

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What: *Reflections on Movement*, exhibition opening

Where: Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts

When: Friday, May 17, 2024, at 5:30 pm



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February 21, 2024: *Every object tells a different story. Each has traveled across the world to this one point, the Coe Center, and has now reached our hands and minds. The pieces we chose speak to one another, sharing something in common. Containing stories of the human experience—such as childhood and play, work and utility, or creation stories and spirituality—they all remain different. Each item was produced within varying contexts, moving between people, times, relations, homes, and environments. We have done our best to witness these stories and share them.*

“Reflections on Movement” features stories of collaboration and trade between cultures, connecting to create social bonds. Some pieces are even composed of parts from multiple places and communities, working in harmony. As a curatorial collective, we connected over this topic because of our personal experiences and interests. The histories, techniques, and styles of the work can speak to anyone. We hope visitors can also connect with the stories being told, and share our experience of listening and learning from the works.

We call into question what society deems as museum “artifacts.” As curators, we chose pieces that may appear unusual in a gallery setting. We carefully considered the background of each unique object, treating them with the respect Indigenous art is often denied. Through “Reflections on Movement,” we hope to demonstrate the possibilities of creating an inclusive artistic space, where connections across time and place can be celebrated.

This year’s curators are Kai Bullock (New Mexico School for the Arts), Braulio Chavez (New Mexico School for the Arts), Julia Gibson (Academy for Technology and the Classics), and Zoë Kountoupes-Wilson (Mandela International Magnet School). Currently in the midst of its tenth year working in collaboration with high school students across Santa Fe, the intensive curatorial program is led by Program Director Lillia McEnaney.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: The *Hands-On Curatorial Program* provides an opportunity for high school students to work hands-on with the Coe Collection of over 2,500 works of Indigenous art from around the world. Through museum visits, working and meeting with professionals in the art world, and weekly sessions from October to May, the curators work individually and collectively, learning how to create their own exhibition from the ground up using the Coe Collection. These young curators select and research the objects, write exhibition and catalog texts, create the press release, design the exhibition installation, graphics, and interact with our visitors, and more—all skills which help prepare them to succeed in any endeavor, from creating art to creating a business.

The Coe Center explores and connects through experiencing the world’s Indigenous Arts.

The Coe Center creates awareness, education, and appreciation of Indigenous Arts. We connect people and art through inclusive hands-on experiential learning and partnering. In this, we responsibly steward a diverse and eclectic collection of world Indigenous Art that supports community narratives.