



News Release

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MEDIA CONTACT: Julianna Verboort, Marketing and Communications Director, Washington State Historical Society, 253-798-5902, julianna.verboort@wshs.wa.gov

Annual *IN THE SPIRIT Contemporary Native Arts* opens June 30 at the Washington State History Museum

What is happening in the Indigenous art world in our region? Find out at the 13th annual [*IN THE SPIRIT Contemporary Native Arts Exhibition*](#), where you can see 29 works from 21 Native artists. The exhibition opens Saturday, June 30 at the [Washington State History Museum](#) in Tacoma and will be on view through Sunday, August 12. There will be three opportunities for visitors to meet some of the artists as well: the awards ceremony on July 1, 3:00 PM; gallery talks on Third Thursday evening July 19, 5:30 PM; and the Northwest Native Festival on August 11, 12:00-7:00 PM.

IN THE SPIRIT connects the Washington State Historical Society's (WSHS) Native collections with the vibrant contemporary arts scene. Visitors will see mixed media, paintings, beadwork, textiles, sculpture, carving, and basketry. Many of the artists live in Washington but others hail from Idaho, Montana, Michigan, Minnesota, and even as far as Vermont and Virginia. Art collectors will be interested to know that most of the works in the show are available for purchase.

Artist [RYAN! Feddersen](#) spoke about the connection that *IN THE SPIRIT* provides. "As a mixed-heritage native artist living in an urban area, contemporary Indigenous arts is one of the ways I connect to my culture. *In the Spirit* provides an annual opportunity to bring together native artists to share work and create cultural dialogue. Receiving the Honoring Innovation award for my work in the 2017 exhibition made me feel recognized and supported. I look forward to engaging with this exhibition as it continues to grow and acknowledge the thriving contemporary Indigenous arts field."

Each spring, Native artists from many states and Canada submit work for consideration by a jury of local artists and curators. The 2018 jury included artist [Alex McCarty](#), Makah, a graduate of Evergreen State College; curator and artist [Asia Tail](#), Cherokee, a graduate of Cooper Union School of Art in New York; and Lynette Miller, head of collections at WSHS.

"The jurying is blind, meaning we don't know the artists' names until we have selected the pieces to be exhibited," said Miller. "I enjoy being surprised when an artist creates something that's completely different from the work they submitted in earlier years. I love seeing the creative spirit at work!"

The Washington State Historical Society typically adds one work from each annual exhibition to its collection, and the selection is announced at the artist awards ceremony (in 2017, RYAN!



Feddersen's mixed media sculpture [Micro Spill](#) was chosen). The 2018 artist awards will include Best in Show, Honoring Innovation, Honoring the Northwest, and Honoring Tradition, along with the purchase prize. During the run of the exhibition, visitors can cast votes for the People's Choice first and second place awards. Ballots are available in the gallery, and People's Choice winners are revealed at the culminating festival.

The free [IN THE SPIRIT Northwest Native Festival](#) is an indoor/outdoor celebration on Saturday, August 11, from 12:00 to 7:00 PM, co-hosted by the History Museum and Tacoma Art Museum. Celebrate the diverse cultures of the Northwest with a Native arts market, dance, song, music, food, and a designer runway fashion show. The day will end with a performance by special guests [Khu.éex'](#) (pronounced koo-eex), a band co-founded by artist and musician [Preston Singletary](#). Khu.éex' translates to "Potlatch" in the Tlingit language. The [Seattle Times](#) (Paul de Barros) described [Khu.éex'](#) as "...mixing Native American song and spoken word with atmospheric, visionary jazz improvisation in a way that recalls the ecstatic '70s jazz-funk work of groups like Weather Report or Carlos Santana." The History Museum and Tacoma Art Museum are excited to bring this immersive festival experience to the community.

IN THE SPIRIT Contemporary Native Arts and Northwest Native Festival are sponsored by the Bamford Foundation, the Tacoma Arts Commission, and the Tulalip Tribe.

For more information, see www.inthespiritarts.org.

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Press Preview: Tuesday, July 10, 11:00 AM

Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue.

Press CONFIRM attendance via email to Julianna.Verboort@wshs.wa.gov

and request parking pass if needed. Note: press tour also includes the new exhibition [Make/Do: A History of Creative Reuse](#), opening July 14.





Image credits, top to bottom, left to right:

IN THE SPIRIT logo designed by Jeffrey Veregge, Port Gamble S'Klallam.

Denise Emerson, Navajo and Skokomish, *Generations*, 2018. Digital illustration, historical photograph, 17 x 17 inches. Image courtesy of artist.

RYAN! Feddersen, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, *Coyote Bones*, 2017. Archival digital print and cast Crayon, 6 x 5 inches. Image courtesy of artist.

Rebecca Feld, Pyramid Lake Paiute, *Galactic Moccasins*, 2018. Leather, Rubber, Beads, Thread, 3 x 6 inches. Image courtesy of artist.

Jack Bill Sabon, Ahtna Athabascan (Alaska Native), *Gyrfalcon*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 16 x 20 inches. Image courtesy of artist.

About The Washington State Historical Society

Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all. The Society's most visible activity, the Washington State History Museum (WSHM) is located in Tacoma's thriving downtown corridor along Pacific Avenue. WSHM is one of six museums in the Tacoma Museum District, and within blocks of the recently renovated Marriott Courtyard and boutique Hotel Murano.

Washington State History Museum address: 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

Hours: 10:00 AM–5:00 PM Tuesday-Sunday. 10:00 AM–8:00 PM on the Third Thursday of each month.

Admission: Free for members; \$14 for adults, \$11 for seniors, students, and active duty and retired military (with ID), \$40 per family (up to 2 adults and up to 4 children under age 18), free for children under 5. Patrons with a [Washington Quest card](#) or with a Washington Foster Parent license (and ID), \$1 per person or \$2 per family. Admission is free for all from 3:00-8:00 PM on the Third Thursday of each month, generously sponsored by Columbia Bank.