

## The Contemporary Austin Presents

### *HOST: Katarina Janečková Walshe*

Premiering a new body of work, this exhibition marks the artist's first solo museum exhibition



Austin, TX (July 25, 2024) – The Contemporary Austin is pleased to announce *HOST: Katarina Janečková Walshe*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition. Curated by Robin K. Williams, Outgoing Curator, The Contemporary Austin and Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the exhibition will be on view at The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center from September 6 – December 8, 2024. Featuring never-before-seen paintings and the artist's first ever sculpture, the installation *Mother Land* continues Janečková Walshe's longtime exploration into the complexities of female-identified experience, including sexuality, domesticity, and motherhood. Ten years ago, when the artist moved from her hometown of Bratislava, Slovakia to Corpus Christi, Texas, she was prompted to examine how those aspects of experience manifest in American and Texan culture.

In *Mother Land*, the artist extends her inquiry to contemplate the transformative potential that applying a mother's love and care universally might unleash.

What could the world become if all humans nurtured one another as a mother does her child? Can we recognize and act upon our inherent interconnectedness as humans sharing one Earth? If societies prioritized women and invested in the people's collective health and security, how might the world transform? And how might the Earth benefit if we extended nurturing care to our planet?

Janečková Walshe invites viewers to consider these questions in her new suite of paintings and first-ever sculpture. A painted poem, expressing her reflections on the state of our world, encourages collective responsibility and hope for the future. The sculpture, which expands her paintings' recurring maternal figure into three dimensions, shelters ceramic figurines resembling the paintings' children. Completing the picture, the surrounding paintings, embodying themes including sacrifice, protection, love, sorrow, and joy, evoke the true complexity of human experience.

While making her artwork, the artist incorporates contributions by her young daughters—Alenka, five, and Vida, two. She begins each work with the canvas on the floor, which enables her children to walk on or mark its surface spontaneously. The children's marks, which constellate the often chaotic aspects of motherhood, introduce unpredictable elements to which the artist responds with compassion and ingenuity, thus modelling a profound respect for the next generation's potential to inspire constructive change.

"I am delighted to share Katarina Janečková Walshe's distinctive artistic vision with The Contemporary Austin audiences," says exhibition curator Robin K. Williams. "Her raw, figurative style and bold explorations of female sexuality, domesticity, and motherhood convey vital messages in today's world. Additionally, her creative process demonstrates a remarkable ability to integrate her children and the natural world into her work, offering an inspiring example of compassionate living. In this, her first solo museum exhibition, she unveils a new suite of paintings and a sculpture that will surely surprise and delight audiences of all ages."

*HOST: Katarina Janečková Walshe* is the fourth exhibition presented as part of *HOST*, The Contemporary Austin's ongoing program series and exhibition space committed to centering artists and welcoming publics. Initiated in 2023, each exhibition cycle welcomes an artist to create a newly commissioned environment in the *HOST* gallery space at the Jones Center which is accompanied by related programming. Previous *HOST* exhibitions include a site-specific textile mural and wall sculptures

by Mexico City-based artist duo Celeste, a sculptural installation and soundscape by Texas-based artist Aryel René Jackson, and an interactive gallery experience celebrating 20 years of performances by Austin-based arts organization Fusebox.

#### **RELATED PROGRAMMING**

*HOST: Katarina Janečková Walshe - Opening Reception*

September 6 (Fri) | 6–9P

The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

**Second Saturdays Are for Families with Katarina Janečková Walshe**

September 9 (Sat) | 11A

The Contemporary Austin - Laguna Gloria

*In Conversation: Katarina Janečková Walshe & Emmy Laursen*

September 11 (Wed) | 7P

The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

Visit our [Events page](#) for more details.

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **ABOUT KATARÍNA JANEČKOVÁ WALSHE**

Katarina Janečková Walshe (b. 1988 in Bratislava, Slovakia; lives in Corpus Christi, Texas) works across media, employing paper, canvas, bedsheets, and a wide array of mark-making tools to critique received notions of authentic culture, gender norms, sexual expression, and national pride. Her process is free-ranging and improvisational, and she uses her own sexuality, motherhood, and identity as a painter as characters in the often humorous and erotic scenes she envisions. Most recently she has trained her critical attention and transgressive methodologies on fallacies of contemporary American life, a happy result of her time spent living in Texas, even as her commitments to social justice and the cathartic potential of figurative painting remain free of geographical or national specificity. Janečková Walshe has exhibited extensively in galleries and art spaces worldwide, including solo exhibitions at Harkawik, New York and Los Angeles; Althuis Hofland, Amsterdam; Gallery Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, Belgium; Asia Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan; and Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Berlin, Germany; as well as group exhibitions at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland. Her work is held in the collections of the Rubell Museum, Miami, Florida; Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach, Florida; and X Museum, Beijing, China. She received her MFA in painting from the Academy of Fine Art in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her exhibition at The Contemporary Austin is the artist's first solo museum presentation.

### **ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN**

As Austin's only museum solely focused on contemporary artists and their work, The Contemporary Austin offers exhibitions, educational opportunities, and events that start conversations and fuel the city's creative spirit. Known for artist-centric exhibitions and collaborations. The Contemporary invites exploration at both its urban and natural settings—downtown at the Jones Center (700 Congress Avenue) and lakeside at the Laguna Gloria campus (3809 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street), which includes the museum's Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park, with a growing program of commissions, temporary projects, and a permanent collection of outdoor sculptures by artists including Ai Weiwei, Terry Allen, Carol Bove, Sarah Crowner, Tom Friedman, Anya Gallaccio, Ryan Gander, Liam Gillick, Nancy Holt, Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler, Paul McCarthy, Wangechi Mutu, Clare Rojas, Tom Sachs, Monika Sosnowska, Jessica Stockholder, SUPERFLEX, Marianne Vitale, and Ursula von Rydingsvard. Learn more at [thecontemporaryaustin.org](http://thecontemporaryaustin.org).

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