

Brunnier Art Museum Explores New Conversations in Native North America Photography

AMES, IOWA – January 17, 2025 – Identity, community and accuracy are at the center of the exhibition ***In Conversation: Will Wilson***, set to open at the Brunnier Art Museum, University Museums, Iowa State University, on Tuesday January 21.

Dedicated contemporary vision of Native North America

For Diné (Navajo) photographer Will Wilson, the photography of his ongoing *Critical Indigenous Photographic Exchange (CIPX)* project plays an important role in linking history with Native American representation.

Throughout the exhibition, Wilson uses a wet-plate collodion photographic technique, based on the nineteenth-century method that involves exposing and then developing a plate that has been coated in light-sensitive chemicals. Wilson's portraits feature collaboration between himself and the sitters, allowing the sitters the opportunity to pose, dress and present themselves in a manner that fits them best.



Within the exhibition visitors will be able to experience Will Wilson's Talking Tintype portraits come to life with augmented reality on a personal smartphone or the provided in-gallery iPads.

"Wilson's art is a recentering of the photography that was produced between the years of 1907 and 1930--an era in which the photography of Native Americans and their ways of life were often romanticized and inaccurately constructed," said Adrienne Gennett, curator of the Brunnier Art Museum. "These portraits are a way to create new conversations that decenter the work of that time and instead emphasizes exchange over problematic documentation."

This exhibition will run through May 4, 2025, and is organized by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Support provided by [Art Bridges](#). Generous support was also provided by Wilson Family Endowed Exhibition Fund, Phyllis and Larry Lepke,

For a complete list of the programs and events that correspond with this exhibition, visit the University Museums website or click [here](#).

IN CONVERSATION

Will Wilson

Featured Events

Artist Lecture with Will Wilson

April 4, 2025, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (US Central)

Conversation Roundtable with UNASA students and Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

April 15, 2025, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (US Central)



Visit the Brunnier Art Museum

Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed to the public Mondays and University Holidays

Location

Scheman Building, 2nd Floor, 1805 Center Dr.,
Ames, Iowa. *Free parking available on site.*

Art Bridges

Images:

Header: Detail of *Cory Van Zytveld, Director of Events, Four Mile Historic Park, US Citizen* 2013. Will Wilson (b. 1969). Printed 2018, archival pigment print from wet plate collodion scan, 22x17 in. Art Bridges. Photography by Brad Flowers.

Will Wilson (b. 1969), *Will Wilson, Citizen of the Navajo Nation, Trans-customary Diné Artist* 2013, printed 2018, archival pigment print from wet plate collodion scan, 22 x 17 in. Art Bridges. Photography

by Brad Flowers

Will Wilson (b. 1969), *Nakotah LaRance, Citizen of the Hopi Nation, 6-Time World Champion Hoop Dancer, Member, Dancing Earth, Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations*, 2012, printed 2018, archival pigment print from wet plate collodion scan, 22 x 17 in. Art Bridges. Photography by Brad Flowers



About University Museums

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University Museums, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is a distinctive organization that encompasses two art museums, a National Historic Landmark historic home museum, a sculpture garden, and one of the largest campus public art collections in the nation. University Museums brings world-class exhibitions with educational programming to Iowa State University, actively acquires works of art to add to the more than 30,000 permanent collection objects, conserves and preserves collections, conducts and publishes curatorial scholarship, and fosters student engagement.

Media Information

For information regarding exhibition, image use, and outreach, contact Allison Sheridan, University Museums by phone at 515-294-3342 or via email at aclone@iastate.edu.



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