Exhibition-related Programs

Opening Reception @ BMoCA
Thursday, May 23
5 - 6pm member preview
6 - 8pm public reception
Pay From Your Heart

Artist Talk & Tour with Noelle Phares and Natalie M. Collar, Ph.D.
Thursday, June 20
6–7:30pm
$15/10 members; $5 student rate

Phares will discuss her new body of work depicting seven sites along the Colorado River in conversation with her twin sister, Natalie Collar, a Senior Hydrologist with Wright Water Engineers, in relation to some of the river’s most pressing environmental issues.

Rawhide Painting Class with Chelsea Kaiah & Akalei Brown
Saturday, July 20
1–3pm
$50/45 members (includes material costs)

Learn how to paint geometric patterns on rawhide leather based on the Plains tribes technique, parfleche (a Native American rawhide container or saddle bag) with artist Chelsea Kaiah and Akalei Brown, of Colorado Native Org.

Visit BMoCA.org for registration or more information.

Front image credit: Map of Book Cliff Hunting Area on the Northern Ute Reservation (detail), 2017 Made by Chelsea Kaiah’s Dad, Valentino James

The Summer Exhibition is generously sponsored by the Kelley Knox Family Foundation, The Kemper Family Foundations, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee, The Scintilla Foundation, Lynn McGowin, Elise & Skip Miller, Stacey Steers & David Brunel, Nicky Wolman & David Fulker, Boulder County Arts Alliance, Boulder Arts Commission, City of Boulder, Colorado Creative Industries, Community Foundation of Boulder County, and the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

Please give us feedback on your visit today - scan QR code to take short survey.
**Tracking Time**

*Tracking Time* is a two-person exhibition featuring newly commissioned work by painter Noelle Phares and multi-disciplinary artist Chelsea Kaiah. The work on view situates two different interpretations of our evolving relationship with the natural world through the lenses of environmental studies and Native American cosmology, respectively. Anchored by seven personally relevant sites along the Colorado River, Phares translates the human impact on land and water in her signature painting style. Kaiah employs recurring materials associated with her indigenous hunting practice, including animal hides and blue plastic tarps, to reinvent traditional Ute and Apache symbolism. Each body of work serves as a map to help navigate the current conversation around our ecological crisis and as a reflection of our interrelated past, present, and future.

Chelsea Kaiah is a multi-disciplinary artist, activist, and cultural worker of Ute, Apache, and Irish descent, whose body of work on display is tethered to the Green River, a tributary of the Colorado River that borders the Northern Ute reservation. Kaiah’s work reflects nature-based, interdependent relationships between cultural and physical environments. This collection of work exemplifies the ways in which Kaiah’s experimental and innovative methods and sustainably sourced materials are recontextualizing indigenous art practices at an accelerated rate, in order for her objects to carry multiple meanings. For example, she reassigns the function of the ubiquitous blue tarp from repelling moisture to visually signifying water throughout her *Tarp Painting* series. In *Catching These Negative Feelings*, iridescent glass beads under water give the optical illusion of a fishing net. And in *Apache Stars*, she replaces the traditionally used red felt with transparent mylar to back the geometric cutouts in a deer hide, duplicating the form in a reflective shadow.

Kaiah's deeply rooted relationships to the land, water, and animals, forged through her indigenous hunting and contemporary art practices, have led her to be able to reinvent a new visual language that still honors identifiable textures, shapes, and patterns affiliated with her tribal lineages. Her ability to work seamlessly between traditional and contemporary modalities is indicative of the ways in which indigenous artists are tracking their own relationships with time.

**Artist Biography**

**Chelsea James Kaiah**

Chelsea Kaiah is an artist and activist for Native rights, awareness, and sustainability. Her practice involves adapting traditional materials and techniques, such as pine needle weaving, porcupine quilling, and hide work, to address resilience, mental health, system reformation, and means of healing.

Kaiah is White River Ute and White Mountain Apache / Irish settler, born on the Northern Ute reservation. She earned her BFA at Watkins College of Art and Design in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2022, Kaiah was awarded the Native Arts and Cultures LIFT grant for early career support and was a Native Arts Artist-in-Resident at the Denver Art Museum. In 2023, she received The Greene Grant Fellowship. Kaiah lives and works in Denver and is currently a RedLine Artist-in-Residence and a member of the Indigenous Advisory Council for the Denver Art Museum.