

The Contemporary Austin

The Contemporary Austin Presents *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers*

Spanning both locations with an indoor exhibition
at the Jones Center and an outdoor work at Laguna Gloria



Austin, TX (January 29, 2025) – Raven Halfmoon’s (b. 1991, Caddo Nation; lives and works in Norman, Oklahoma) touring solo exhibition will span both of The Contemporary Austin’s sites with an indoor exhibition at the Jones Center and an outdoor sculpture, *Flagbearer*, which will be installed at the museum’s Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria in mid-February.

Halfmoon’s practice ranges from torso-scaled to colossal-sized stoneware sculptures, with some soaring up to twelve feet and weighing over eight hundred pounds. With inspirations that span centuries, from ancient Indigenous pottery to Moai statues to Land Art, Halfmoon interrogates the intersection of tradition, history, gender, and personal experience.

Born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, Halfmoon learned about ceramics as a teenager from Caddo elders. Her work fuses inherited Caddo pottery techniques, a tradition of making mostly done by women, with her own expressive mark making and contemporary lexicon of symbols. Her surfaces are expressive and show deep finger impressions and dramatic dripping glazes—a physicality that positions her as both maker and matter. Through stacking and repeating

JONES CENTER – 700 Congress Avenue, Austin TX 78701

BETTY AND MARCUS SCULPTURE PARK AT LAGUNA GLORIA – 3809 West 35th Street, Austin, TX 78703

imagery, Halfmoon creates totemic forms that represent herself and her maternal ancestry while also reinforcing the multiplicities that exist inside all of us.

Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers will feature a combination of new and recent works, with the artist's first museum catalogue accompanying the presentation. The exhibition debuted at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (June 25, 2023 - January 7, 2024) and traveled to Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (May 18 - September 15, 2024), and is co-curated by Rachel Adams, Chief Curator & Director of Programs, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha, NE) and Amy Smith-Stewart, Diana Bowes Chief Curator, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Ridgefield, CT). The Contemporary Austin's presentation of *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers* is organized by Julie Le, Assistant Curator.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers - Opening Celebration

Members Preview | 6:30–8P

Public Opening | 8–9:30P

January 31 (Fri) | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center

Caddoan Pottery: Past, Present, and Future

Feb 26 (Wed) | 6–8:30P | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center

In Conversation: Raven Halfmoon & Candice Hopkins

Member Moment | 1–2P

In Conversation | 2–3:30P

Mar 30 (Sun) | The Contemporary Austin – Laguna Gloria

Perspective Tour with Tammie Ruben

Apr 19 (Sat) | 2P | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center

Documentary Screenings with Medicine Wheel Rider Jimmy Ochoa Morales

May 7 (Wed) | 6–8:45P | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center

ABOUT RAVEN HALFMOON

Raven Halfmoon (b. 1991, Norman, Oklahoma, where she presently lives and works) is a sculptor and citizen of the Caddo Nation, and Choctaw, Delaware, and Otoe Missouri. Her work has been featured in numerous gallery exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, and the Montclair Art Museum. In 2023, she was selected as an Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellow (Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, IN), and in 2024, she was a finalist for the international Loewe Craft Prize (Loewe Foundation, Madrid, Spain). Halfmoon holds a double BA in ceramics/painting and cultural anthropology from the University of Arkansas. Halfmoon most recently participated in long-term artist residencies at the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts (Helena, MT) and California State University's Long Beach Center for Contemporary Ceramics (CSULBC CCC).

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 35th 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.

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Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers is organized by The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. The exhibition is curated by Amy Smith-Stewart, Diana Bowes Chief Curator at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and Rachel Adams, Chief Curator and Director of Programs at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art.

The Contemporary Austin's Exhibition Program is supported in part by Malú Alvarez, Rachel and Jeff Arnold, Bettina and Brian Barrow, Adrienne and Christopher Bosh, Suzanne Deal Booth, Debbie Dupré and Richard Rothberg, Kathleen and Christopher Loughlin, Chris Mattsson, Danielle Nieciag and Brian Sharples, O'Shaughnessy – Rivers Family Fund, Zarmeena Vendal, and anonymous donors. Exhibitions and programming are also made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Still Water Foundation, Every Page Foundation, and Stratus Properties.

The Contemporary Austin is supported by the generosity of its Board of Trustees, members and donors, and the citizens of Austin through the City of Austin Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts Division.

MEDIA CONTACT

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IMAGES: 1) Portrait of Raven Halfmoon. Image courtesy the artist and Salon94, New York; 2) Raven Halfmoon, *Tsu'-Cus Iya'y? I (Star Sister I)*, 2022. Stoneware, glaze. 42 x 30 x 62 in. Courtesy the artist and Ross + Kramer Gallery, New York. Artwork © Raven Halfmoon. Image courtesy The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. Photograph by Jason Mandell; 3) Rebekah Flake; 4) Brian Fitzsimmons.

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