

For Immediate Release

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Wildlife, Pattern, and Identity: Contemporary Native American Work

From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation

Opens at the Ucross Art Gallery on June 30, 2018

Public Reception to Take Place on Saturday, August 25

June 22, 2018 – Ucross, Wyoming – *Wildlife, Pattern, and Identity: Contemporary Native American Work from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation* will open at the Ucross Art Gallery on Saturday, June 30. The show features twenty-one works by ten distinguished Native American artists and will be on view through October 1, 2018. A reception will take place on Saturday, August 25, open to the public at no charge. The event will include a reading by acclaimed Native American poet Sherwin Bitsui (Navajo), who will be a writer-in-residence at Ucross. All costs associated with this exhibition have been generously contributed by Jordan Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

Jordan Schnitzer states, "Artists have always been chroniclers of our time. The contemporary Native artists in this exhibition follow a proud tradition of helping all of us understand and honor those who came before us and lived in harmony with the land. The art in the exhibition helps us to appreciate the brilliance of the artists and engages issues that have often divided us. The impact of this exhibition is both inspirational (to experience the art) and aspirational (to better understand our cultures)."

Wildlife, Pattern and Identity represents three significant themes that have been important in Native American art throughout history and continuing into contemporary work. The show focuses on printmaking – linocuts, relief prints, archival pigment prints, copperplate etchings and lithographs, as well as a monoprint, monotype, and drypoint print on handmade Japanese paper. It also includes an oil painting by James Lavadour.

Among the works in the exhibition are Marie Watt's *Portrait with Chair Caning (Parts I and II)*, which combine a caning motif with a rope or lasso; Watt's father's parents were Wyoming ranchers. Wendy Red Star's *Four Seasons* series "brings humor into visual mash-ups of mass market and Crow culture," while also raising questions about various ideologies.

The featured artists are:

Rick Bartow, Wiyot, Mad River Band

Joe Feddersen, Colville Confederated Tribes

RYAN! Feddersen, Colville Confederated Tribes

Cheryl A. Grunlose, Colville Confederated Tribes

James Lavadour, Walla Walla

Ed Archie Noisecat, Shuswap, Lil'Wat

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation

Wendy Red Star, Crow

Lawney L. Reyes, Colville Confederated Tribes

Marie Watt, Seneca

Linda Tesner, Director of the Ronna and Eric Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art at Lewis & Clark College, has written narrative text for the show. As Tesner states, "Some of the artists represented here have deep ties to traditional art forms; others' work is only tangentially referential to historical expressions." She notes that cultural interchange, which traditionally took place through rendezvous, potlaches and powwows, is still very apparent in contemporary Native American art.

Ucross President Sharon Dynak states, "It is an honor to present works by these important Native American artists. We are grateful to Jordan D. Schnitzer for sharing his collection with us. The exhibition coincides with the establishment of our new Ucross Fellowship for Native American Visual Artists, which has received support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. We hope that the exhibit will help to increase awareness and appreciation of the excellent work being done by contemporary Native artists."

The exhibition was curated by artist Tad Savinar, who is a Ucross alumnus and former Ucross trustee. Savinar's own work will be featured in an exhibition at the Yellowstone Art Museum in 2019.

During the exhibition, the Ucross gallery space will feature a video room presenting the documentary *Native Art Now!*, which examines contemporary Native American art over the last twenty-five years. *Native Art Now!* was produced in 2017 by WFYI Public Media in association with the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art of Indiana. Support for the Ucross Art Gallery also comes from

the Wyoming Arts Council, through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wyoming State Legislature.

The Ucross Art Gallery is located ½ mile east of the intersection of Highways 14 and 16 in Ucross, Wyoming. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays in July and August from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, contact (307) 737-2291 or info@ucross.org.

About Ucross

Located in northeast Wyoming in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains, Ucross fosters the creative spirit of deeply committed artists and groups by providing uninterrupted time, studio space, living accommodations, and the experience of the majestic High Plains, while serving as a good steward of its 20,000-acre ranch. Residencies are awarded to nearly one hundred artists each year. Ten artists are in residence at one time, typically a mix of four visual artists, four writers and two composers.

Since its establishment in 1981, Ucross has provided over 2,000 residencies to writers, visual artists, and composers, including such distinguished fellows as Annie Proulx, Terry Tempest Williams, Colson Whitehead, Elizabeth Gilbert, Ann Patchett, Ricky Ian Gordon, Bill Morrison, Theaster Gates, Anthony Hernandez, and recent Academy Award and Tony winners Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Ucross national partners include the Sundance Institute Theatre Program, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, and the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction. The Ucross Foundation Art Gallery is a significant cultural resource for surrounding communities and beyond. For further information, visit ucross.org.

About the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

At age 14, Jordan D. Schnitzer bought his first work of art from his mother's Portland, Oregon contemporary art gallery, spurring his lifelong avocation as collector. He began collecting contemporary prints and multiples in earnest in 1988. Today, the collection exceeds 12,000 works and includes many of today's most important contemporary artists. It has grown to be one of the country's largest private print collections overall. He generously lends work from his collection to qualified institutions, organized over 100 exhibitions, and has had art exhibited at over 150 museums. Mr. Schnitzer is also President of [Harsch Investment Properties](http://HarschInvestmentProperties.com), a privately owned real estate investment company based in Portland, Oregon, with 25 million square feet of office, multi-tenant industrial, multi-family and retail properties in six western states. For more information about the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, please visit jordanschnitzer.org.

