

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TINWORKS ART ANNOUNCES 2023 SUMMER EXHIBITION “INVISIBLE PRAIRIE”

July 8 — October 14, 2023  
TINWORKS ART  
719 N Ida, Bozeman, MT 59715

Tinworks Art is pleased to present *Invisible Prairie*, a new place-based exhibition premiering at Tinworks Art, 719 N Ida in Bozeman’s northeast neighborhood. *Invisible Prairie* is a multimedia art exhibition that offers a unique opportunity to connect to the poetry, fragility, and mystery of America’s grasslands.

*Invisible Prairie* features seven artists, each of whom explores the sensory experience of the prairie, with a special focus on the importance of sound and the cultural acts of speaking and listening. Intimate and thoughtful, their works collectively encourage meditation, contemplation, and close attention to the place we call home. The exhibition includes work by A.K. Burns, Abigail Flanagan, Suzanne Kite, Tracy Linder, Julie Ann Nagle, Layli Long Soldier, Laurel Sparks, and Jeff Rice. It has been organized by Dr. Melissa Ragain, curator, author, and Associate Professor of Art History at Montana State University.

The Northern Great Plains contain critical and often overlooked ecosystems, both worldwide and in the U.S. These areas are defined by large swaths of mixed- and short-grass prairies, maintained by grazing animals like elk, cattle, and bison. Here in Montana, prairie accounts for nearly two-thirds of the state — making this region important for sequestering carbon, keeping soils healthy, and preventing erosion. The exhibition explores these natural processes as well as the experience of living in a landscape with few visible variations.

As an all-encompassing experience, *Invisible Prairie* evokes the sensation of being present on the land, rather than viewing it from a distance, as in a landscape painting. Through sculpture, video, painting, and audio works, the exhibition explores ethical ways of relating to the land and other living things.

A unifying thread in *Invisible Prairie* is the use of sound and language as forms of artistic expression. Visitors can connect to one another through the communal experience of prairie soundscapes, music, poetry, and oral history. Kite’s installation examines Lakota epistemology (the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion) through the narrative of her ancestor’s escape from the Wounded Knee massacre. Rice’s composition uses recordings from his project, the Acoustic Atlas sound archive, to attune the visitor to the rich sonic world of grasslands. Nagle presents new phosphorescent paintings in which the smallest of the prairie’s inhabitants play hide-and-seek with the viewer. The words of Long Soldier compel the reader to look at the way personal and official language structures impact lived reality on the Plains.

Through stories of land, people, and objects left behind; a region defined by wind, erosion, and never-ending sky; and an openness to the grasslands’ unique ways of speaking, *Invisible Prairie* sheds light on the past, present, and the future of this complex region.

*Invisible Prairie* will occupy several of the industrial buildings that make up Tinworks Art’s campus on N Ida. The exhibition will be open to the public July 8 – October 14, 2023 on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-6pm and Sundays from 10am-2pm. There is no charge for entry.

Tinworks Art is a non-profit organization working to enrich the cultural and social fabric of greater Bozeman by supporting inclusive, immersive contemporary art experiences for artists and audiences in non-traditional spaces. We hope to inspire rich conversations and community building beyond the walls of the exhibition space.

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