



MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM
CITY MANAGER**
Cary Westin

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Brian Kennedy

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Chris Canales

**NEWS
RELEASE**

05/ 16/ 2024

El Paso Museum of Art Presents New Exhibition: *Beautiful Mess: Weavers and Knotters of the Vanguard*

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) invites the community to an opening celebration of a new fiber-based contemporary art exhibition called *A Beautiful Mess: Weavers and Knotters of the Vanguard* that opens with a special reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

From micro artworks the size of your hand to mammoth, room-sized installations, the all-women artist exhibition *A Beautiful Mess* pushes the boundaries of traditional media. Using rope, yarn, clay, and wire, this group of conceptual artists knot and twist their media into sculptures that range from minimal and hyper-organized to utter pandemonium. They explore personal and political ideals—order and chaos to the extreme—and freely break the rules to create beautiful artworks.

Serious about making a strong cultural and intellectual impact, the artists deftly weave their message into works demonstrating extraordinary technical skill. Artists include Windy Chien, Kirsten Hassenfeld, Dana Hemenway, Kira Dominguez Hultgren, Dani Lopez, Hannah Perrine Mode, Liz Robb, Meghan Shimek, Lisa Solomon, Katrina Sánchez Standfield, and Jacqueline Surdell.

The EPMA also invites the community to join in telling the story of El Paso through a co-weaving project organized by local artist, Cynthia Gutierrez-Krapp on May 23 lasting through the duration of the exhibition. Additionally, mini-loom displays will feature touchable fiber displays that encourage visitors to connect and understand the intricacies of fiber art. Cynthia Gutierrez-Krapp is Navajo/Diné, Mescalero Apache, and Yaqui from the U.S-Mexico borderlands, she studied fiber arts at the Fashion Institute of Technology and studied traditional beading at the American Indian Community House under Lakowi Ne Oakes in New York City.

This new exhibition will accompany selections from the *2024 Border Biennial*, on view through August 11. *Biennial* works on view feature fiber-based works that complement *A Beautiful Mess*, responding to borderland textiles. Selections include works in consideration for potential addition to the Museum's permanent collection.

The exhibition will be on display until August 11. The El Paso Museum of Art is free and open Wednesday through Sunday. For more information about the El Paso Museum of Art, including exhibitions and events, visit www.epma.art.

A Beautiful Mess: Weavers & Knotters of the Vanguard was organized by Bedford Gallery at the Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, California. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation, and the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

###



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Rick Isaias
Strategic Communications
Isaiasra@elpasotexas.gov
(O): 915.212.1077
(M): 915.355.6611