

ARTDESK

CONTEMPORARY ARTS, PERFORMANCE, AND THOUGHT

@readartdesk

James Turrell *on the Front Range in Colorado*



JAMES VEYSEY/CAMERA PRESS/REDUX © JAMES TURRELL

JAMES TURRELL
Dhatu (2010)

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SUMMER 2021



ILLUMINATION

Coal Carriers: The Lightbulb Moment

DON'T BE DEFERENT. Important words of advice I received at a critical juncture in my career. Those words, as plain and un-minced as they were, taught me a great deal about commanding space, building my own table, and grounding myself with an affirmation that I belong. In the world of culture, one that is rampant with hierarchy and historical exclusion, hearing that directive was my paradigm shift. At every level of personal growth in our journeys, we have the choice between fearfulness and expansion. Those three words have been the warm glowing light in the distance, guiding me along the path toward the best version of my ever-evolving self.

— JESSICA BELL BROWN

Ms. Brown is the associate curator of contemporary art at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

WHEN I WAS sitting in the middle of Joshua Tree during sunset thinking about *Lucid Stead*, or watching the Pacific Ocean meld with the sky on the horizon line, or thinking about *1/4 Mile Arc* in Laguna Beach, I thought: How can I ever make anything more beautiful than this? Through the use of reflection, I was able to use that existing sublime beauty as artistic material within my work—the sunset, the ocean, and the shifting atmosphere became ever-changing functional materials that I could interact with.

— PHILLIP K. SMITH, III

Mr. Smith is an artist in Palm Springs, California.

IN THE 1980s after agreeing to edit a new academic journal on anthrozoology (*Anthrozoos*), a colleague introduced me to a 1964 paper by anthropologist Edmund Leach. Leach wrote about swear words and noted that there are basically three categories of words we use when swearing—profanities (about God), obscenities (about sex), and animal terms. He said it did not take much to understand why we use profanities and obscenities but that animal terms were a real puzzle and then he offered his thoughts on the matter. His analysis has been a central feature of my understanding of human-animal interactions ever since, that the only consistency in the way humans think about animals is inconsistency. — ANDREW ROWAN

A Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Rowan is an animal advocate in Washington DC.

THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED last year have resulted in new ways of working I never thought possible. My art is about manifesting digitally created light sequences as sculpture in the physical world. It's very important that I am able to spend time in-person with my work, adjusting subtle parameters such as tempo and brightness. I never thought I would be able to do this work remotely. Because I could not travel, and we were working toward launching phase two of *Illuminated River* in London, we had to develop a new workflow. We engaged a very talented videographer with a great camera. We then found a video

encoding solution that could beam real-time 4K video signals from the banks of the Thames to my studio in Brooklyn. For more than a month, I would spend several hours each day connected remotely to the artwork, trying out sequences and fine-tuning the results. I was amazed that we were able to accomplish as much as we did. The lesson here is that constraints lead to new and exciting ways of being creative that we can build into our process moving forward.

— LEO VILLAREAL

Mr. Villareal is an artist in New York.

ART HAS ILLUMINATED my life. Gazing at an Alma Thomas painting, resting in a James Turrell Skyspace, walking around a Ruth Asawa sculpture—these are all moments that stir my soul, that inspire me to learn more about the artists, their times, their lives. Art provides a glimpse into the world through the eyes of the artists creating it, offering new perspectives and empathy as we learn their stories. It's that spark that motivated me to found Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Art Bridges Foundation, to provide access to illuminating experiences for all. — ALICE WALTON

Ms. Walton is a philanthropist in Bentonville, Arkansas.

I WAS CONVINCED I wanted to leave Pittsburgh for Seattle after college. I would work at the Seattle Art Museum and go to concerts at night. To help facilitate my dream, my father introduced me to a corporate recruiter. Mr. Donnelly was eccentric. He had mad energy, referred to himself as the “Warrior King,” moved between subjects with lightning speed, and forced me to make decisions I wasn't prepared to make, including a move to Seattle. I can't imagine my life without him. I wouldn't have moved from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC, found the best job ever at FAPE, and be working with some of our country's most extraordinary artists. — JENNIFER ANN DUNCAN

Ms. Duncan is director of the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies in Washington, DC.

FROM THE EARLIEST times, the tribes had someone to carry the coal from one location to the next in order to light the fire that allowed the community to thrive. Today, the carriers of the coal are our artists, musicians, writers, and creatives. In the last year, when we needed connections and courage the most, I saw just how essential these many individuals are. Whether the community is gathered around a screen or in-person, these coal carriers are vital voices. Their work gathered our tribe and gave us a chance to breathe together and be in the moment. I had the full realization that without these creatives—who allow us to make sense of the world, connect to one another, and share our journeys—our path would be dark and lonely, and the way would be perilous. The arts lead and light the way for us all. — DEANA MCCLOUD

Ms. McCloud is director of the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma

SEND US YOUR LIGHTBULB MOMENT editor@readartdesk.com

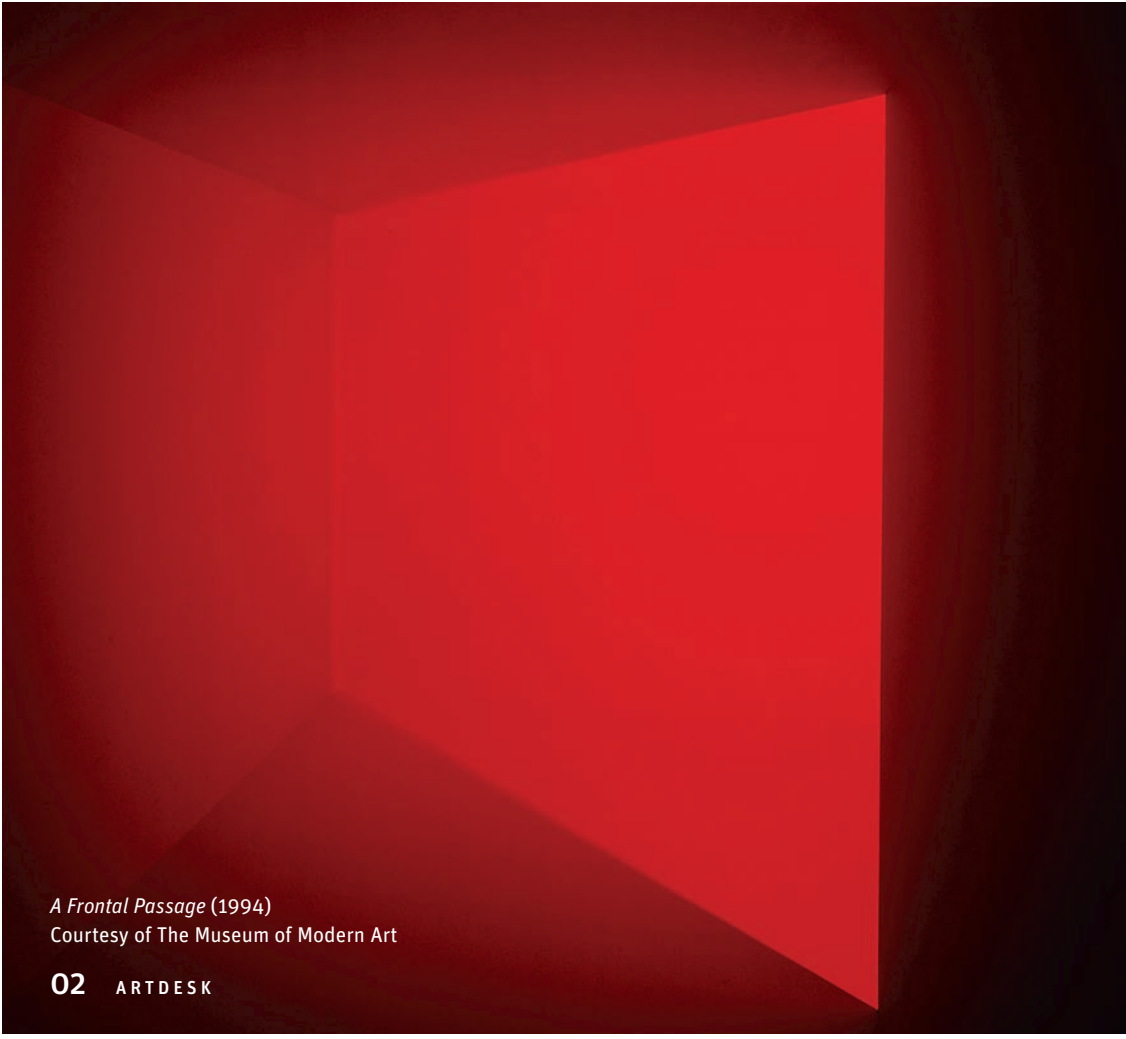
EBONY IMAN DALLAS

The Way You Frame It (2020)

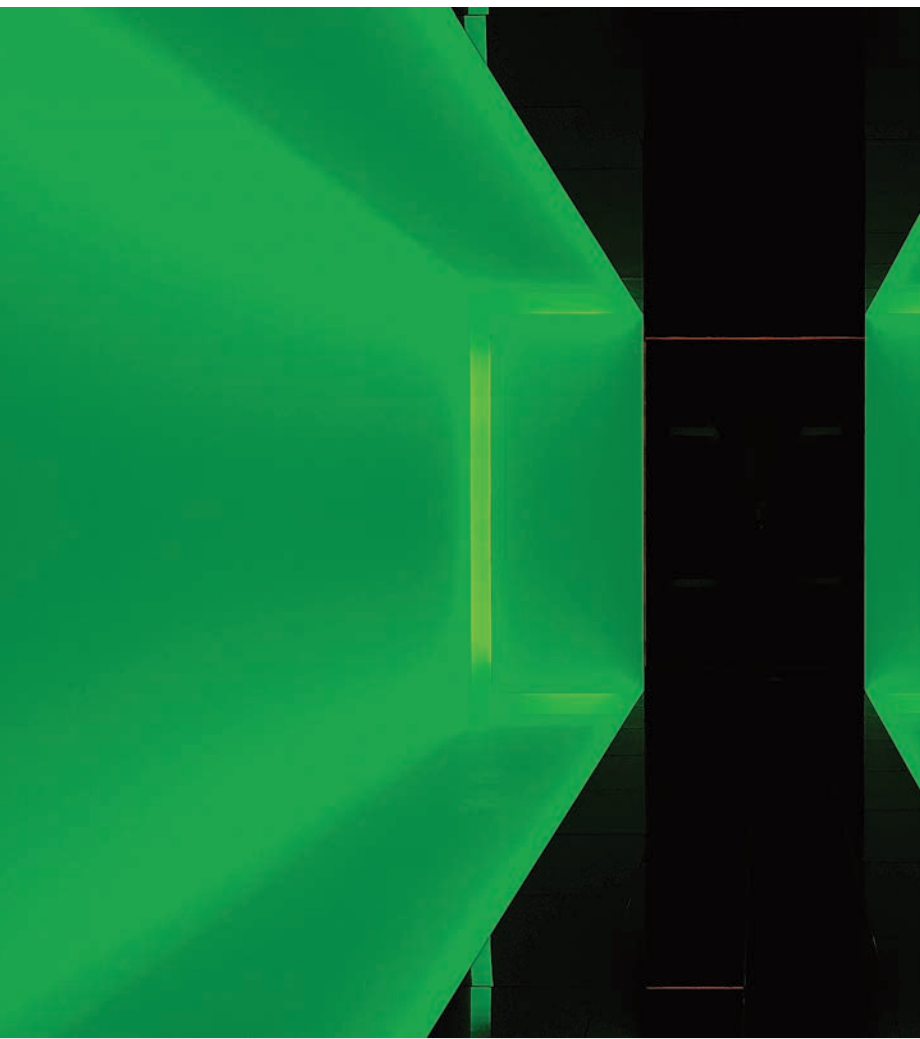
The works of Ebony Iman Dallas, along with Ron Tarver, are featured in the exhibition *We Believed in the Sun*, currently on view through August 9, 2021, at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center in Oklahoma City.



Bridget Bardo (2009)
Photograph by Nigel Treblin



A Frontal Passage (1994)
Courtesy of The Museum of Modern Art



Light On

Bending space and time with James Turrell on the eve of a new Colorado Skyspace



TED THAI

The artist with his work, *Raemar* (1969)



For millennia, humankind has looked up to the sky in fascination. Ancient civilizations built pyramids and stone observatories to track astronomical events, combining architecture, sculpture, and light to reveal celestial patterns and bring the cosmos down to earth. More recent architects of the Gothic period raised the ceilings of cathedrals higher and higher in their efforts to touch the heavens and fill their houses of worship with divine light. James Turrell continues this primordial interest in the spiritual and sublime qualities of light. A proponent of the Light and Space movement, he has spent his career shaping light through architectural and sculptural interventions that challenge the limits of human perception and bring the sky to our terrestrial space.

Over the past five decades, Turrell has expanded his art-making into twenty-two typologies, or series, spanning a variety of forms and ranging in scale from the monumental to the intimate. He is perhaps best known for his Skyspace series—constructed chambers each with a carefully cut and perfectly sharp rectilinear or elliptical aperture in the ceiling. These works can be singular constructions, built to the artist’s specifications, or made within existing spaces modified by Turrell, often combining natural light with carefully modulated artificial light that together heighten perceptions of even the most minute changes in the atmosphere. An experience in a Skyspace is unique to that moment in time, as each is responsive to and interacting with environmental conditions and atmospheric fluctuations. Quiet and contemplative, Turrell’s Skyspaces are portals to the sky and provide the sensation of being one with the universe.

Turrell’s largest Skyspace is also his longest running and most ambitious project. Begun in 1977, *Roden Crater* is a massive earthwork constructed within the eponymous volcanic cinder cone in the Painted Desert region of northern Arizona. Turrell has transformed the extinct volcano into a monumental, naked-eye observatory through a series of tunnels and apertures carved into the earth and opening to skies that—at an elevation of more than 5,000 feet—seem close enough to touch. The work is a masterpiece combining physical sciences with art and architecture. Built to last for hundreds of years to come, *Roden Crater* joins the permanence of geologic time with the ethereality of light and finds its place among the great monuments of civilization. Construction of the observatory continues, during which time it is closed to the public, however the basic principles of *Roden Crater* are present in each of his works to date. The artist’s legacy goes beyond his physical artworks—Turrell has changed the way we look at the sky and allowed us to view the world with renewed awe and wonderment.

ESSAY BY LEIGH ARNOLD

Dr. Arnold is the assistant curator at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, Texas. ✖ Construction for the first Skyspace in Colorado is underway in Green Mountain Falls. Tucked into a butte among an aspen grove, this Skyspace is also the first to be constructed on the side of a mountain. A new trail will guide visitors on an easy hike directly to the permanent installation. The piece is owned by the Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation and will open in fall 2021. ▶ greenboxarts.org

Beside Myself (2017)
Photograph by Karsten Moran

ALL ARTWORKS © JAMES TURRELL

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Skyspaces® in the United States

- ▶ Title To Be Determined (2021), Red Butte, Green Mountain Falls, Colorado

▶ C.A.V.U. (2021), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, Massachusetts

▶ The Color Inside (2013), University of Texas at Austin

▶ Greet the Light (2013), Chestnut Hill Meeting House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

▶ La Brea Sky (2013), Kayne Griffin Corcoran Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- ▶ Twilight Epiphany (2012), Rice University, Houston, Texas

▶ Air Apparent (2012), Arizona State University, Tempe

▶ Joseph's Coat (2011), The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida

▶ The Way of Color (2009), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas
- ▶ Dividing the Light (2007), Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, California

▶ Hard Scrabble Sky (2005), University of Illinois at Chicago

▶ Sky Pesher (2005), Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

▶ Three Gems (2005), de Young Museum, San Francisco, California

▶ Light Reign (2003), Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle
- ▶ Knight Rise (2001), Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona

▶ One Accord (2001), Live Oak Friends Meeting House, Houston, Texas

▶ Blue Pesher (1999), Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, Nashville, Tennessee

▶ Meeting (1980), MoMA PS1, New York, New York
- *Open to the public

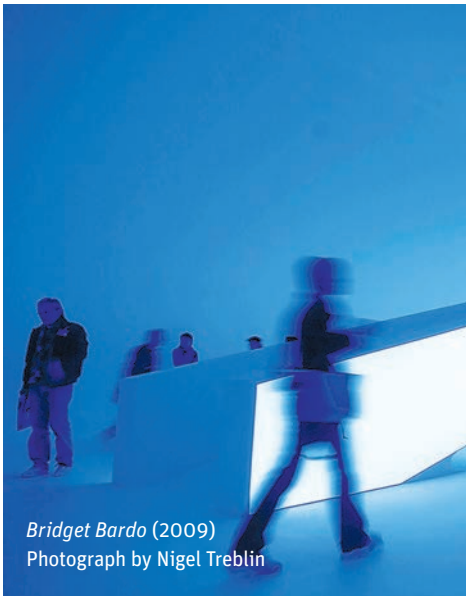
▼ A rendering of the upcoming Skyspace in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado



Roden Crater (1974)
Photograph by Bonnie Jo Mount



Cat Cairn (1974)
Photograph by Florian Holzherr



Bridget Bardo (2009)
Photograph by Nigel Treblin



LARS TUNBJÖRK

LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE

▲ Turrell in *Outsight Insight* (2011) near Stockholm

James Turrell is a visual artist who has incorporated light and space in his work for more than fifty years. ✖ Born May 6, 1943, in Los Angeles, California, Turrell is best known for his Skyspace installations, more than eighty around the world. ✖ Turrell is also a pilot with 12,000-plus hours in the sky. ✖ Turrell has received awards in architecture and art, including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1974), National Medal of Arts (2013), and Jefferson Medal in Architecture (2002).



Stone Sky (2005)
Photograph by Florian Holzherr

SUMMER 2021

Necessities

WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO READ, AND WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE





▲ MELISSA JACOBS
Women In Scarves (2021)
Woman Wearing Cape (2021)

ArtNow

A NEW CHANGE OF PACE FOR AN OLD FAVORITE

ArtNow began as an annual exhibition of Oklahoma artists, but this summer it will debut as a biennial at **Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center**. Organized by independent curator **Helen Oppen**, the exhibition and fundraiser will feature twenty-seven artists with active studio practices in Oklahoma, including **Hoesy Corona, Melissa Jacobs, Edward Grady, Karam, Carrie Kouts, Kyle Larson, Tyra Shackelford, Scott Vo, Simphiwe Mbunyuza, and XVALA**. Also expect a special exhibition of **Bert Seabourn's** work, in recognition of his artistic contributions to the state. —KELLY ROGERS

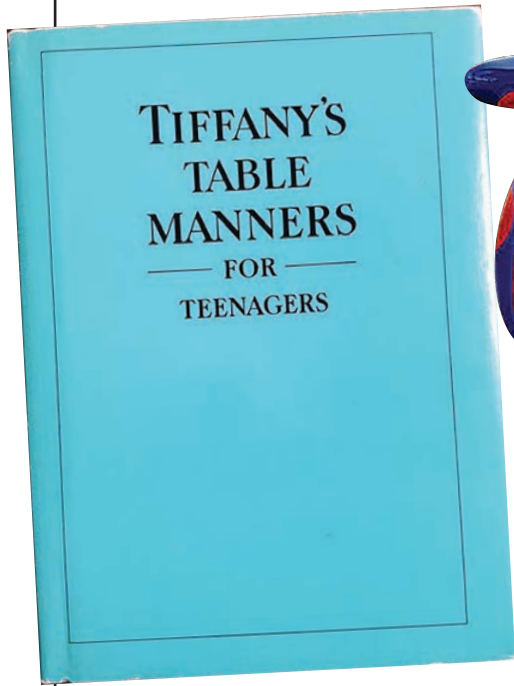
ArtNow 2021 will be on view July 29 through September 13 at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center. ▶ oklahomacontemporary.org

◀ MELISSA JACOBS
Woman With Vase (2020)

DECLASSIFIED DOSSIER

@CHRISTIAN.KEESEE

▼ **READING LIST** *Tiffany's Table Manners for Teenagers* • It's time for a refresher course.



▲ **MAGICAL EXPERIENCE**
 Yayoi Kusama at the New York Botanical Garden • Timed tickets are available via nybg.org

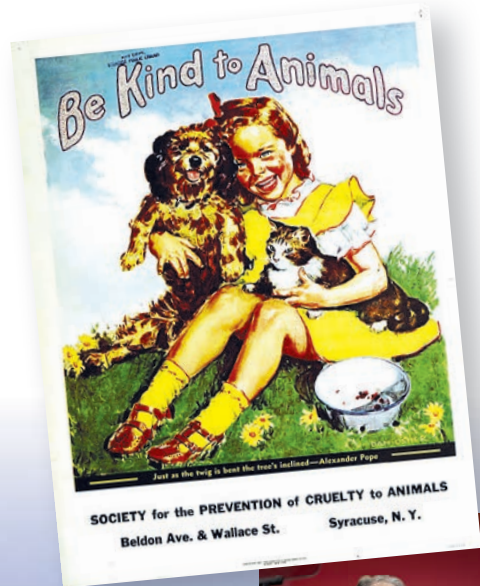
► **MUST FOLLOW**
 Mitchell Nugent on Instagram (@mitchellnugent) • Intelligent, thoughtful posts—not just beef-cake



▲ **BEST SUMMER DRINK**
 A Bloody Bull • Virgin or otherwise, it's fortifying and delicious.



▼ **WHAT'S ALWAYS IN STYLE**
 Kindness to animals



▼ **BEST BET**
 National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC

► **WHO'S OUT**
 Wayne LaPierre



HAPPENINGS

NEW AND NOW IN ART & PERFORMANCE | BY ALLISON MEIER
@ALLISONCMEIER



OPENING OF A PUBLIC SKYSPACE ▶
Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art / North Adams, Massachusetts

INSTALLATION

A forty-foot-tall concrete water tank is now an aperture to the sky. James Turrell has transformed an abandoned factory relic into his latest, and largest, freestanding circular observatory named *C.A.V.U.* MASS MoCA, located in a former textile complex, now has a work from each of the American artist's six decades of work exploring his preferred medium: light. He began his Skyspace series in 1974 to focus perception on the sky and its minute-by-minute changes of color and light. Complementing this new immersive experience, MASS MoCA will exhibit Turrell's ceramic work in *Lapsed Quaker Ware* to examine how his upbringing as a Quaker has impacted his contemplative art. *Through October 30, 2022.* ▶ massmoca.org

THE ART PRESERVE
John Michael Kohler Arts Center / Sheboygan, Wisconsin

ART PARK

From the glittering home of Loy Bowlin—the Original Rhinestone Cowboy—to the “Healing Machine” made in a Nebraska shed from scrap metal, foil, and lights by Emery Blagdon, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center has acquired and protected vernacular art environments. Now it's opening the Art Preserve, the world's first venue dedicated to them. Set on thirty-eight bucolic acres of forests and meadows, the preserve features examples of environments around the world, including sculptures from the Chandigarh, India, garden by Nek Chand and a recreation of the New York loft of fiber artist Lenore Tawney. Artist archives, a library, and an education area further the growing study of self-taught, folk, and outsider artists. *Opening June 26, 2021.* ▶ jmkac.org

ALICE NEEL: People Come First
Metropolitan Museum of Art / New York, New York

EXHIBITION

Alice Neel stated in 1950 that for her, “people come first” and in her art, she strived to “assert the dignity and eternal importance of the human being.” The longtime New Yorker, who died in 1984, did this in captivating portraits that reflected the beautiful diversity of her city, from celebrated artists and activists to neighborhood friends and family members. This major retrospective highlights not just the portraits and cityscapes that portrayed in dynamic color and line the life around her but also her engagement with social justice and representation. Whether unflinching depictions of nude pregnant women or portrayals of same-sex couples, she painted each person with empathy and honesty. *Through August 1, 2021.* ▶ metmuseum.org

KEITH HARING: Grace House Mural ▶
MCA Denver / Denver, Colorado

EXHIBITION

In the 1980s, Keith Haring painted a series of joyous characters dancing up the stairwell at the Grace House youth center in Manhattan. The work was meant to uplift the spirits of at-risk teens who lived in the center. Decades later, Grace House closed and the mural was carefully removed in 2019, with the thirteen panels now on view to the public for the first time at MCA Denver. Each panel features a different figure, including familiar Haring motifs like the radiant baby and barking dog, along with traces of their years in the youth center, from a fire extinguisher sticker to stray graffiti. The exhibition positions these large-scale figures, made with Haring's distinctive bold lines, within the context of his brief but prolific career where he used public art to bring joy to unexpected places. *Through August 22, 2021.* ▶ mcadenver.org

EACH/OTHER: Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger ▼
Denver Art Museum / Denver, Colorado

EXHIBITION

Cannupa Hanska Luger worked with hundreds of people across North America to create an installation of more than 4,000 clay beads to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people; Marie Watt organizes sewing circles to bring people into dialogues around making and the significance of



everyday handcrafted objects like blankets. *Each/Other* joins these two socially-engaged Indigenous artists for the first time to examine how they each use collaborative art-making. As part of the exhibition, the artists asked the public to add their own hand to a new monumental piece by sending in folded fabric with individualized stitching, forming a tactile bond even while people are distanced during the pandemic. *Through August 22, 2021.* ▶ denverartmuseum.org

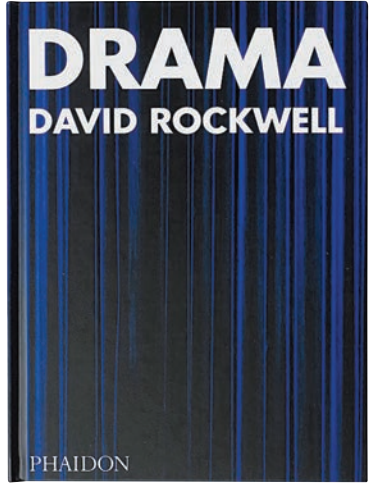
FROM THE LIMITATIONS OF NOW
Philbrook Museum of Art / Tulsa, Oklahoma

EXHIBITION

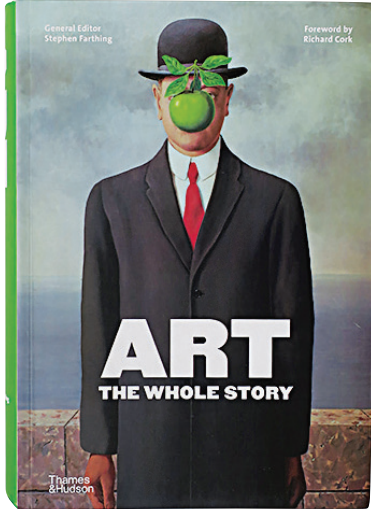
Marking the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, in which a White mob destroyed the Greenwood district and murdered its Black residents, the Philbrook is examining this local



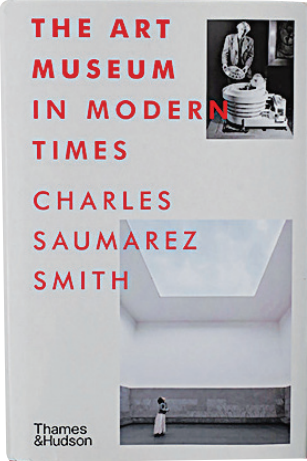
The BOOK REP



Drama: David Rockwell David Rockwell with Bruce Mau / \$60
David Rockwell leads somewhat of a double life. The superstar architect has designed notable buildings such as The Shed in New York, Nobu restaurants worldwide, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta—but he is also a production set designer behind hit Broadway musicals like *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Hairspray*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. All of it is tied together in this celebratory book.



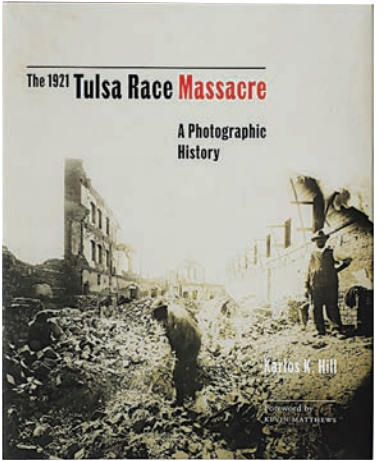
Art: The Whole Story Stephen Farthing and Richard Cork / \$30
This book is an extensive play-by-play of every period and era of art. Extremely informative and expansive, the text coupled with illustrations and images creates a highly detailed and educational book—while remaining easy-to-read. A team of art historians, curators, and artists show the reader everything from Seurat's use of color theory to an explanation of Henri Cartier-Bresson's “decisive moment” in photography.



The Art Museum in Modern Times Charles Saumarez Smith / \$40
Veteran museum director Charles Saumarez Smith (formerly of the United Kingdom's National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery, and Royal Academy) takes a look at the past, present, and future of art institutions around the world and asks the question, “Why do we visit an art museum?” Full of personal anecdotes and smart commentary from the author, this book has a surprisingly broad appeal to art enthusiasts and academics alike.



Liam Wong: TO:KY:00 / \$50
Award-winning graphic designer, game developer, and photographer Liam Wong purchased his first DSLR camera in 2015 and quickly made a name for himself with his stunning photography. Not only is this beautiful book packed with images from Japan that seem otherworldly, Wong brings the reader into his process sharing valuable tips on scene-setting, composition, and post-production methods.



The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: A Photographic History Karlos K. Hill and Kevin Matthews / \$35
One hundred years ago, thousands of White people and state authorities attacked the African American Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, killing 300 people and injuring thousands more. Today, Black Wall Street has been rebuilt and continues to be revived. This book recounts the events with nearly 200 photographs—some never published until now—and oral histories.



history of racial violence in the greater context of the United States and looking ahead to a better future. *From the Limitations of Now* concentrates on recent work by artists including Lex Brown, Lonnie Holley, Troy Michie, and Kameelah Janan Rasheed alongside impactful twentieth-century pieces like Faith Ringgold’s 1972 *United States of Attica* that maps the violent suppression of those who have resisted oppression. Complementing the exhibition is *Views of Greenwood* with images by Oklahoma photographers Don Thompson, Gaylord Oscar Herron, and Eyakem Gulilat, examining loss and resilience in the neighborhood. *Through September 5, 2021.* ▶ [philbrook.org](#)

THE GREAT WOMEN ARTISTS PODCAST

PODCAST

When art historian Linda Nochlin asked in 1971, “Why have there been no great women artists?,” she was not questioning the talent of women but how the art world and art history had neglected them. *The Great Women Artists Podcast* is now elevating the voices of women artists and art historians. Launched in 2015 by Katy Hessel of the popular @thegreatwomenartists Instagram account, the conversations focus on historical and contemporary artists, including recent interviews with Shirin Neshat, Cornelia Parker, Howardena Pindell, and Deborah Roberts. Curators and historians consider the practices and impact of women artists, such as art historian Jo Applin on the bristling femininity of Louise Bourgeois and curator Letizia Treves on seventeenth-century artist Artemisia Gentileschi who broke the baroque glass ceiling. ▶ [thegreatwomenartists.com](#)

DREAM MONUMENTS: Drawing in the 1960s and 1970s
Menil Collection / Houston, Texas

EXHIBITION

As the United States has a national reckoning over what a monument should look like and who it should lionize, the Menil Drawing Institute at the Menil Collection looks back at an era when artists realized fantastic monuments on paper. *Dream Monuments* includes studies, drawings, and proposals such as Claes Oldenburg’s absurdist sketches turning New York’s Park Avenue into a bowling lane for a mammoth green ball and Robert Smithson’s gargantuan map of the Cambrian world with sulfur and tar. As they questioned the limitations of the monument in these impossible ideas, they confronted what it meant to make something permanent and transform the landscape with an artistic vision. *Through September 19, 2021.* ▶ [menil.org](#)

ROBERT BLACKBURN & MODERN AMERICAN PRINTMAKING ▶
Detroit Institute of Arts / Detroit, Michigan

EXHIBITION

Just over a century after he was born to Jamaican immigrants, the Harlem-raised Robert Blackburn is getting a retrospective that surveys how he led the way in American printmaking across a six-decade career. Central to his practice as an artist as well as a teacher was the printmaking workshop he opened in 1947 as a place where any artist, no matter their skill set or experience, could create. In this collaborative space, energized by Blackburn’s enthusiasm for sharing the processes

of printmaking, artists like Elizabeth Catlett, Grace Hartigan, Robert Rauschenberg, Charles White, and countless others explored lithographs, woodcuts, intaglio prints, and other techniques that were pivotal to the twentieth-century “graphics boom” of the United States. *Through September 5, 2021.* ▶ [dia.org](#)

SEAN SCULLY: The Shape of Ideas
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth / Fort Worth, Texas

EXHIBITION

According to the *New York Times*, one of the country’s leading abstract artists once introduced himself at the MoMA desk by declaring: “Sean Scully’s my name, painting stripes is my game.” While there’s much more to the practice of the Irish-American painter, it is those lines with their imperfect edges and blocks of expressive colors that have defined his influential art, going back to the 1970s when they led the way from minimalism to an emotionally charged abstraction. This touring retrospective brings together both paintings and works on paper to examine his almost five decades of non-representational compositions that respond

to memories, people, and places in his life. *Through October 10, 2021.* ▶ [themodern.org](#)

THE WINDMILL PROJECT
Ent Center for the Arts / Colorado Springs, Colorado

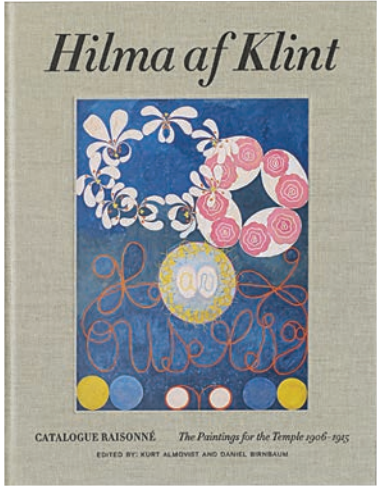
INSTALLATION

On breezy evenings, the hillside behind the Ent Center for the Arts at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) illuminates with 2,000 lights. Each is on an eight-foot-tall windmill with LEDs visualizing the movement of the air. The large-scale installation is by Patrick Marold who often makes public sculptures designed to create experiences with light. His work *Shadow Array* at the Denver International Airport involves the shifting shadows of more than 200 spruce logs. While *The Windmill Project* is on the UCCS campus for a year, it is part of the ongoing interactive art initiative Art WithOut Limits and The Space(s) Between, a collaboration with the University of Denver’s Vicki Myhren Gallery and outdoor artworks between Colorado Springs and Denver. *Through October 2021.* ▶ [entcenterforthearts.org](#)



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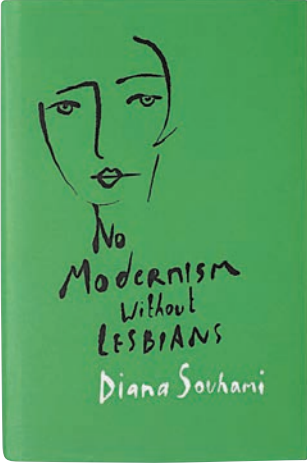
By ALANA RUIZ DE LA PEÑA | Photography by STEVEN WALKER



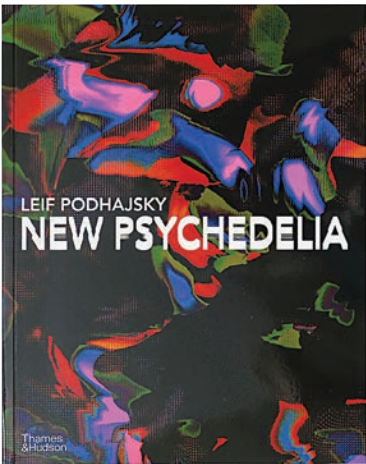
Hilma af Klint: The Paintings for the Temple 1906–1915 Foreword by Kurt Almqvist / \$50
The second book of a seven-volume set, this installment chronicles Hilma af Klint’s 193 colorful and cosmic abstract paintings. The Swedish painter requested that her work be shown in “spiraling architectural structure.” More than 100 years later, in 2018, Klint’s paintings were shown in-the-round at her retrospective in the Guggenheim Museum in New York.



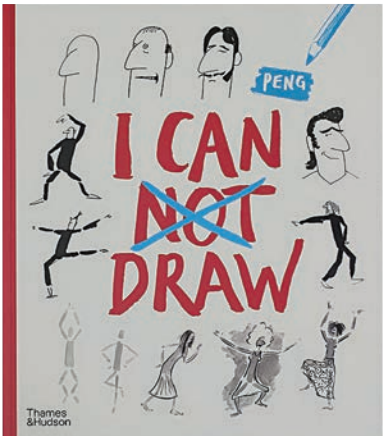
Unfolding Matthew Shlian / \$60
In our rapidly evolving modern world where stationery has gone the way of email and currency is relegated to credit cards and Venmo, we often neglect paper—especially as an art form. Matthew Shlian’s marvelous folding (and unfolding) work is a delightful surprise and peek into an ancient art form sometimes overlooked. Shlian, an artist and paper engineer, has collaborated with design giants such as Apple, SUPREME, and Herman Miller.



No Modernism Without Lesbians Diana Souhami / \$16
English writer Diana Souhami weaves the unique story about a group of gay women in prewar Paris, including Gertrude Stein, Sylvia Beach, and Natalie Barney. Forging a community and forming relationships with the movers and shakers eventually would become the groundbreaking modernist movement—when art and literature tore away from the cultural traditions of the early twentieth century.



New Psychedelia Leif Podhajsky / \$45
Leif Podhajsky is best known for his album cover work with bands such as Tame Impala, Kylie Minogue, Lykke Li, and Of Monsters and Men. Podhajsky is an Australian graphic designer, art director, and synesthete (for him, sounds appear as colors). *New Psychedelia* is a chronicle of his work in the music industry and previously unpublished artwork.



I Can Draw Peng / \$20
Providing the building blocks to create your next great sketch, *I Can Draw* is a way to flex and stretch your creative muscles by practicing simple drawings. This inspirational and often funny step-by-step instills confidence in novice artists, and refines techniques in those more experienced. The workbook is strangely magnetic—the drawings are easy to pick up but challenging enough to take up the better part of your lunch break.



ANDREAS GEFELLER
044 (2019)

CLOUD COVER

Andreas Gefeller takes to the skies.

German photographer **Andreas Gefeller** captures his surroundings in striking detail and imaginative abstraction. His 2019 series, *Clouds*, creates painterly compositions from various cloud formations. With few edits to the original photograph, Gefeller presents these everyday weather phenomena almost entirely as they appeared in the sky that day, highlighting the awe-inspiring and ominous inner workings of our atmosphere. Zoomed in to the billowy



shapes, we see a thunderstorm brewing. Zoomed out, it is revealed that some of these clouds are in fact fabricated, as they escape from an industrial chimney. “Biblical motifs or evidence of man-made global warming?” Gefeller asks. “The *Clouds* series is both: a document of human creativity and relentless exploitation.”

—KELLY ROGERS

Works from Gefeller’s 2019 *Clouds* series, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 054, 051, 053, 046



Smoke Signals

ARTIST IRBY PACE OF ALABAMA

Irby Pace sees expansive landscapes and void scenery as the perfect backdrop to his photographic practice. Texas-born and educated, Pace is the first artist in residence in Green Box's 2021 lineup, bringing his interests in nature, photography, and artistic experience to Colorado. "The town of Green Mountain Falls is incredibly inspirational," Pace says. "The landscape was vastly different from what I am used to with a variety of foliage." Drawing



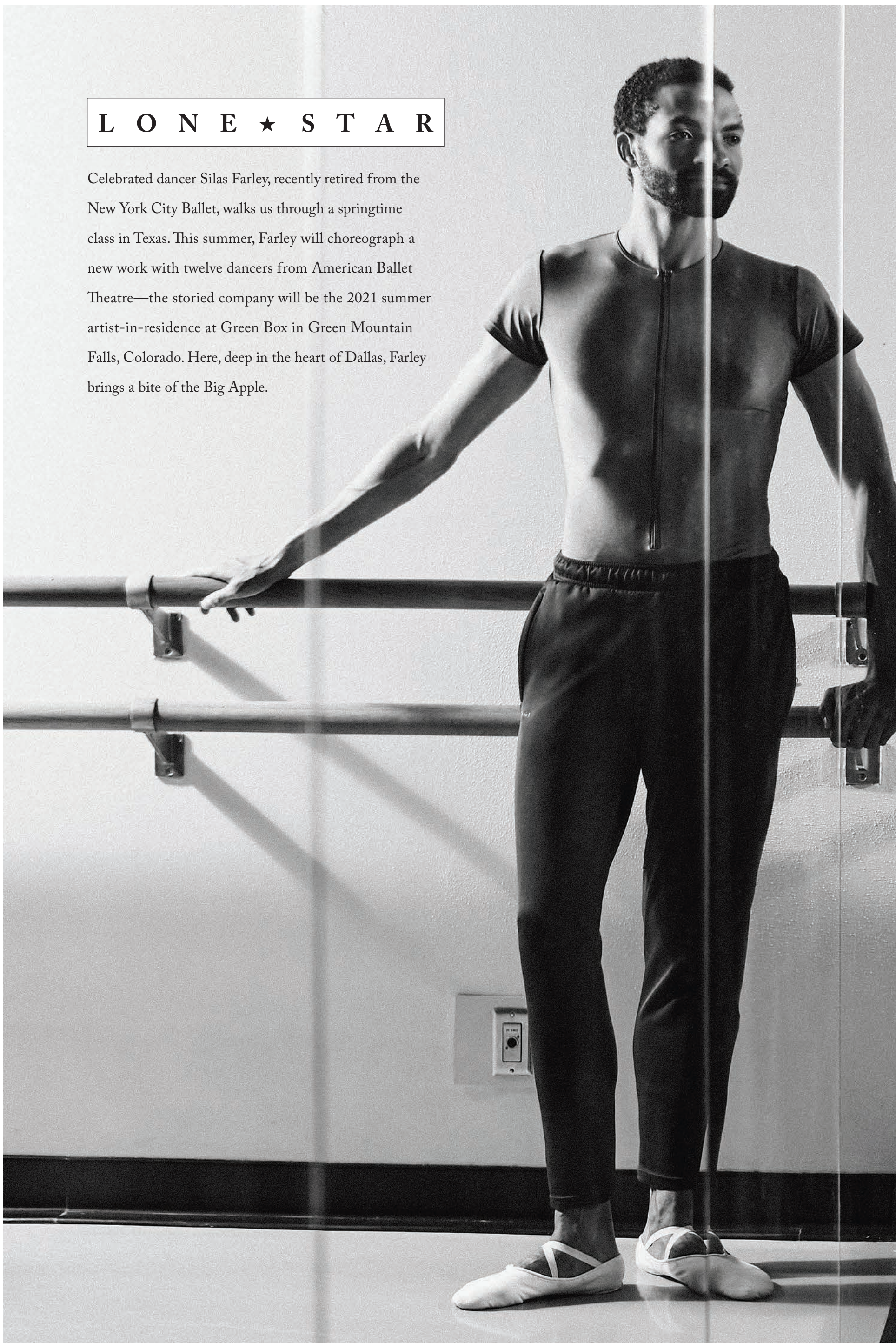
inspiration from nineteenth-century scientist and photographer Étienne-Jules Marey, the Troy University professor of photography uses smoke as a subject to study movement over space and time. He releases clouds of colorful smoke into the air and records these mystic interventions as they transform and eventually dissipate, leaving no trace behind except on film. The state of the environment offers all kinds of possibilities for the final photographs,

from sunshine and wind to nearby objects that the smoke could interact with. In a location with exceptional natural beauty of its own, Pace says the time to make work without restriction or obstruction opened his creative floodgates. “My time here has been one of the most exquisite, tranquil, and creative experiences that I’ve ever had.”

—KELLY ROGERS

L O N E ★ S T A R

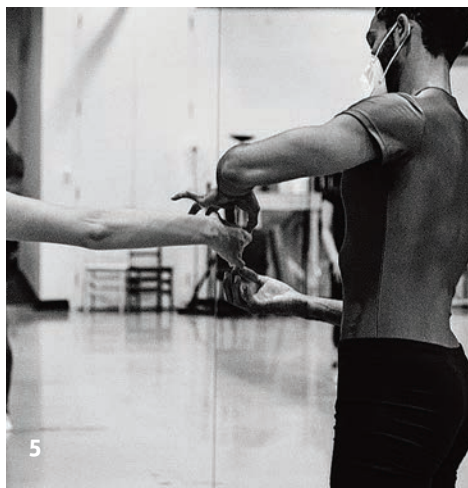
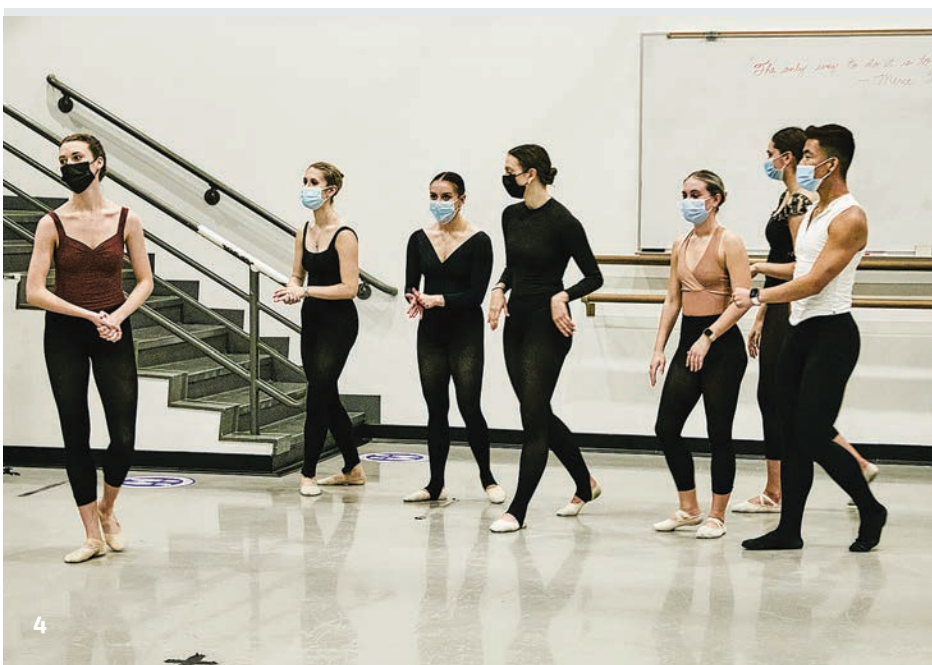
Celebrated dancer Silas Farley, recently retired from the New York City Ballet, walks us through a springtime class in Texas. This summer, Farley will choreograph a new work with twelve dancers from American Ballet Theatre—the storied company will be the 2021 summer artist-in-residence at Green Box in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. Here, deep in the heart of Dallas, Farley brings a bite of the Big Apple.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN VISNEAU



SILAS FARLEY served as the 2020-21 ballet artist-in-residence for the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. Farley danced with the New York City Ballet from 2013 until 2020, when he retired from performance to pursue a leadership role in the world of dance. Now, he is the incoming dean of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute at the Colburn School in Los Angeles.



1 “Working with Matthew Bejarano on creating a moment of alert stillness in fifth position”

2 “Shaping Kiera Mays’ foot in *battement tendu*”

3 “It’s important to keep the wrist lifted. Here, the dancer is working on crossing her right leg behind her in *battement tendu* to create a streamlined movement.”

4 “Much of my teaching is influenced by George Balanchine, the visionary teacher and choreographer who founded New York City Ballet. He emphasized the differentiation of each finger and the roundedness of the palm in this position.”



5 “Katherine Pawlowski and I are working on the shape of her hand and fingers.”

6 “I am reminding Amanda Stone to lift her eye focus to match the height of her leg. We are both looking in the mirror to evaluate.”

7 “Small jumps en masse”



8 “The student here is Grace Furst. She is concentrating on keeping her right hip back as she reaches her right heel and foot away from her. You also see a Merce Cunningham quote I’d written on the white board weeks before: ‘The only way to do it is to do it.’”

9 “I choreographed a new ballet, *Meadows Serenade*, for the SMU students earlier in the semester. They gave me this hoodie as a thank-you gift. It's been such a delight to teach these dancers. They have worked with diligence and intelligence.”



Jamee Suarez and Robin Suarez

2021 KIRKPATRICK HONOR FOR ANIMAL WELLBEING

Photograph by Shevaun Williams

When asked to summarize their efforts in animal welfare in three words, Jamee Suarez says, “Challenging. Rewarding. Unfinished. And inspiring.” Jamee and her sister, Robin Suarez, will be recognized with the 2021 Kirkpatrick Honor for Animal Wellbeing at the triennial ANIMAL Conference on August 27–28, 2021, in Oklahoma City. The Tulsa-based sisters formed the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals in 2004 and, every day since, have dedicated their efforts to mitigating pet homelessness, abuse, and neglect. The sisters have built a respected, innovative, and far-reaching organization that helps animals across the state, all while keeping it a mostly volunteer-run operation. In as many words, we say, “Thank you, from us all.” ▶ animalallianceok.org | ▶ theanimalconference.com



▲ **CALLING ALL CRITTERS:** Photographer **Shevaun Williams** and studio assistants **Paige Williams** and **Jessica Morgan** researched and prepared for four weeks to bring nineteen animals into the studio on May 6, 2021. Chickens **Ruby** and **Black Pearl** and comfort dog **Sledge** belong to **Aubin Lunsford**. Blue Heeler puppy **D'jango** and **BB Prince**, a Golden Retriever mix, appear courtesy of **Jennifer Kloeppe** and **Boys Town Ranch** in Edmond, Oklahoma. Cats **Servo** and **Rudi** belong to **Paige Williams**. **Sebastian** the owl and **Hail** the red-tailed hawk arrived in the care of **Dennis Smith** with **Raptor's Keep** in Edmond, Oklahoma. **Juliette** the turkey and **Penelope** the dairy cow came from **Lisa Carpenter** at **4C Farms**. Goats **Lillie** and **Boo Who** and **Boots** the rabbit are with **Teresa Norton**. **Rocky** the miniature horse and **Corky** the piglet are with **Autumn Bellinger** and **Saving Grace Mini Rescue Farm**. Bearded dragon **Zeppelin** arrived thanks to **Kate Schmidt**. Hair and makeup by **Teresa Luz**; behind-the-scenes video by **Blake Studdard**; technical support by Adobe Photoshop, and Great Plains scenic backdrop painted by **Lauren Rosenfelt**. The talent was perfectly behaved; many thanks to all for their good humor and dedication to animals.

ArtSociety

Seen + Scene



Jen Lewin (far right) with Brooklyn and the studio team | New York, NY



Jose Davila and Benito | Guadalajara, MX



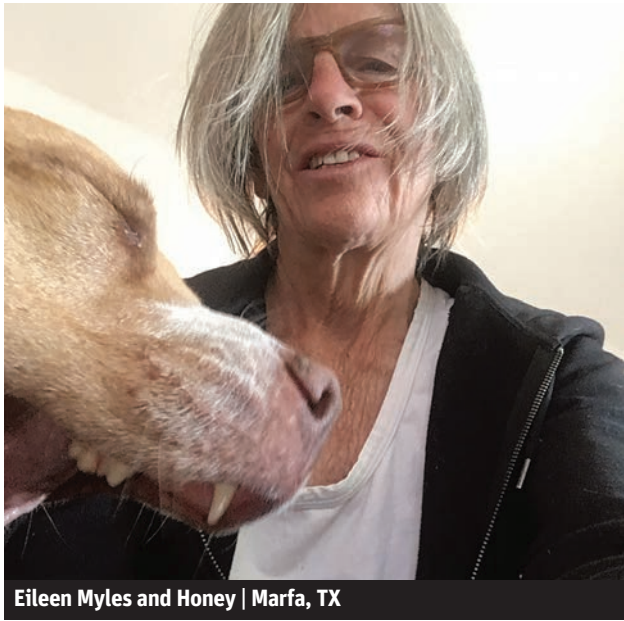
Paloma Varga Weisz and Ponti | Düsseldorf, DE



Betty Tompkins with Emmy (and her husband Bill) | Pleasant Mount, PA



J Morrison and Bambino | New York, NY



Eileen Myles and Honey | Marfa, TX



Sierra Armstrong | Advance, North Carolina



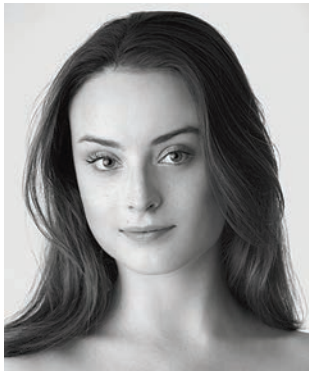
Leah Baylin | Boulder, Colorado



Luigi Crispino | Naples, Italy



Jarod Curley | Bethesda, Maryland



Claire Davison | Boulder, Colorado



Léa Fleytoux | Paris, France

“AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE is setting that standard now for classical ballet, that you can dream big and it doesn’t matter what you look like, where you come from, what your background is.” —*Misty Copeland*



Jason Willaford and Finn | Dallas, TX



Ed Ruscha and Dexter | Venice, CA



Laurie Simmons and Penny | Cornwall, CT



Gabrielle Korn with Kimberly and Venus | New York, NY

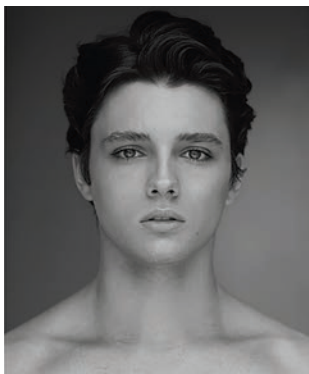


Clint Stone and Mike Ditka | Oklahoma City, OK

Pets & THEIR PEOPLE

2021 Season of the Animal

An artist's tools are crucial to creative output—a bookshelf full of inspiration, a jar of favorite paintbrushes, the perfect chair for writing—and that includes companion animals, too. When asked to share their furry friends with *ArtDesk*, these artists were more than happy to send snaps of everyday life where their animals and art coexist. This summer, two events will celebrate animal and the arts: **ArtDesk's Pooch Parade** at the Green Box Arts Festival, in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, July 3, 2021; and Kirkpatrick Foundation's triennial **ANIMAL Conference**, August 27 and 28, at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center. [▶ greenboxarts.org](https://greenboxarts.org) | [▶ theanimalconference.com](https://theanimalconference.com)



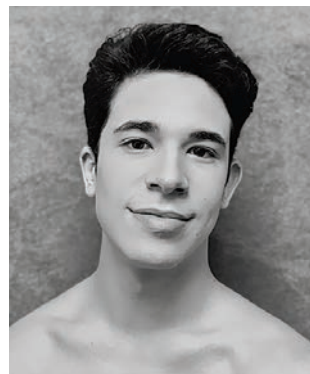
Patrick Frenette | Vancouver, Canada



Breanne Granlund | Dallas, Texas



Cameron McCune | Raleigh, North Carolina



Javier Rivet | Madrid, Spain



Nathan Vendt | St. Louis, Missouri



Remy Young | Belmont, North Carolina

Mountain Time

This summer, twelve dancers from American Ballet Theatre will settle in for a four-week residency to create a new work with choreographer Silas Farley. This ballet will premiere at the festival. Founded in 1931, ABT has performed in 481 cities in 45 countries across the world to 300,000 audience members annually.

Lighting the Ground Up

On April 24, 2021, **Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation** and **Green Box** leaders and Green Mountain Falls community members gathered for the groundbreaking of a new Skyspace by **James Turrell**. This will be the first permanent Skyspace in Colorado and the first to be installed onto the side of a mountain. The structure will be built with natural stones, wood, and other materials specific to the region as the artist and Green Box team work to create harmony between the art experience and its natural setting. The Skyspace, to be titled by Turrell upon completion, will open later this year. ▶ **Green Mountain Falls, Colorado**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Mayor **Jane Newberry**, town trustees **Katharine Guthrie** and **Margaret Peterson**, **Christian Keese**, **Jesse Stroope**, and **Larry Keigwin** break ground on the Turrell Skyspace; **Chris Walters** kicked off the event with a trumpet performance; Keese addressing local residents at the site of the future Skyspace; Green Box Arts artists-in-residence **Irby Pace**, **Antonina Skobina**, and **Denys Drozdyuk**



Derby Day

Dancers and arts patrons ushered in springtime with a Kentucky Derby Day fundraiser hosted by **Nate** and **Kristin Richter** for scholarships to the **Oklahoma International Dance Festival**.

FROM LEFT: **Meg DeGreve** and **Kristin Richter**; **Errick Smith** and **Kayla Witthus**, **Emily** and **Jacob Ham**; **Micah Bullard** and **Carlie Preskitt** of Hartel Dance Group.

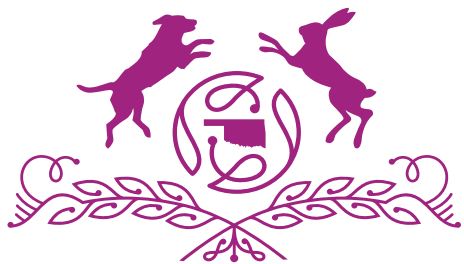
Washington, DC

Carrying the message of kindness to animals, Kirkpatrick Foundation's chairman **Christian Keese**, executive director **Louisa McCune**, and intern **Tyler Kirkpatrick** visited several leaders in Washington, DC in May 2021. The Oklahoma City-based foundation, started in 1955 by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick, has several programs, including an education initiative called **Safe & Humane**, which aims to make Oklahoma a safe and humane place to be an animal. ▶ **Washington, DC**



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama **Ngodup Tsering**, **Louisa McCune**, and **Christian Keese**; Keese, **Tyler Kirkpatrick**, McCune, and Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies director **Jennifer Duncan**; Kirkpatrick, **Senator John Boozman** of Arkansas, McCune, Keese, and **Marty Irby**; Irby, **Senator James Lankford** of Oklahoma, McCune, Kirkpatrick, and Keese





THE ANIMAL CONFERENCE



August 27 and 28, 2021

A Gathering for Animals

The third triennial **ANIMAL Conference** will be held in Oklahoma City on August 27 and 28, 2021, at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center. The two-day event brings together advocates, academics, experts, journalists, philanthropists, and community leaders from across the United States and Oklahoma to discuss animal issues of all kinds. Hosted by Kirkpatrick Foundation, confirmed speakers include **Michael J. Blackwell**, assistant surgeon general and director, Program for Pet Health Equity; **Rachel Dreskin**, chief executive officer, Plant Based Foods Association; **Drew Edmondson**, former Oklahoma Attorney General; Judge **Amanda Maxfield Green**, lead prosecutor in the Joe Exotic case; **Brian Hare**, author of *The Genius of Dogs* and co-founder of Dognition; **John Herrington**, retired United States Naval Aviator, engineer and former NASA astronaut; **Casey McLean**, executive director and veterinary nurse, Sealife Response + Rehab + Research; **Wayne Pacelle**, president of The Center for a Humane Economy; **Carlos Risco**, dean of the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine; **Nancy Snow**, philosopher and professor at the University of Oklahoma; **Philip Tedeschi**, executive director, the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver; and a repeat visit from the **Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs**. To register, visit ▶ theanimalconference.com

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Contributors



SHEVAUN WILLIAMS | A college summer-session with a borrowed 35mm camera in Paris began Shevaun Williams' love affair with travel and photography. As anyone who knows her work can attest, preparation informs her process. "I got the call almost four weeks out and the ball started rolling," says Williams her photograph on page 18. "Concept, conversations, and research lasted for about ten days and the legwork for about two weeks. It took four days to perfect the scene painting. Casting the handlers and animals took a couple of weeks, and we found the last animal the day of the shoot! Sourcing the right props, final set design, lighting for a full day, plus a few sleepless nights—it was glorious to see it come together." [@shevyvision](https://twitter.com/shevyvision)



STEVEN VISNEAU | Steven Visneau, a lifestyle, fine art, and portrait photographer in Dallas, has worked with a wide range of clients, from Neiman Marcus, Tommy John, and JC Penney to Stetson and Marriott Hotels. Visneau is also a musician and culture critic. From New York but based in Dallas, Visneau says he spends most of his working hours on the road. [@stevenvisneuphotography](https://twitter.com/stevenvisneuphotography)



CHRISTIAN KEESEE | Publisher of *ArtDesk* and chairman of the foundation that publishes *ArtDesk*, Christian Keesee is an international contemporary art leader. For more than forty years, he has traveled the world, collecting artworks and advocating passionately for arts education. Co-founder of Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center and Green Box, he serves on the board of the Frick Collection and American Ballet Theatre and received the Oklahoma Governor's Arts Award in 2012. Dossier (page 07) is his new, every-issue *ArtDesk* feature. [@christian.keesee](https://twitter.com/christian.keesee)

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Kirkpatrick Foundation—founded by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick in 1955—is an Oklahoma City philanthropy supporting arts, culture, education, animal well-being, environmental conservation, and historic preservation.

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VEN TENZIN JAMPHEL

The Wish-Fulfilling Ocean of Wisdom

THE BELOVED SPIRITUAL LEADER for approximately 500 million Buddhists around the world, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the chosen embodiment of the prior thirteen Dalai Lamas and a direct link to the “Enlightened One,” the Buddha. His Holiness was born in Tibet in 1935 and, after a series of reincarnation tests by sanctioned Buddhist search teams (disguised as traders), he was confirmed and enthroned as the Dalai Lama at four-and-a-half years old. The Dalai Lama spends nearly all of his time at Namgyal Monastery, his personal residence in Dharamsala, India,

home of the Tibetan government-in-exile since 1959. His teachings are frequent, typically in a live webcast using the latest in social media (including Facebook), and take place in this parlor beset with cameras, television monitors, and an overflow of Tibetan tangkas (paintings) and traditional offerings such as fruit, flowers, and muffins. In his recent message to Buddhists the world over, in May 2021—celebrating the Buddha’s birthday—the Dalai Lama (translated as “Ocean” and “Wisdom”) wrote: “The Buddha’s teaching is essentially practical. It is not just for one group of

people or one country, but for all sentient beings. People can follow this path according to their ability and inclination. I, for instance, started my Buddhist education as a child and although I am now nearly eighty-six years old, I am still learning. Therefore, whenever I can, I encourage Buddhists I meet to be twenty-first century Buddhists, to discover what the teaching really means and to put it into effect. This entails listening and reading, thinking about what you have heard and read and making yourself deeply familiar with it.”
—LOUISA MCCUNE



2021 Green Box Arts Festival

Green Mountain Falls, Colorado
Monday, June 21 to Sunday, July 11



Due to limited capacity and state and local safety guidelines, registration is required for many performances, classes, camps, events, and conversations.



Red Over Blue (2021) by Cat Balco is on view at the Lake Street display this summer in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.



Two art walks this summer: July 4 and 11
Art walks are a great way to see and learn about all the outdoor art in town!

WED / JUNE 23

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
JIM RAUGHTON
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

FRI / JUNE 25

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
SILAS FARLEY & AMERICAN
BALLET THEATRE
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE
MATINEE PERFORMANCE
2–3 p.m.
Bear Crossing Studio

FRIDAY FILM NIGHT
*AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL
GOES WEST*
8–10 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

SAT / JUNE 26

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
BOB BLACKBURN
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE
MATINEE PERFORMANCE
2–3 p.m.
Bear Crossing Studio

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE
EVENING PERFORMANCE
7–8 p.m.
Bear Crossing Studio

SUN / JUNE 27

SUNDAY SING-ALONG
WITH COLORADO SPRINGS
CONSERVATORY
7:30–8:30 p.m.
Lakeview Terrace Theater

FRI / JULY 2

FRIDAY FILM NIGHT
BEST IN SHOW
8–10 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

SAT / JULY 3

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
MAYOR’S FORUM
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

ARTDESK’S POOCH PARADE
1:30–3 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

SUN / JULY 4

ART WALK WITH
CAT BALCO (EASY)
8–9 a.m.
Aspen Grove & Tribute Walk

NATURE HIKE (MODERATE)
H.B. WALLACE
8–10 a.m.
Aspen Grove & Tribute Walk

NATURE HIKE (ADVANCED)
PITTMAN TRAIL
8–10 a.m.
Aspen Grove & Tribute Walk

ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY BLOCK
PARTY WITH COLLECTIVE
GROOVE
7–9 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

WED / JULY 7

ASTRONOMY & S’MORES
9–10:30 p.m.
Astronomy: Lakeview
Terrace Theater
S’mores: The Outlook Lodge

FRI / JULY 9

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
VICKY GREGOR
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

FRIDAY FILM NIGH
*BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE
SUNDANCE KID*
8–10 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

SAT / JULY 10

NATURE HIKE (MODERATE)
TURRELL TRAIL
9–10 a.m.
Aspen Grove & Tribute Walk

ARTDESK CONVERSATION
THE ART OF JAMES TURRELL
12–1 p.m. / LUNCH PROVIDED
Church in the Wildwood

SKYSPACE DEDICATION
1:30–2:30 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

BLOCK PARTY CONCERT WITH
THE REMINDERS
7–8:30 p.m.
Green Box Farm Stand

SUN / JULY 11

ART WALK WITH JULIE
MAGUIRE (EASY)
8–9 a.m.
Aspen Grove & Tribute Walk

SUNDAY SING-ALONG WITH
COLORADO SPRINGS
CONSERVATORY
7:30–8:30 p.m.
Lakeview Terrace Theater

Green Box encourages artists, residents, and visitors to participate in the creative arts surrounded by the natural beauty of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. The Green Box Arts Festival is well into its second decade of creating and presenting extraordinary

contemporary arts experiences. We engage community through performances, exhibitions, education, conversations, celebrations, and an artist-in-residence program. Green Box is committed to fostering creative expression at the highest level.

green
box

GREENBOXARTS.ORG

All ABT performances require tickets. For more information, please visit greenboxarts.org