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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Party With a Purpose at *ArtNow*

**OKLAHOMA CITY** -- Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center invites you to party with a purpose at *ArtNow* on Jan. 22, 2016. The *ArtNow 2016* exhibition and sale showcase works from Oklahoma's top artists. The event combines art, cocktails and company for a can't-miss evening. Proceeds help keep Oklahoma Contemporary exhibitions open to the community, free of charge, year-round.

The public can get a sneak peek when the exhibition opens Monday, Jan. 11, and more than 124 works will go on sale at the party on Friday, Jan. 22. The evening begins with a VIP reception at 6:30, and the main event kicks off at 8 p.m. Young Patron [tickets](#) begin at \$50.

From ceramics to CGI, painting to photography, fine metals to light-emitting diodes, this year's 24 artists span the gamut of media, attitude, traditions and technology. Kelsey Karper, a local curator, artist and project manager, and Julia Kirt, executive director of Oklahomans for the Arts, guest-curated the show.

"With the *ArtNow* exhibition now in its fifth year at Oklahoma Contemporary, Julia and I decided to bring a fresh approach by including only artists who have never been featured in this show before," Karper said. "Oklahoma has an abundance of artistic talent, and we think *ArtNow* is a perfect venue to introduce audiences to new artists. Some of the artists are very early in their careers, while others have achieved significant recognition. Among the 24 featured artists you'll find a variety of media and styles and quite a few delightful surprises."

For example:

- Amy Sanders is a ceramics artist in Norman with a condition that will eventually cause her to lose her vision entirely. Knowing this, she is teaching herself to make art without her sight, often incorporating surface textures that look decorative, but, as shown in her works for the show, are actually braille text.
- Bill Hawk grows enormous Victoria water lilies in a pond at his Oklahoma City home, which he then casts in wax and uses as molds for his kiln-formed glass pieces.
- Kelly Rogers creates embroidered drawings based on old family photos. Through the research and art-making process, Kelly has learned a lot about her ancestors and her family lineage.
- Anita Fields is an Osage artist living in Stillwater. Her artwork illustrates Osage traditions and stories.
- Jonathan Hils teaches sculpture at OU in Norman and is experimenting with new technologies, such as 3-D printing techniques.
- Debby Kaspari explores nature and landscapes in Oklahoma and beyond, often creating her drawings and paintings *en plein air* – everywhere from Oklahoma plains to the rain forests of South America.

- Tulsan Laurie Spencer makes beautiful ceramic sculptures that also function as whistles. The sculptural forms are inspired by organic shapes found in nature and the whistles can be activated by breath, water or fire.

Guests will also find a variety of price points, with artworks starting as low as \$50. You can find a complete list of artists: <http://bit.ly/ArtNowArtists>. Learn more and purchase advance tickets: [bit.ly/ArtNowOKC](http://bit.ly/ArtNowOKC). Follow (or join!) the conversation: [#ArtNowOKC](https://twitter.com/ArtNowOKC)

ArtNow 2016's Presenting Sponsor is Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings. Major Sponsors include Prodigal, St. Anthony Hospital and Oklahoma Gazette, and sponsors include Banc First, Ann S. Alspaugh and Prairie Wolf Spiritss.

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Curators Kelsey Karper and Julia Kirt and co-chairs Anthony McDermid and Teresa Rose Crook, along with many of the artists, are available for interviews. Contact Lori Brooks ([lbrooks@okcontemp.org](mailto:lbrooks@okcontemp.org) or 405-951-0000) for details. A media kit including this press release, high-resolution images of works from the show and studio visits with the artists and their accompanying caption information can be found at [bit.ly/OCartNowmediakit](http://bit.ly/OCartNowmediakit). Past press releases and additional information are archived at [oklahomacontemporary.org/about/media](http://oklahomacontemporary.org/about/media).

#### **About Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center**

Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center is a regional 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that encourages artistic expression in all its forms through education and exhibitions. Founded in 1989 by businessman and philanthropist Christian Keese and Kirkpatrick Foundation Director Marilyn Myers, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center offers contemporary arts exhibitions throughout the year, free to the public, as well as youth art camps, adult art classes, workshops and lectures. Marfa Contemporary is the organization's first regional extension.