

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

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Announcing the Opening of Curating Commemoration: Poiesis/Remedy a Large-scale Exhibition at the WaterFire Arts Center

July 13-August 20, 2023

Opening Night: Thursday, July 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces *Curating Commemoration: Poiesis/ Remedy* curated by Melaine Ferdinand-King and Joel Rosario Tapia, concurrent exhibitions a part of the [Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art's](#) curatorial program for emerging curators. This large-scale exhibition will be in the 15,000 sq. ft. Main Hall and the Gallery at the WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC) and will open on Thursday, July 13, 2023 and close on August 20, 2023.

"*Curating Commemoration: Poiesis/Remedy* showcases the power of art to address important community issues. Through the perspectives of Melaine Ferdinand-King and Joel Rosario Tapia, this exhibition challenges narratives and fosters meaningful dialogue. We invite everyone to join us at the WaterFire Arts Center to engage with these thought-provoking artworks and be a part of this important conversation," says Peter A. Mello, Managing Director + coCEO of WaterFire Providence.

The exhibition was developed by the curators as individual responses to the exhibition theme *Curating Commemoration*, which was inspired by controversies surrounding commemorative sculptures and increasing recognition of embedded racism and colonialism in communities across the nation. The term "poiesis"- from the Greek "to make" - is the basis for Ferdinand-King's exhibition. *Poiesis* offers creation as a means of commemorating the contemporary profile of Providence. Through works that blur the lines between art and daily life, the exhibition encourages visitors to contemplate art's influence on the urban and its potential for driving social and cultural transformation. Tapia draws inspiration from his Taino spirituality and culture to confront and remedy experiences of discrimination and bias through visual and performance art practices, viewing art as a powerful antidote. *Remedy* aims to showcase artists and practitioners who authentically represent change and diverse perspectives, highlighting their impact within the Providence community and beyond.

Curating Commemoration is on view at the WaterFire Arts Center from Thursday, July 13 through Sunday, August 20, 2023. This large-scale exhibition will feature programming planned by the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art throughout its run that will be announced at a later date.

Gallery Night Providence trolley will be stopping at the WFAC as well as other galleries in the city on Thursday, July 20 and Thursday, August 17. The [10th Providence Fringe Festival](#) will host performances amongst the exhibition from Sunday, July 16 to Saturday, July 29. WaterFire Providence will be partnering with their neighbors in the Valley, [Troop PVD](#) to bring back TroopTop Thursdays to the rooftop every Thursday in the Summer, including the six Thursdays throughout the run of the exhibition.

The WFAC store + gallery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm and until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays. *Curating Commemoration* is free and open to all, donations encouraged.

For more about the WaterFire Arts Center, visit waterfire.org/wfac or follow @waterfireartscenter on Instagram.

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About WaterFire Providence

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>.

About the WaterFire Arts Center

WaterFire Providence purchased the Art Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and a multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit: <https://waterfire.org/wfac>

About the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art

The Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art, a 501(c)3 non-profit, aims to generate curated exhibitions of contemporary art in Rhode Island that exposes individuals and communities to transformative experiences, provoking new ways of seeing, thinking and engaging with each other. As an effort to strengthen curatorial practices, experienced board members mentor emerging curators and artists in realizing ambitious, creatively conceived, frequently social and environmental justice themed exhibitions, installations or interventions. <https://www.providencebiennial.org/>