

BRECK CREATE

PRESS RELEASE

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Breck Create Exhibition Inspired by Breckenridge History Using Water from the Blue River

Our river flowing from our eyes: Camille Hoffman and Gyun Hur

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Breckenridge, CO — Breck Create, the renowned arts and cultural organization in Breckenridge, Colorado, is thrilled to announce its winter 2024/25 art exhibition, *Our river flowing from our eyes: Camille Hoffman and Gyun Hur*. This collaborative exhibition will open on Friday, December 20, 2024, at the historic Old Masonic Hall in downtown Breckenridge and will run through March 16, 2025. Featuring the work of artists [Camille Hoffman](#) and [Gyun Hur](#), the exhibition explores themes of landscape, memory, grief and the intricate relationship between humans and nature. Through a diverse array of mediums—including painting, vinyl collage, glass sculptures and water from the Blue River—the artists create an immersive experience that invites reflection on the history and beauty of Breckenridge's natural surroundings.

The exhibition, inspired by Mojave American poet Natalie Diaz's *The First Water is The Body*, draws on the personal and collective histories of both artists as they reimagine the landscape and narratives tied to the local region. Hoffman and Hur's friendship and shared sensibilities culminate in a site-specific installation that integrates their experiences with Breckenridge's unique history and terrain.

"*Our river flowing from our eyes* celebrates the power of art to connect communities and inspire contemplation of our place in the natural world," says Tamara Nuzzaci Park, president/CEO of Breck Create. "This exhibition will be as revelatory as it is celebratory of this magnificent place we call home."

Water—both as a medium and a theme—recurs in the work of both artists. For Hur, an interdisciplinary artist who constructs visual and emotional spaces where narratives of loss and beauty reside, the poem's imagery of rivers and grief resonates deeply with her practice. In her work, she uses hand-blown, teardrop-shaped glass vessels filled with local river water to symbolize grief. These vessels appeared notably in the recent installation *Our mothers, our water, our peace*, a response to the increase in Asian hate crime during the pandemic followed

by the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings. Tinted with hints of yellow, a racialized color for Asians in America, the vessels represent a tangible space where grief can reside and remain accessible.

“Our installation will speak to the internal and inseparable relationship between water and humans, and how much it has been violated and also how much we wish to honor it,” Hur said.

For Hoffman, water is an omnipresent, shape-shifting element symbolic of the complex and composite nature of human experience. This exhibition marks her return to Breckenridge—she created the installation *Soft Gaze* for the 2023 Breckenridge International Festival of Arts. In preparation for *Soft Gaze*, Hoffman said she felt an urgency to research the Ute and how their communities were affected by the 1850s and 60s Pikes Peak gold rush. Similar to *Soft Gaze*, the upcoming exhibition will feature golden eye motifs constructed from vinyl printed with images of autumnal Aspen trees. The re-imagining of the landscape for the exhibition gives Hoffman a sense of agency, she said.

A painter who critically reimagines the Romantic American landscape through layered and immersive site-specific installation, her practice re-threads misplaced histories, materials and ancestral geographies, including that of the Philippines and the Americas, by resculpting mass-produced vinyl landscapes through handwork—collage, sewing and painterly gesture. Informed by historical research, community conversations and dreams, her installations are activated by the land they exist on, the architecture that houses them and the people who visit.

“This site-specific installation will mimic and mirror the landscape,” Hoffman said. “The resulting space will be a container that invites others to live, dance and meditate in their own liminality.”

Hur, inspired by Hoffman’s previous installation and research, reviewed photo archives from Breck History. Struck by the absence of the Ute and the minimization of nature, she wept. Both she and Hoffman wish for this exhibition to allow for the coexistence of recognizing and honoring the ancestral trauma of the past with an appreciation of the natural beauty of the landscape. For them, this process also includes contemplating the meaning of the American Dream, each of their personal journeys as artists as well as the significance of living upon Indigenous land.

An intimate water ritual will mark the exhibition’s opening, during which Hur will collect water from the Blue River into the glass vessels. Hur, an immigrant daughter of Atlanta’s Korean community, recalls rivers in South Korea as sites of mourning, cleansing and celebration. During a site visit in November, Breck Create connected Hur with the Blue River Watershed

Group (BRWG), a non-profit serving the Blue River and surrounding watershed for the past 20 years, to learn about current and upcoming restoration projects in Summit County.

“We are thrilled to be part of this exhibition and share our passion for rivers and the ecosystems and communities they sustain,” says Vanessa Logsdon, director of BRWG. “Water is essential to life, and this exhibition beautifully reflects its significance. We hope it inspires a deeper connection to the wonder and vitality of our rivers.”

Particularly with the community engagement programming planned for January (see below for more details), the artists and Breck Create hope to create opportunities for people to be together in a meaningful way.

“Both artists have approached Breckenridge with curiosity and respect—they wanted to learn not only about the harsh truths, such as the displacement of Indigenous peoples and the legacy of the mining industry, but also to celebrate the deep connection between humans and nature,” said Jill Desmond, Breck Create’s senior director of programs and campus experience. “Their authentic and poetic work invites others to engage with the complexities of this place and also each other.”

The exhibition is free and open to the public between December 20, 2024, and March 16, 2025. The [water ceremony](#) takes place on December 20th in the evening and is a members-only event. In January, both Hur and Hoffman will be in Breckenridge together to lead workshops and present a talk about the exhibition and their creative process. Hur’s [Intergenerational Visual Storytelling Workshop](#) invites families to shape familial histories and care for the importance of memorials through the acts of remembering and honoring. Hoffman’s [Meditation Workshop](#) guides participants through the same meditative grounding techniques that inspire her own creative process. All three of these events will be part of Breck Create’s winter [Campus Crawl](#) on Saturday, January 11th. Annual [memberships](#) begin at 50 dollars for those interested in attending the water ceremony.

About Breck Create Breck Create aims to build a dynamic, year-round creative community in Breckenridge. The organization’s mission is to deliver inspiring creative experiences that enrich the quality of life for all residents and quality of place for visitors. Breck Create supports and serves artists, creatives, cultural enthusiasts, visitors and the community at large by providing a year-round schedule of performances, exhibitions, screenings, art classes and workshops as well as other engagement opportunities.

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