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For Immediate Release

Voices Studios announces the opening of

***Tides of Mentorship:
Between Water and Land***
John Hitchcock and Adriana Barrios

Exhibitions open Friday, June 7, 2024
First Fridays Opening Reception 5:30 -- 9:30p.m
Exhibit will continue through July 28, 2024

Tides of Mentorship: Between Water and Land offers a compelling dialogue between two artists—teacher and student—each exploring distinct facets of human connection to the environment.

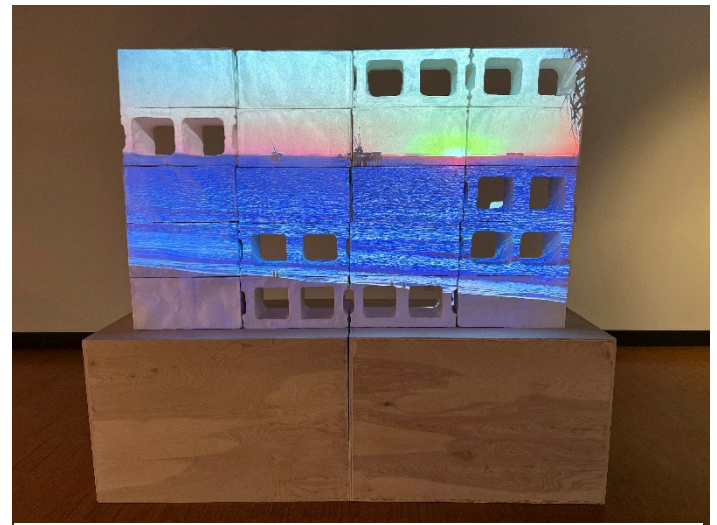


John Hitchcock ***We Gather Under The Sun***

John Hitchcock, drawing from his childhood experiences and indigenous heritage, utilizes the print medium to delve into themes of community, land, and culture. Hitchcock's artworks, influenced by memories of growing up in Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains on Comanche Tribal lands, reflect stories passed down by his Kiowa/ Comanche grandparents. His pieces are a blend of narrative interpretations and abstract compositions inspired by Comanche beadwork, encompassing the essence of land, air, and water intricately woven into his cultural heritage.

In contrast, **Adriana Barrios** responds to urgent environmental concerns, particularly the projected rise in sea levels highlighted by a recent NOAA report. Through screen-printed cinder blocks and handmade paper casts mimicking concrete blocks, Barrios symbolically addresses humanity's attempts to control the natural world, particularly along coastlines. The coastal armoring depicted in her work signifies a struggle against the encroaching ocean, using materials ironically sourced from the very environment they seek to protect. With meticulous detail, the artist's creations spotlight the fragility of our coastal ecosystems, underscored by the stark warning embedded within the artwork's text—highlighting a critical environmental wake-up call that often goes unheeded.

Together, the teacher and student bring works to this exhibition that weave a narrative spanning personal history, environmental urgency, and the enduring complexities of our relationship with the land and sea.



Adriana Barrios ***Sky's on Fire California Dreamin'***

John Hitchcock is a contemporary artist and musician of Comanche, Kiowa and Northern European descent based out of Madison, Wisconsin and originally from Medicine Park, Oklahoma. He earned his MFA in printmaking and photography at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas and received his BFA from Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma. He has been the recipient of The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Artistic Innovation and Collaboration grant, New York; Jerome Foundation Grant, Minnesota; the Creative Arts Award and Emily Mead Baldwin Award in the Creative Arts at the University of Wisconsin. He is currently an Artist and the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he teaches screenprinting, relief cut, and installation art.

Hitchcock's artwork has been exhibited at numerous venues including the National Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon; Missoula Art Museum, Missoula, Montana; North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Fork, North Dakota; International Print Center New York; New York; Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico; American Culture Center in Shanghai, China, The Rauschenberg Project Space, New York, New York; and "Air, Land, Seed" at the Venice Biennale 54th International of Art at the University of Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy.

Adriana Barrios is a queer, biracial, Latina, artist who grew up on the coastal borderlands of San Diego, California. Barrios received her Bachelor's in Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a Master of Fine Arts graduate from The University of Wisconsin-Madison. Barrios has extensive academic and professional experience in printmaking, exhibition design, and arts education. Barrios currently holds the position of Vice President at Santa Reparata International School of Art (SRISA) where she works closely with the US Admissions office and Florence team managing relationships with SRISA affiliates and prospective partners.

She has exhibited her artwork internationally in Italy and Mexico and nationally in New York, New Mexico, and Texas. Her artwork is in the collections of UW-Madison Graduate School and UW-Madison Department of Special Collections. Barrios's artwork presents a visual response to climate change alongside scientific field work that gives meaning to the social consequences of her lived experience. Barrios uses printmaking, paper making, video, and installation as a way to record and respond to the environmental changes currently happening along the California Coastline due to climate change.

Voices Studios is pleased to have the artists present for the **Opening Reception** on Friday, June 7, with **Artist Talks beginning at 6pm**. All are invited and welcome to attend this exhibition, and to participate in the expanding art scene in the Central Corridor. There is no charge and refreshments will be served.

Voices Studios is located at 1585 Central Avenue, Dubuque, IA. Be a part of the gallery's evolving exhibitions that create dialog, engage the community, and enrich the experience of the arts in Dubuque.

Voices Studios is a contemporary art gallery specializing in innovative art by emerging and established artists from around the globe.

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