Each/Other, a collaborative exhibition featuring Indigenous artists Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger, opens this fall at the Carlos Museum

[Atlanta, Georgia, August 5, 2021]— Each/Other: Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger, the first exhibition to feature together the work of these two leading Indigenous contemporary artists whose processes focus on collaborative artmaking, will open this September at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University.

Exploring the collective process of creation, Each/Other will comprise of over two dozen mixed-media sculptures, wall hangings, and large-scale installation works by Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger, along with a new monumental artist-guided community artwork. While each artist’s practice is rooted in collaboration, they have never before worked together or been exhibited alongside one another in a way that allows audiences to see both the similarities and contrasts in their work.

Marie Watt, who resides in Portland, Oregon, is a citizen of the Seneca Nation and has German-Scots ancestry. Cannupa Hanska Luger, who is based in New Mexico, is a citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) of Fort Berthold and has Lakota and European ancestry.

This exhibition was organized by the Denver Art Museum, where it was curated by John Lukavic, the museum’s Andrew J. Mellon Curator of Native Arts. It will open to the public at the Carlos Museum on September 25. Emory Art History professor and curator Megan E. O’Neil is the exhibition’s curator at the Carlos Museum, the second venue on the exhibition’s tour of the United States. The Carlos Museum has a unique connection to this exhibition; Emory students and faculty as well as Carlos Museum docents, patrons, and employees contributed to the collaborative creation of three of the pieces that will be on display. Members of the Emory and larger Atlanta communities created embroidered bandanas that were used to create the new, artist-guided community artwork, “Each/Other,” a collaborative project of both Watt and Luger, which can be seen in the attached image. Emory students also created clay beads that became part of the 4,000 total beads in “Every One,” a piece by Cannupa Hanska Luger focusing on missing and murdering Indigenous persons. For more about the creation of “Every One” and the solemn meaning behind its creation, visit the artist’s page here.

Finally, people in the Emory community gave blankets and accompanying stories for Marie Watt’s new monumental sculpture in her “Blanket Stories” series, made specifically for this exhibition. For more about the blanket contributions, visit the Denver Art Museum’s page here.

The artists ask visitors to the exhibition to look beyond the idea of art as a noun and instead consider the collaborative processes of making and search for signs of the different hands that created the artworks. They encourage audiences to think about the people who sewed or formed beads or shared stories. We are proud that Emory’s community has been able to contribute to this compelling exhibition through this type of socially engaged participation, and we eagerly await the arrival of this exhibition to the Carlos Museum this fall.

Emory University was founded in 1836 on the historic lands of the Muscogee (Creek) people, 15 years after the First Treaty of Indian Springs (1821) dispossessed the Muscogee people of land including both Emory campus locations. After this treaty, many Muscogee people relocated to Alabama, and were then forcibly removed to present-day Oklahoma in 1836-1837. The Muscogee Creek Nation (OK) is currently the fourth largest Tribal Nation with approximately 80,000 citizens. The Poarch Creek Indians (AL) is the only federally recognized Tribal Nation in Alabama. Sharing this acknowledgment of the history of the land deepens the perspective on the Each/Other exhibition and Emory’s commitment to honor Indigenous nations and peoples, both locally and beyond. The Carlos Museum is honored to present this exhibition that centers Indigenous knowledge, creativity, and collaboration.
Credit:
Each/Other: Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger is organized by the Denver Art Museum and presented with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Robert Lehman Foundation, Stelo, and Native Arts and Culture Foundation.

In Atlanta, this exhibition has been made possible with generous support from the Charles S. Ackerman Fund, the Carlos Museum’s National Leadership Board, Lauren Giles, Gail and Clark Goodwin, the Grace W. Blanton Lecture Fund, the LUBO Fund, and Sarah Hill.

Photo credits:
Cannupa Hanska Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota, European) and Marie Watt (Seneca and German-Scots), Each/Other, 2020–21. Steel, wool, bandanas, ceramic, leather, and embroidery thread. © Cannupa Hanska Luger and Marie Watt. Photography © Denver Art Museum

Marie Watt (Seneca and German-Scots), Butterfly, 2015. Reclaimed wool blankets, satin binding, thread, cotton twill tape and tin jingles; 94 x 126 in. Denver Art Museum: Funds from Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Vicki & Kent Logan, with additional funds from Brian Tschumper, Nancy Benson, Jan & Mike Tansey, and JoAnn & Bob Balzer, 2016.1A-B. © Marie Watt.

Cannupa Hanska Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota, European), Every One, 2018. Ceramic, social collaboration; 12 x 15 x 3ft. Image courtesy of Marie Walsh Sharpe Gallery of Contemporary Art at Ent Center for the Arts, UCCS, Colorado Springs, CO.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum
Since its formal establishment on Emory’s Atlanta campus in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has become one of the premier museums in the Southeast. The museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections in the region with artwork from ancient Egypt, Nubia, and the Near East; Greece and Rome; the Americas; Africa; and Asia as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present.

Through world-class permanent collections and special exhibitions, innovative programming, and one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage with art firsthand, the Carlos Museum serves Emory University and the Atlanta community as a dynamic interdisciplinary center that cultivates literacy in the arts and fosters understanding of diverse religions and civilizations.

The Carlos Museum holds ancient Egyptian mummies. Ancient Egyptians believed mumification transformed a corpse into an eternal, perfect body, and the Carlos Museum is committed to the respectful curation of these mummies. For visitors who prefer not to be in the presence of wrapped mummies, signage identifies their locations in the galleries.

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