



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meet the FAC's newest Artist-in-Residence, Melanie Yazzie

Colorado Springs (June 28, 2018) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College is excited to invite the public to meet the summer Andrew G. Mellon Artist-in-Residence, Melanie Yazzie. On Friday, July 20, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the public is invited to meet the artist and view a selection of prints she has made during her residency. This event is free and open to the public.

The FAC is honored to host distinguished artist Melanie Yazzie as the Andrew G. Mellon Artist-in-Residence during June and July of 2018. Currently a Professor of Art at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Melanie Yazzie works as a sculptor, painter, and printmaker. Her work draws upon her rich Diné (Navajo) cultural heritage, and follows the Diné dictum “walk in beauty” literally, creating beauty and harmony. As an artist, she works to serve as an agent of change by encouraging others to learn about social, cultural, and political phenomena shaping the contemporary lives of Native peoples in the United States and beyond – her work incorporates both personal experiences as well as the events and symbols from Diné culture. She often takes part in collaborative art projects with Indigenous artists and her work on projects in New Zealand, Siberia, Australia, Canada, Mexico, and Japan have been the force for continued dialogue about Indigenous cultural practices, language, song, story-telling, and survival.

During her residency at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Melanie Yazzie hosted a printmaking workshop at the Bemis School of Art, guest lecturer in several Colorado College summer classes, and has made many new prints inspired by works in the FAC Museum's permanent collection. She also currently has a selection of previous works on display in the College's newly renovated Tutt Library. The FAC Museum acknowledges the support, assistance, and enthusiasm of collaborative partner for the summer residency, the Colorado College Art Department.

"My artwork is culturally based in my heritage of being a Diné (Navajo) person. The artworks stem from the thought and belief that what we create must have beauty and harmony from within ourselves, from above, below, in front, behind and from our core. We are taught to seek out beauty and create it with our thoughts and prayers. I feel that when I am making my art, be it a print, a painting or a sculpture, I begin by centering myself and thinking it all out in a "good way", which is how I was taught from an early age. My work speaks about travel and transformation." –Melanie Yazzie

Melanie Yazzie has taught at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona; the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico; the College of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Pont-Aven School of Art in France. Her work can be found in many prominent international collections including the National Gallery of Australian, and the Rhode Island School of Design. She has been reviewed in *Focus Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *New Zealand Herald*, and she is mentioned in *Printmaking in the Sun* by Dan Welden and Pauline Muir, *Native American Art in the Twentieth Century* by W. Jackson Rushing III, and *The Lure*

of the Local: Sense of Place in a Multi-Centered Society by Lucy Lippard. Combined, she has had over 100 group and solo exhibitions.

Andrew G. Mellon Foundation Artist-in-Residence Program

Melanie Yazzie is the second artist to serve as the Andrew W. Mellon Artist-in-Residence at the FAC. The residency program endeavors to embed artists deeply into the FAC, Colorado College, and the broader community. One of the program's goals is to help audiences on and off campus to make connections between diverse arts, cultures, and ideas through interaction with a practicing artist.

Meet the Artist: Melanie Yazzie

When: July 20, 2018; 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: FREE and open to the public

Something else: July 20 is also the FAC's Museum Free Day. The public is invited to tour the museum free of charge from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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