



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — 04/25/2024

BCA 27TH DRAWING SHOW



YUŠKÁ: UNCOIL

OPENING RECEPTION
May 17 | 6–9PM

ON VIEW
May 11–Aug. 3

**CURATED AND JURIED
BY ERIN GENIA**

MILLS GALLERY
551 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116

Erin Genia Curates *Yušká: Uncoil* — the 27th Drawing Show at Boston Center for the Arts

The next exhibition at the Mills Gallery highlights the intersection of art, earth, and social change through the versatile medium of drawing.

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Dates

May 11 — August 3, 2024

Location

Boston Center for the Arts, Mills Gallery | 551 Tremont Street, Boston 02116



BOSTON, MA — Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) announces its *27th Drawing Show — Yušká: Uncoil*, juried and curated by Erin Genia. After a five-year hiatus, this highly anticipated exhibition including artworks from forty-four artists will be held at the Mills Gallery, located at 551 Tremont St, Boston, from May 11 to August 3, 2024. The opening reception will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6–9 PM, providing visitors the chance to engage with the artists and curator firsthand.

From traditional to contemporary, the exhibition celebrates the rich tradition and interrogates what defines the medium. This year's Drawing Show is *Yušká: Uncoil*. In the Dakota language, the word Yušká means: to untie, release, uncoil, loosen, set free. Its meaning can range from the simple untying of a knotted rope, all the way to a philosophical undoing of political, economic and social constructs. Curator Erin Genia elaborates:

Life is sustained by Earth and everything we do is the result of our connection to the lands we live on. This basic reality has been lost to most, but it is central to Dakota cosmology. All cultures of the world stem from Earth-based ways of living, and for the past couple centuries, those ways have been targeted for erasure and nearly destroyed by dominant societies, but we remain Earth-based beings.

Artists' unparalleled ability to speak to the intangible gives them a singular way of addressing inequities and presenting visions of a better world. This power, alongside fluency in the creative process, can be a catalyst for social change that aligns with the Dakota word Yušká. The crises of climate change and ecological destruction are the result of the same cultural dynamics that are intertwined with economic inequality and the injustices of racism. Beginning with Yušká, how can artists honor the agency of the Earth and our place in it? How can we devote our creative work to unraveling the immense knot formed by harmful ideologies that threaten the web of life?

Participating artists:

[Ryan Aasen](#), [Constanza Alarcon Tennen](#), [Crystal Bi](#), [Geoffrey Booras](#), [Kameko Branchaud](#), [Stephanie Cardon](#), [Darius Carter](#), [Mayté Castillo](#), [Woosik Choi](#), [Leah Craig](#), [Tanya Crane](#), [Mark Hernandez-Motaghy](#), [Corazon Higgins](#), [Elizabeth James-Perry](#), [Ashley Jin](#), [Alex Kalil](#), [Iwalani Kaluhiokalani](#), [Lucien Dante Lazar](#), [Andy Li](#), [Patte Loper](#), [Evangalina Macias](#), [Robbie Moser-Saito](#), [Marie Zack Nolan](#), [Sheila Novak](#), [Chris Pappan](#), [Crater Powers](#), [Kiara Reagan](#), [John Ros](#), [Mica Rose](#), [Meg Rotzel](#), [John Roy](#), [Michelle Samour](#), [Homa Sarabi](#), [Bryan Shea](#), [Mimi Silverstein](#), [Susanne Slavick](#), [Sarah Slavick](#), [Michelle Stevens](#), [Michael Talbot](#), [Vivian Tran](#), [Ananth Udupa](#), [Margaret Inga Urías](#), [Jael Whitney](#), [Adam Wise](#) and [Erin Woodbrey](#).

About the Curator: Erin Genia

[Erin Genia\(she/her\)](#), Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota, is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and cultural worker specializing in Native American and Indigenous peoples' arts and culture. Genia's work in these areas is focused on amplifying the powerful presence of Indigenous peoples on the occupied lands of America in the arts, sciences and public realm to invoke an evolution of thought and practice that is aligned with the cycles of the natural world and the potential of humanity. Genia's artistic practice merges Dakota cultural imperatives, pure expression, and exploration of materiality with the conceptual. Erin is fluent in multiple modes of expression: sculpture, fiber, sound, performance, digital media, painting, printmaking, jewelry and ceramics. Genia served as an artist in residence for the City of Boston and developed a project, "Cultural Emergency Response," that creatively repurposes disaster planning methods to address



complex issues like climate change, institutional racism, ecological destruction and economic inequality from a decolonial lens.

About BCA Drawing Show

Since 1979, the Drawing Show has been a signature group exhibition at the Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts. For each Drawing Show, BCA invites an accomplished guest curator to develop a unique, topical concept for artists to respond to through an Open Call. The curator then selects the works and develops exhibition-related public programming for the show. This juried group exhibition has shown more than five hundred artists through the years. Previous Drawing Show curators have included Chanel Thervil (2019), Robert Moeller (2018), and Susan Metrican (2015).

About Boston Center for the Arts

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) supports working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new works; develops new audiences; and connects the arts to community, and has for over five decades engaged the creative community for public good. While the organization's physical residence is in the historic South End, BCA touches every part of Boston's cultural ecosystem. A leading force in the city's cultural community, BCA has supported thousands of individual artists, small organizations, and performing arts companies, who add depth and dimension to the Boston arts ethos. Through residencies and programming, BCA serves as an epicenter for an expanding cohort of artists working across all disciplines, and has catalyzed careers by providing fertile ground for experimentation and artistic risk-taking. To learn more about Boston Center for the Arts, visit bostonarts.org.

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