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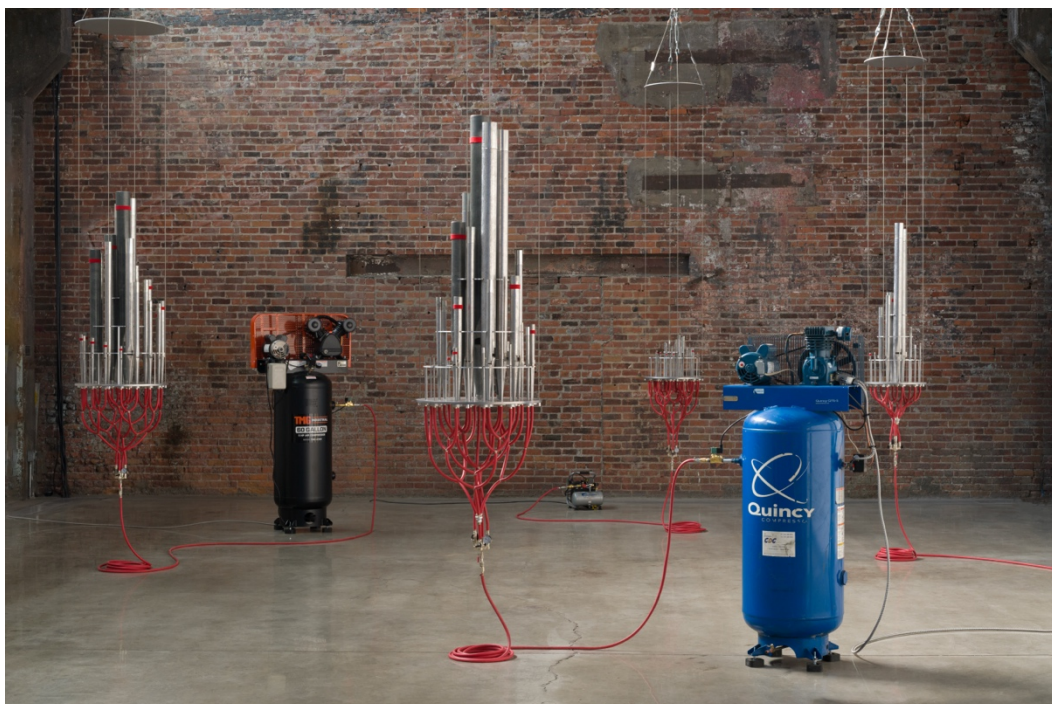
The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art
Announces Annual Guest-curated Exhibition, *New Formations*,
curated by Yasmin Nurning-Por

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Opening Night: Friday, July 17, 2026, 7–10PM
Exhibition Dates: July 17 – September 5, 2026

Buffalo, NY — The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art is pleased to announce *New Formations*, the 2026 edition of our annual guest-curated exhibition, organized by Yasmin Nurning-Por.

In *Decreation*, poet Anne Carson explores the undoing of self and dismantling of form through material transformation and immaterial experience. A human infatuation with solar eclipses, for example, is traced from Greek 6th-century accounts of an occurrence interrupting a battle, Germanic legends of the sun and moon as a quarrelling couple, and Virginia Woolf’s metaphorical description of conjugal relations. Through this lineage, Carson suggests that the experience of the eclipse’s totality—complete darkness to blinding light—“is a

phenomenon that can flip one's ratios inside out." Where, even a temporary shift in given factors potentially reconfigures worldviews.

At its core, this exhibition shares how artists see new potential in the objects around us. Quotidian objects are disassembled, reconstituted, and turned inside out. Rooted in a DIY ethos, these works circumvent capitalism's emphasis on single-usage through strategies of accumulation, appropriation, and erosion. Borrowing from theorist Byung-Chul Han's theorization of decreation in Chinese Buddhism, these works desubstantialize permanence. In this view, the concept of original form becomes irrelevant and change remains constant.

Across *New Formations*, artists Lucas Cook, Maggy Hamel-Metsos, Liza Lacroix, Scott Rogers, Silas Rubeck, Unconditional Design, and Haena Yoo take existing materials as invitations for misuse and appropriation. Maggy Hamel-Metsos reincarnates abandoned church organs with air compressors; Liza Lacroix explores music as emotional catharsis for mourning; Scott Rogers forages car parts to create infrastructures for animals; a collaboration between Lucas Cook, Silas Rubeck, and Unconditional Design responds to the idiosyncrasies of BICA's space with materials found in Buffalo; and Haena Yoo reinterprets the forms of gua shas as weapons and tools. While the prior forms of these materials remain visible, an irreparable rupture with their intended function has occurred and their given permanence is eclipsed.

About the Guest-Curator

Yasmin Nurmning-Por is a curator and writer based in Toronto, Canada. Select curatorial projects include *Sagrada Mercancia* (Santiago, Chile), *ATLAS ARTS* (Isle of Skye, UK), *Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art* (Rizhao, PRC), *Images Festival* (Toronto, CA) and the *Walter Phillips Gallery* (Banff, CA). In 2023 she co-founded commercial gallery two seven two. Yasmin is a SSHRC-funded doctoral candidate in the department of art history at the University of Toronto, where her research examines artist exchanges and exhibitions related to the Non-Aligned Movement in Egypt, India, and the former Yugoslavia.

About the Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art

The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art (BICA) is a flexible, artist-centered institution working to build the arts organization our city and region deserve. Founded in 2018, BICA is committed to supporting

creative life in Buffalo through programs that are rooted in place and open to the world.

Through a range of programs—including exhibitions, the alternative art school BICA School, grantmaking initiatives, and the triannual publication Cornelia Magazine—BICA cultivates a platform for learning, experimentation, and community connection, all grounded in contemporary visual art.

Located in the historic Essex Street Arts Center, BICA carries forward Buffalo's long legacy of artist-run and artist-focused spaces while shaping new possibilities for the role of culture in civic life.

BICA is free and open to the public.

Visit us at 30 Essex Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 12–5PM | Thursdays until 7PM

Learn more at www.thebica.org

For press inquiries, images, or interviews, please contact:

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