

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jackie Zils 253.307.7550 | jzils@jayray.com

Jen Willey 206.579.9886 | jwilley@jayray.com

On behalf of Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Art Museum Unveils Acquisitions Progress in New Exhibition *Momentum: New Work in the Collection*

TACOMA, WA (November 21, 2023) – Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) stewards a collection to inspire broader perspectives and cultivate a compassionate future. With more than 5,400 artworks in its care, TAM’s collection grows each year to better represent the art of the region both historically and today. TAM is pleased to present its recent acquisitions in the new exhibition, *Momentum: New Work in the Collection*, opening December 9, 2023.

TAM acquired 76 artworks each year on average over the last five years. Most of the acquisitions were donated by generous collectors who find great philanthropic value in supporting TAM’s collection. Gifts from donors vary in scope; some donors give large collections and others make specific selections that complement the museum’s collecting priorities.

Every year, TAM aims to purchase artwork directly from artists or galleries. Over the last five years, TAM only purchased artwork made by artists who are underrepresented in the collection. With this strategy in mind, eight artworks created by eight different artists were purchased; most of these purchases represent the first time the artist entered TAM’s collection.

Building on this momentum to more fully represent the art of the Northwest and greater western region, TAM is pleased to welcome the artwork into the collection. The pieces are part of the new exhibition of modern and contemporary art featuring approximately 40 of the 382 recent acquisitions made in the last five years. *Momentum: New Work in the Collection* celebrates the forward progress and energy toward acquiring and exhibiting new artworks.

“We are proud of the gains made in recent years to add to our significant collection of Northwest art,” said Executive Director Andy Maus. “We often work behind the scenes connecting with artists, collectors, and galleries to acquire work. This is a celebratory moment when we get to share the acquisitions publicly with our community in a new exhibition, show our appreciation to the donors who made these acquisitions possible, and feature incredible artists, many of whom are new to TAM’s collection.”

Momentum will feature a range of artwork showcasing several different artistic mediums, with work from both the 20th and 21st centuries.

Faith Brower, exhibition curator, said art continuously evolves and changes to reflect the ideas and creative energy of the time.

“Similarly, it is important for TAM to regularly examine its collection and strategically grow to connect more sincerely with our community and the great work that is being produced in the

Northwest and greater western region,” Brower said. “These recent acquisitions demonstrate how transformational art can be for connecting with the larger community. There is a lot of momentum at TAM to continue this important work.”

Included in the exhibition are both modern and contemporary works:

- A minimalist painting by Frank Okada titled *Spring Joy*.
- Humara Abid’s *This World is Beautiful, and Dangerous Too IV*, a swing with a portrait painted on its seat that hangs above sculptural wooden plants.
- *Ofrenda* by David Rios, a glass and mixed media installation of 244 mostly handmade elements that when combined together create an altar offering respect to ancestors and the deceased.

###

About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM’s mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM’s collection contains more than 5,400 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma’s vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums, including the Museum of Glass, a leader, and frequent partner.

Visit Tacoma Art Museum

Wednesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., free admission 5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Contact: 253-272-4258 / www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Admission:

\$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+), \$15 Military (active duty or retired with ID), \$10 (youth 6-18), free for TAM members