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Media Contact:

Nicole Stephens

Director of Development & Communications

Tacoma Art Museum

Email: NStephens@Tacomaartmuseum.org

Decades in the Making: 10 Years of SOLA Awardees

Tacoma Art Museum and Support of Old Lady Artists (SOLA) present an exhibition featuring established female artists over 60 | July 18 – November 15, 2026

Tacoma, WA — Tacoma Art Museum and Support of Old Lady Artists (SOLA) present *Decades in the Making: 10 Years of SOLA Awardees*, an exhibition celebrating the lasting impact of mature women artists across Washington State. On view from July 18 through November 15, 2026, the exhibition brings together a decade of work by artists recognized through SOLA's peer-selected awards—artists whose sustained practices, experimentation, and vision have helped shape the cultural landscape of the Pacific Northwest.

"*Decades in the Making* celebrates the extraordinary contributions of women artists whose practices reflect sustained commitment, experimentation, and vision," said Jessica Wilks, Director of Curatorial at Tacoma Art Museum. "The exhibition also recognizes SOLA's vital role in supporting and elevating mature women artists across Washington State. At Tacoma Art Museum, we are proud to present this partnership highlighting artistic excellence, lived experience, and the lasting impact these artists continue to have on our communities."

"This exhibition honors the remarkable women artists selected by their peers as SOLA Awardees," said Nichole DeMent, Executive Director of SOLA. "It reflects SOLA's core belief in celebrating artists for their lifelong dedication to creative practice and ensuring their work is seen, valued, and remembered."

Founded in 2016 by Ginny Ruffner and Marge Levy, SOLA (Support of Old Lady Artists) uplifts and honors the contributions of mature women artists across Washington State. What began as a single \$1,000 award has grown into a statewide movement that includes five annual \$5,000 awards, professional Video Spotlights, and a growing digital archive dedicated to preserving these artists' stories.

Decades in the Making presents a dynamic survey of past awardees, reflecting the diversity, depth, and persistence of women whose creative practices span decades. The exhibition will also include community gatherings and public programs developed in partnership with Tacoma Art Museum.

Exhibition Details

Title: *Decades in the Making: 10 Years of SOLA Awardees*

Dates: July 18 – November 15, 2026

Opening Reception: July 18, 11am-1pm; open to the public

Location: Tacoma Art Museum, Annette B. Weyerhaeuser Gallery

Presented by: SOLA (Support of Old Lady Artists) in partnership with Tacoma Art Museum

About Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Art Museum connects people through art, presenting exhibitions and programs that emphasize the art and artists of the Pacific Northwest. Located in downtown Tacoma, the museum is committed to equity, community engagement, and fostering meaningful encounters with art.

About SOLA

SOLA (Support of Old Lady Artists) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that uplifts, recognizes, and preserves the legacies of mature women artists across Washington State. Since its founding, SOLA has awarded more than \$129,000 in unrestricted cash grants, produced over 30 Video Spotlights, and cultivated a vibrant community dedicated to equity and visibility in the arts.
