



MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

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Six Emerging Artists Earn 2026 Namingha Institute Residency at Museum of Northern Arizona

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Six emerging artists have earned spots at the 2026 Namingha Institute, an immersive two-week fine art residency beginning April 26 at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

This year's institute is led by Virgil Ortiz, a Cochiti Pueblo artist whose work in clay, fashion design, and multimedia draws on pivotal historical moments, including the 1680 Pueblo Revolt.

The 2026 Namingha Institute student artists are:

Bronson Soza (Phoenix)

David Lampel (Las Vegas)

Kyla Hawkins (St Louis)

Ruth E Richard-Mahoney (Tucson, Ariz.)

Sammie Biter (Flagstaff, Ariz.)

Zuly Bustamante (Tucson, Ariz.)

Supported in part by the Philip M. Smith Trust, the Namingha Institute honors the renowned Hopi-Tewa Namingha family of artists, including contemporary artists Dan and Arlo Namingha, and their commitment to mentoring early-career artists. The institute gives participants a unique opportunity to work alongside master artists in a supportive, inspiring environment.

Throughout the residency, student artists will have access to the Easton Collection Center at the Museum of Northern Arizona, allowing them to study historical and contemporary works. They will engage in hands-on studio sessions with master artists and reside in rustic cabins on the museum grounds in a retreat-like atmosphere that encourages artistic focus and collaboration.

The Namingha Institute culminates in a May 8 exhibition and reception at the Museum of Northern Arizona. The event showcases work created during the

residency, providing Museum of Northern Arizona members and invited guests the chance to engage with the artists and their creations.

About Virgil Ortiz

Virgil Ortiz is a Cochiti artist who comes from a lineage of renowned Pueblo potters, including his mother Seferina Ortiz and his grandmother Laurencita Herrera. His work blends past, present, and future and is rooted in the historic 1680 Pueblo Revolt, merging ancestral memory with futuristic and apocalyptic storytelling.

About Dan and Arlo Namingha

Dan Namingha is an internationally known artist whose works are in public and private collections worldwide. He has been painting and sculpting professionally for more than 50 years. From the Tewa-Hopi community, Dan's evocative works express the stories of place, time and culture.

Arlo Namingha is Dan's eldest son and a multidisciplinary artist. Arlo is known around the world for his minimalistic sculptures honed from natural materials. Some of his more recent works are interactive, inviting viewers to reassemble pieces in their own expression.

Dan and Arlo reside in Santa Fe, where they own Niman Fine Art gallery. The Museum of Northern Arizona holds several of their works in its collection, and Dan created the "Progression" sculpture that stands outside the museum entrance.

About the Museum of Northern Arizona

Founded in 1928, the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) preserves and celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau. Through its exhibitions, educational programs, research, and community events, the museum fosters a deeper understanding of the region's art, science, and people. Located near the foot of the San Francisco Peaks at 3101 N Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Thursdays.

For more information about exhibitions and programs, visit musnaz.org.