

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Subject: Global Exhibition Tour of Indigenous American Artists Launches in Wyoming

GROUNDDED

Restoring our world through a Sacred Harmony
with the earth and each other

A touring exhibition of 15 contemporary artists from Indigenous American
tribes traditionally based in and around the Great Plains

Casper, Wyoming: September 8, 2022

GROUNDDED, a strategic and timely art exhibition curated by *ArtSpirit*, the arts initiative of Episcopal Church in Wyoming, and CARAVAN, a global arts non-profit, will begin its multi-year international tour in Lander, Wyoming on October 2, 2022 at the Fremont County Pioneer Museum. GROUNDDED, which brings together 15 premier and emerging contemporary artists from Indigenous American tribes traditionally based in and around the Great Plains, is an artistic exploration that seeks to inspire our imaginations about our need to be "grounded" in our relationship with all of creation: the earth and its wildlife, each other and ourselves.

At this moment in time, our world is calling for restoration, from within and without, for a realignment of a sacred harmony and an awareness of a new balance between ourselves and the earth and all of life upon it. GROUNDDED is an exhibition of creative expressions nurturing that sacred connection towards "groundedness" and more intentional and responsible living.

The creative work of this inspiring group of contemporary Native American artists will serve as a visual representation of the worldview, wisdom and learnings of their ancestors, which is urgently needed today as we reimagine how we live in order to heal our world. Grounded in the interconnectedness of the sacred, the natural world, and one another, Native American traditional beliefs see everything on the earth as living in relationship. Their spiritual wisdom is therefore essential to developing a "sacred harmony" between all peoples and the earth. This unique contemporary art exhibition seeks to enable them to share their culture, heritage and sacred traditions to help us heal our world and foster wholeness among all peoples.

The 15 contemporary artists from 8 Indigenous tribes were invited to participate based on the artists' previous work and their ability to express the exhibition's theme through the lens of their heritage and cultural worldview. The exhibition is curated by noted Northern Arapaho artist Robert Martinez.

Ben Pease (Apsáalooke-Crow)
Brent Learned (Arapaho/Cheyenne)
Carlin Bear Don't Walk (Apsáalooke-Crow/Northern Cheyenne)
Donald F. Montileaux (Oglala Sioux)
Henry Payer (Ho-Chunk)
Hillary Kempenich (Anishinaabe)
Jackie Larson Bread (Blackfeet)
Jackie Sevier (Northern Arapaho)
Jim Yellowhawk (Itazipco/Cheyenne River Sioux)
Joanne Brings Thunder (Eastern Shoshone)

John Pepion (Blackfeet)
Louis Still Smoking (Blackfeet)
Robert Martinez (Northern Arapaho)
Talissa Abeyta (Eastern Shoshone)
Wade Patton (Oglala Lakota)

The exhibition will begin its global tour in Wyoming, by being showcased in Lander, Casper, Cheyenne, Jackson, Worland and Rock Springs, before moving to other key venues in the USA and the United Kingdom, and then end its tour in the Middle East. The organizing coordinator, The Rt. Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, has extensive experience organizing large-scale exhibitions internationally.

The exhibition serves as a catalyst for each host venue to develop various events and programs tailored to the specific needs of their community to stimulate discussion, dialogue and education around the exhibition's theme toward promoting further understanding and widening the engagement with the artwork.

Wyoming program partners include Wyoming Humanities Council, Wyoming Arts Council, six noted exhibition spaces, and Episcopal churches throughout the state (Trinity Episcopal Church in Lander, St. Mark's and St. Stephen's in Casper, St. Mark's and St. Christopher's in Cheyenne, St. John's Church in Jackson, St. Alban's Church in Worland, Holy Communion Church in Rock Springs).

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For more information about the exhibition and associated programming, contact Genie Osburn, Communications Coordinator for The Episcopal Church in Wyoming:
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