetic into public spaces. Rooted in a deep appreciation for process and material, her practice celebrates the importance of play—both as a visual language and a method of discovery.

### **ArtNow: Materials and Boundaries is supported by:**

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*As of September 8, 2025*



Mary Claire Becker, *Tulipmania*, 2019-2025 (background) and Leticia R. Bajuyo, *Loop: Gravity Repeated*, 2025 (foreground). All installation photography by Blake Studdard.



Oklahoma Contemporary

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