

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2023 ART EXHIBITIONS AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS**

A diverse roster of exhibitions featuring botanical and environmental themes is presented in the Gardens' Freyer – Newman Center. Using textiles, sculptures, paintings and installations, artists explore their connection to the environment as well as telling stories of family, culture and heritage. Local, national and international artists are featured. Exhibitions are included with general admission. A few more exhibitions will be announced soon to complete the 2023 exhibition calendar.

**Melanie Yazzie: Peace Walking**

January 29 – May 29, 2023



Interdisciplinary artist Melanie Yazzie uses iconography of dogs, birds, corn, butterflies and female figures to tell a deeply personal story through her multi-layered prints, paintings and sculptures. The Colorado-based artist's work is intended to convey wonder and peace while encouraging viewers to engage more deeply with complex Indigenous experiences. *Peace Walking* is a meditation on the Diné (Navajo) prayer "Walking in Beauty," which invites healing, balance and harmony with the natural world. Her work is included in several permanent collections including the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence; the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Kennedy Museum of Art at Ohio

University, Athens.

Image: Melanie Yazzie, *He is With Us*, acrylic and mixed media, 2022.

**Renewal: Sculptures by Tamara Kostianovsky**

February 26 – June 18, 2023



Textile sculptor Tamara Kostianovsky's exhibition, *Renewal*, presents large-scale sculptures of tropical birds, flora and tree stumps. The works draw inspiration from her childhood home in Argentina and seek to envision a utopian future restored from past and present exploitation. Repurposing clothing from her own wardrobe as well as clothes, linens, upholstery and towels from family and friends, Kostianovsky forges connections to loved ones and childhood memories. The materials – with varying textures and colorful patterns – are layered, twisted together and layered to create works that reveal historical and contemporary challenges confronting South American and Caribbean landscapes. Kostianovsky has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions around the world and has been awarded multiple fellowships and residencies. Her work is included in the collection of El Museo del Barrio, New York, and in numerous private collections.

Image: Tamara Kostianovsky, *Redwood*, clothing belonging to the artist's father, discarded textiles and wood, 2018. Photo: Roni Mocan.

## Justin Favela: Vistas in Color

June 11 – October 1, 2023



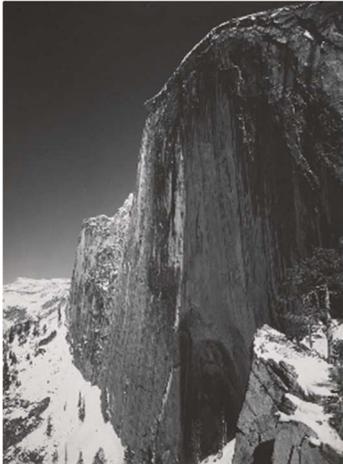
Justin Favela's large-scale piñata-paper installations exist at the intersection of cultural identity and pop culture. Vibrant and immersive, *Vistas in Color* honors and celebrates the sweeping desert landscapes of the U.S. and Mexico and the role that they have played in Latinx identity. A tissue paper floor-to-ceiling mural, created specifically for the Gardens' exhibition, combines imagery from desert landscapes. The single panoramic image wraps the walls of the entire ellipse-shaped gallery. Plants from different deserts are featured, as well as plants from the artist's own home and photos. Favela is a Latinx and first-generation

American artist based in Las Vegas. He has exhibited his work both internationally and across the United States, including Denver Art Museum.

Image: Justin Favela, *Popocatepetl e Iztaccihuatl vistas desde Atlixco, after José María Velasco* (detail), paper, glue and cardboard, 2015. Photo: Mikayla Whitmore.

## Ansel Adams: Early Works

June 11 – October 1, 2023



Discover the early work of renowned landscape photographer Ansel Adams in *Ansel Adams: Early Works*, an exhibition of intimate yet majestic photos of the American West. Known best for his high-contrast photos made in the 1970s and 1980s, Adams' earlier prints feature a softer focus, smaller scale and warmer tones, providing a glimpse into the evolution of the photographer's signature style. The exhibition features 39 vintage photographs, including some of his best-known works such as *Monolith, the Face of Half-Dome* (1927), *Storm, Yosemite Valley, California* (1938), *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* (1941) and *Aspens, Northern New Mexico* (1958). Also on display are vintage photographic cameras and photographic tools that did not belong to Adams, for additional context. Adams (1902-1984) was a giant in the field of landscape photography; using his art to celebrate and protect the West. His career was deeply entwined

with his environmental conservation efforts. *Early Works* is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions, LLC. All photographs are from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg.

Image: Ansel Adams, *Monolith, the Face of Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, California*, photograph, 1927. Center for Creative Photography, Ansel Adams Archive © The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.

## Indigo

July 2 – November 5, 2023



Rich and alluring, the striking blue color known as indigo has served as inspiration for weavers, dyers, designers and sculptors across the globe. This exhibition features contemporary artists from the United States, Nigeria, Japan, South Korea and beyond. Indigo dye is derived from a variety of plants, most often true indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria*), Japanese indigo (*Persicaria tinctoria*) and woad (*Isatis tinctoria*). With a complex history that spans millennia and traverses thousands of miles, indigo holds an influential place in global art, trade and culture. Several large-scale installations are presented, including indigo-dyed yarn by local artist Theresa Clowes and indigo-dyed fabric by Rowland Ricketts, as well as a denim quilt by Anissa Mack and small sculptures by Luisa Uribe.

Image: Chinami Ricketts, *Stripe Book*, indigo-dyed cotton, 2021. Photo: Rowland Ricketts.

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**About Denver Botanic Gardens:** Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class exhibitions, education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org).