

NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Announces New Exhibition: *Rose B. Simpson & vanessa german*
The immersive show presents a visual conversation between two leading contemporary artists who have profoundly influenced and honored one another, fostering a shared experience of clarity and gratitude

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — Beginning November 17, 2024, through April 13, 2025, [NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale](#) will present *Rose B. Simpson & vanessa german*, an exhibition presenting a visual conversation between two leading, emerging artists that have profoundly influenced one another. Rose B. Simpson (b. 1983, Kha'p'oe Ówíngeh / Santa Clara Pueblo, NM; lives and works in Kha'p'oe Ówíngeh / Santa Clara Pueblo, NM) is a Native artist descended from a long matrilineage of Tewa tribe artists. Her work integrates ancestral Pueblo pottery traditions with metalwork, automotive design, performance, installation, music and creative writing. vanessa german (b.1976, Milwaukee, WI; lives and works in Pittsburgh, PA and Asheville, NC) is a self-taught citizen and LGBTQIA+ artist and activist working across sculpture, communal ritual, and immersive installation. Both artists address structural racism, heteropatriarchy, and the persisting reverberations of resource extraction in a post-colonial world. Through the personal perspective of these two individuals from historically marginalized communities, the Museum seeks to enhance public awareness of Indigenous and Black culture that subsequently may lead to greater empathy and systemic change.

Simpson and german approach the plastic arts with a shared faith in intuition, guiding them through their material engagement and creating artworks centered on the figure. For Simpson, her material connection is primarily through her use of wild New Mexico clay, a physical link to her ancestral land that remains with the work wherever it travels. For german, an instinctual response to found objects leads her process, resulting in the creation of monumental statues she calls Power Figures. The term is a reference to “Nkisi N'kondi,” traditional anthropomorphic sculptures created by the Kongo peoples of Central Africa, from which the artist’s ancestors originated prior to their capturing and enslavement along the borders of Louisiana.

While one artist works through a reduction of raw matter, and the other by accumulating fragments of discarded possessions, the resulting artworks are aligned through their maker’s understanding of material as a representation of the self. While highlighting the distinctions of each artist’s work, the exhibition will reflect their mutual understanding of art as a process through which to reclaim and invent spaces for communicating their personal and ancestral experience. Both artists see their practices as a form of relational aesthetics, rooted in human interaction. The process of art making, even when in private, is a social matter, and the subsequent audience engagement is a way through which to empower viewers to repair the damage wrought by colonial displacement and racial oppression. For these artist-citizens, art is a means of communication that goes beyond language, one that may encourage a more benevolent way of humanity and bond people to their land and one another.

This exhibition will be comprised of works created over the last ten years by both Rose B. Simpson and vanessa german. It will also debut several newly created sculptures conceived specifically for this unique exhibition dialog. Along with their iconic sculptures, the exhibition will convey Simpson and german’s interpersonal connection through excerpts from their ongoing correspondence. Their writings and voice notes highlight the ways these artists honor one another and together foster a shared experience of clarity and gratitude. Altogether, german and Simpson will guide us through their experience of the world, revealing the inextricable connection between art and life.

This exhibition is organized by Ariella Wolens, Bryant-Taylor Curator at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale.



Support for *Rose B. Simpson & vanessa german* has been provided by Francie Bishop Good & David Horvitz, Laurie Silverman and Funding Arts Broward, Inc.

Situated midway between Miami and Palm Beach, NSU Art Museum is located in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Museum is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing all facets of civilization's visual history and is widely known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latin American and women artists, as well as works by American artist William Glackens and the European CoBrA group of artists. For more information, please visit <https://nsuartmuseum.org>.

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About NSU Art Museum

Founded in 1958, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing many facets of civilization's visual history. Located midway between Miami and Palm Beach in downtown Fort Lauderdale's arts and entertainment district, the Museum's 83,000 square-foot building, which opened in 1986, was designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes and contains over 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, the 256 -seat Horvitz auditorium, a museum store and café. In 2008, the Museum became part of Nova Southeastern University (NSU), one of the largest private research universities in the United States. NSU Art Museum is known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latinx and women artists, African art that spans the 19th to the 21st century, as well as works by American artist William Glackens, and the European CoBrA group of artists. Two scholarly research centers complement the collections: The Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman Latin American Art Study Center and the William J. Glackens Study Center.

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