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‘UNSETTLED’ TELLS STORIES OF THE GREATER WEST THROUGH A BROAD SELECTION OF ART AND ARTIFACTS MADE ON THE EDGE

Organized by the Nevada Museum of Art and curated in collaboration with Ed Ruscha, *Unsettled* features 200 artworks in a variety of media spanning two millennia by 80 artists. It opens in Reno August 26, 2017.



Reno, Nev. – *Unsettled* amasses 200 artworks by 80 artists spanning 2,000 years to explore the geography of frontiers characterized by vast expanses of open land, rich natural resources, diverse indigenous peoples, colonialism, and the ongoing conflicts that inevitably arise when these factors coexist. Through a broad selection of art and artifacts, the story of the Greater West— a super-region bounded from Alaska to Patagonia, and from Australia to the American West— unfolds through this landmark exhibition. Curated by Nevada Museum of Art Curatorial Director and Curator of Contemporary Art JoAnne Northrup in collaboration with legendary artist Ed Ruscha, *Unsettled* opens August 26, 2017, and remains on view through January 21, 2018 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located in downtown Reno, Nevada. The show will travel to the Anchorage Museum, followed by the Palm Springs Art Museum.

“The artists selected for *Unsettled* foretell the world’s future while simultaneously looking back to honor indigenous ancestors who created cultures and made places here millennia before it was declared ‘unsettled.’ The title of the show is intentionally ambiguous and resonates on many levels depending on the chosen meaning of the term,” said Northrup. “The works presented reverberate with one or more meanings of the adjective ‘unsettled,’ including lacking stability; worried and uneasy; liable to change; unpredictable; not yet resolved; not yet paid; and having no settlers or inhabitants.”

In addition to working closely with Ruscha, the Nevada Museum of Art collaborated with both the Anchorage Museum and Palm Springs Art Museum to help shape the content of *Unsettled*. These partner institutions are lending several works from their permanent collections to the show to engage in dialogue with several objects from the Nevada Museum of Art collections, artists commissions, and additional loans.

Unsettled is divided into five thematic areas, which overlap and reinforce each other. They are: “Shifting Ground” (geology as agency for creation and destruction); “Colliding Cultures” (successive peoples settling and resettling territories); “Colonizing Resources” (natural resources as necessities or property); “The Sublime Open” (sublime landscapes elevating curiosity to profound enchantment and terror); and “Experimental Diversity” (peoples giving rise to artistic practices—traditional, technological, visionary—that converge and converse over time). As a touchstone, each thematic area includes work by Ruscha, whose singular perspective on the world and experiences in the ever-changing West have informed the content of

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the exhibition, as well as shaped the selection of artworks for it. Eight works by Ruscha will be shown, including his iconic *Chocolate Room* which debuted at the 1970 Venice Biennale.

Focusing on work by artists living and/or working in the Greater West, *Unsettled* covers a specific geography that begins in Alaska and continues down the west coast of North America, through Central America, concluding in Columbia.

The artists and artworks chosen to tell the compelling Greater West narrative revealed through the exhibition span time, place, gender, and race, challenging the definitions of the latter. Several indigenous contemporary artists like Wendy Red Star, Nicholas Galanin, Brian Jungen, Jaune Quick-to-see Smith, and Teri Rofkar are included alongside numerous Latin American artists such as Ana Teresa Fernández, Sonia Falcone, Minerva Cuevas, Graciela Iturbide, and Rufino Tamayo. These diverse voices appear in conversation with the likes of Mark Bradford, Chris Burden, Bruce Conner, Trevor Paglen, Edgar Arceneaux, Rodney Graham, Emily Carr, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Pre-Columbian art lent by the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as well as several exemplary southwest pots from the John and Brenda Blom collection round out the exhibition's ancient roots. Tantalizing the olfactory sense, San Francisco-based artist Bruno Fazzolari has created a unique scent specifically for the show.

"Unlike the reliably consistent western film genre, the unsettled land of the Greater West is liable to change, unpredictable, and not yet resolved—we create our future as we move forward and cannot foresee the outcome," Northrup said.

Throughout the exhibition's run, a number of educational and public programs will take place at the Nevada Museum of Art, ranging from a September 23 premiere talk by Ed Ruscha and JoAnne Northrup, to events celebrating the numerous indigenous contemporary artists in the show, sampling flavors of the West, hands-on family programs and more. Also on September 23, 3hattrio, an "American Desert Music" band led by Western Folklife Center founder Hal Cannon, will perform a special concert in the Wayne and Miriam Prim Theater. *Unsettled* appears as part of the Museum's Art + Environment exhibition season and correlates with the 2017 Art + Environment Conference, a triennial Museum production that takes place October 19 - 21, 2017.

A major publication accompanies the exhibition, one that also serves as the field guide for the Conference. Published by Hirmer Verlag, *Unsettled*, the book, comprises 224 pages and features 110 color images. It will be distributed nationally by the University of Chicago Press, and internationally by Thames-Hudson. The book will be available for purchase in the Nevada Museum of Art Museum Shop, and at both the Anchorage Museum and Palm Springs Art Museum.

Unsettled is organized by the Nevada Museum of Art, and curated by its Curatorial Director and Curator of Contemporary Art JoAnne Northrup, in collaboration with Ed Ruscha. The show will be on view August 26, 2017 through January 21, 2018, at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno, Nevada. *Unsettled* will travel to both the Anchorage Museum and Palm Springs Art Museum. Complete exhibition dates are as follows:

Nevada Museum of Art – August 26, 2017 - January 21, 2018

Anchorage Museum – April 6 - September 9, 2018

Palm Springs Art Museum – October 27, 2018 – February 18, 2019

Unsettled was made possible by the generosity of these sponsors: Premier Sponsor: Louise A. Tarble Foundation; Lead Sponsor: Wayne and Miriam Prim; Major Sponsor: Anne Brockinton Lee; Stacie and Charles N. Mathewson; Supporting Sponsors: Kathie Bartlett; Barbara and Tad Danz; Brian and Nancy Kennedy; Mercedes-Benz of Reno; RBC Wealth Management and City National Bank; Carl and Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation; Sponsors: Anonymous; Elaine Cardinale; Denise Cashman; John C. Deane; Dolan Lexus; Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation; Keith B. McWilliams; Maureen Mullarkey and Steve Miller; Tammy M. and Brian E. Riggs; Piper Stremmel and Chris Reilly.

To download high-resolution press images for editorial use, and/or to view the complete artist list and publication, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/UnsettledMedia>. An exhibition video will be available in September.

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About Nevada Museum of Art

Nevada Museum of Art is the only AAM accredited art museum in Nevada. A private, non-profit organization founded in 1931, the Reno-based institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunity for people to engage with a range of art and educational experiences. Its Center for Art + Environment is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, Center for Land Interpretation, and Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*. Learn more at nevadaart.org.

Header Image Captions: Nicholas Galanin, Things Are Looking Native, Native's Looking Whiter, 2012, Digital photograph, 30 x 40 inches. Anchorage Museum Collection, Museum Purchase, Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Fund, 2012.21.3; Ana Teresa Fernández, Erasing the Border (Borrando la Frontera), 2013, Oil on canvas, 48 x 72 inches. The Bedford Cherubino Collection; Ed Ruscha, Lost Empires, Living Tribes, 1984, Oil on canvas, 64 x 64 inches. The Marciano Collection, Los Angeles. © Ed Ruscha