

**EXHIBITION ADVISORY**

**Exhibition:** *You Are On Indian Land*

**On View:** November 21, 2015 - February 15, 2016

**Location:** Lockett Fine Arts & Donald W. Waddell Galleries

**PRESS CONTACT** Cristen Crujido, Marketing Manager, ccrujido@musnaz.org, 928.774.5211, ext. 273



**Native American Artists Address Cultural Appropriation, Social Dissonance in  
Museum of Northern Arizona's Latest Exhibition *You Are On Indian Land***

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) October 23, 2015 – Works by leading American Indian artists challenge the presentation and understanding of Native American art in the Museum of Northern Arizona's upcoming exhibition, *You Are On Indian Land*, opening November 21. The special exhibition, included with museum admission, is on view through February 15, 2016.

Comprising a range of materials and processes, *You Are On Indian Land* addresses issues of post-colonial acculturation, cultural appropriation and social dissonance. Photography, assemblage sculptures, installation pieces, and video work create a visual dialogue and critical perspective on Indigenous art while actively engaging the notion of pop culture, misappropriation and stereotypical representation through powerful and thought-provoking work.

Curated by independent curator Erin Joyce and the Museum's Fine Art Curator Alan Petersen, *You Are On Indian Land* features work by Tamara Ann Burgh (Eskimo), Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit/Aleut), Ed Kaboutie (Hopi-Tewa), Cannupa Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Lakota), Michael Namingha (Hopi-Tewa), Steven Yazzie (Navajo), and interdisciplinary arts collective Postcommodity, which includes Raven Chacon (Navajo), Kade L. Twist (Cherokee Nation) and Cristobal Martinez (Chicano).

"The exhibition looks at themes of liminality, reclamation of representation, and misappropriation of Native cultures," said Joyce. "It examines not only the idea of indigeneity, but also what it means to be a Native North American artist working in non-traditional mediums."

"Viewers will be compelled to reconsider their understanding of 'Indian' art," said Petersen.

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The title of the exhibition, inspired by the 1969-1971 *American Indian Movement* occupation of the island of Alcatraz, looks at the idea of contested landscapes in American, revised treaties and cultural imprisonment. The exhibition debuted at the *Radiator Gallery* in New York City and was mounted later at the *IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Art in Santa Fe* in May.

A member preview and artist reception will be held Friday, November 20, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. A panel discussion with participating artists is scheduled for 2:00 pm on opening day, November 21, in the Museum's Branigar Hall and is free with museum admission.

The Museum of Northern Arizona is located at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, Ariz. along scenic highway 180 to the Grand Canyon. Admission is \$12 adult and \$8 for youth, student (w/ ID) and American Indian (with tribal affiliation). MNA members and children under 10 are free.

To learn more about the Museum of Northern Arizona, visit [musnaz.org](http://musnaz.org) or call 928.774.5213.

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### **About MNA**

The Museum of Northern Arizona inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the Museum includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a world-class museum shop; and more than 450 public programs annually.

### **About Erin Joyce Projects**

Erin Joyce is an independent curator, art critic and scholar of contemporary art. She serves as the Artistic Director for the Coconino Center for the Arts and is faculty in the department of Comparative Cultural Studies at Northern Arizona University. She is an art critic for *Hyperallergic* and *Art.sy*, a writer for *Canvas Magazine* and a contributor to *Salon*, *Gnovis Journal*, *SHFT* and the *Modern Art Iraq Archive*. Her projects include exhibitions at *Radiator Gallery* in New York, *IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Art* in Santa Fe, New Mexico, *WAAS Gallery* in Dallas, *The-Contemporary* in Monterey, California and the *Coconino Center for the Arts* in Flagstaff, Arizona. As a curator, she works with artists in a variety of media, from film works, installation, 2D and 3D mediums, performance art and public art installations; representing both emerging and mid-career artists.

### **Image captions**

(Left) *Things are Looking Native, Native's Looking Whiter* © 2012 by Nicholas Galanin, photo montage.

(Center) *Circular Bears* © 2015 by Tamara Ann Burgh, mixed-media.

(Right) *Inert Wolf* © 2009 by Nicholas Galanin, wolf pelt.