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: It is Still the Morning of Creation (detail), 2024, Oil, oil stick, and acrylic on panel; 61” x 49”

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 Do Not Touch Works of Art
Flash Photography Not Permitted

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.

Influenced by her background in environmental science and her twin sister, Natalie Collar’s expertise in hydrology, Noelle Phares created a new body of work that speaks to the vulnerability of the Colorado River translated through her signature landscape painting style. Phares captures the geographic diversity of the river that cuts through 1,450 miles, seven states, and eleven national parks, throughout seven conceptual triptychs, which illustrate well-known localities. Each plot point is anchored by a landscape painting, flanked by two smaller pieces that allude to site-specific ecological and social issues, including water diversion, land use, industrial use, architecture, and tourism.

Born and raised in California, Phares often travels between Colorado and the West Coast to produce reference material, such as photography, plein-air sketches, and poetry. By combining these references with scientific literature, she creates compositions of recognizable landscape formations that track the tension around current Western ideologies surrounding natural beauty, industrialization, recreation, and preservation. The physicality behind her prolific practice is articulated in the way that she employs multiple mediums, including oil, acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel, oil stick, colored pencil, and gouache on multiple panels at once. Her approach situates her work in between accuracy and abstraction and possesses an immediacy that simultaneously freeze-frames time and conveys its constant motion.

**A Collection of Poetry by Noelle Phares**

Please scan this QR code to access complimentary text to the exhibition

**Artist Biography**

**Noelle Phares**

Phares paints places that have been altered, for better or for worse, either directly or indirectly by human development. She pairs the stark break of a distant mountain view with foreground shapes of built environments we live in. She hopes to both raise awareness of the fragile beauty of these places and highlight how beautiful and functional manmade design+nature can be if done with symbiosis, instead of nemesis, in mind.

Phares is an environmental scientist by training and allows the same topics that drove her work in the natural sciences to seep into her creative work. She holds a BS in biochemistry, and an MS in environmental science. She has been painting throughout the American West over the last decade. She currently lives and paints full-time in Denver.