



EXHIBITION ADVISORY

Exhibition: *Making in Between: Indigenous Americans*

On View: May 24—November 30, 2025

Reception: May 31, 2025, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm • Opening Remarks @ 4:30 pm

Location: American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA



Pictured: Mercedes Dorame, *Pathway Through – Paakyan* (detail), 2023. Inkjet print.

(Pomona, California—May 8, 2025) Opening May 24, 2025, *Making in Between: Indigenous Americans* brings together works by Mercedes Dorame, Anita Fields, Courtney M. Leonard, and Cannupa Hanska Luger, artists who embrace their heritage and explore boundary-pushing themes of identity, culture, history, and community.

Making in Between: Indigenous Americans introduces a breadth of unique narratives from these trailblazing artists and complicates viewers' expectations of what constitutes contemporary Indigenous art. Mercedes Dorame is a multi-disciplinary artist who calls on her Tongva ancestry to engage the problematics of (in)visibility and ideas of cultural construction and ancestral connection to land and sky. Born in Oklahoma, artist Anita Fields creates works of clay and textile that reflect the worldview of her

Native Osage culture, exploring cultural influences and the intersections of balance and chaos found within our lives. Courtney M. Leonard, a Shinnecock artist and filmmaker, creates work exploring and documenting historical ties to water, whales, and material sustainability. Cannupa Hanska Luger is a New Mexico-based multidisciplinary artist who creates monumental installations, sculptures, and performances to communicate urgent stories of 21st-century Indigeneity.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog featuring full-color images and new essays by Kendra Greendeer, Larissa Nez, and Isabella Shey Robbins.

This project is the third and final exhibition in AMOCA's "Making in Between" series, presenting works by artists who explore identity, culture, and community. In 2020, *Making in Between: Contemporary Chinese American Ceramics* featured works by six first- and second-generation artists who shared themes of cultural heritage, identity, language, politics, migration, and displacement. In 2023, *Making in Between: Queer Clay* shifted the lens to consider influences on identity, centering queerness as an unapologetic presence and featuring works by historical artists whose identities have remained largely unseen alongside contemporary makers.

Executive Director Beth Ann Gerstein says, "This series has thoughtfully examined the interplay between identity and artistic expression across diverse communities. The works featured in 'Making in Between: Indigenous Americans' resist simplistic categorization and instead offer a nuanced exploration of what it means to create at the intersection of convention and innovation, past and present, and individual expression and communal heritage. The exhibition celebrates the power and vitality of these artists, drawing upon Indigenous creative tradition."

Making in Between: Indigenous Americans will be on view in Gallery B at AMOCA May 24-November 30, 2025.

Exhibition Overview

Making in Between: Indigenous Americans exhibits works by Mercedes Dorame, Anita Fields, Courtney M. Leonard, and Cannupa Hanska Luger, artists who embrace their heritage and explore themes of identity, culture, history, and community.

Complementing the in-person exhibition experience, numerous public and educational programs will be mounted, including lectures, conversations, college-level tours, and tours for Title 1 schools serving grades K-12.

This exhibition is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture, and the DEW Foundation.

CALENDAR LISTING

Making in Between: Indigenous Americans opens at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, 399 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767 on May 24, 2025, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 31 from 4-6 pm. The exhibition runs through November 30, 2025. The museum is open Friday-Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

For more information: https://www.amoca.org/future-exhibitions/indigenous_americans/ or (909) 865-3146 or communications@amoca.org.

Credit

This exhibition is organized by the American Museum of Ceramic Art.

About AMOCA

The American Museum of Ceramic Art was founded in 2003, in Pomona, California. The mission of the museum is to champion the art, history, creation, and technology of ceramics through exhibitions, collections, outreach, and studio programming.

Museum Hours

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11am – 4pm

Admission

General \$14, Senior \$9, Student/Pomona Resident \$7, Members & under 12 Free
Pay-what-you-can First Fridays are the first Friday of each month.

Location

American Museum of Ceramic Art
399 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767
(909) 865-3146 • www.amoca.org

Contact

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