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Spring 2026 Artist-in-Residence Verónica Gaona, *To Know and to Dream at the Same Time*, 2022. Ford f-150 body parts, aluminum sheets, archived prints on aluminum sheets, vinyl. Dimensions variable. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Bemis Center Announces 2026 International Artists-in-Residence *Renowned Program Welcomes 36 Artists From Across the Globe*

OMAHA, Neb. (March 27, 2026) — [Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts](#) announces **36 artists from 10 U.S. states and 5 countries** selected for its 2026 international [Residency Program](#). Ranked among the top 35 residencies globally by Artnet in 2024, the program provides artists with unparalleled resources and a vibrant community for creative exploration in the heart of downtown Omaha, Nebraska.

Since 1981, Bemis Center has championed artists by providing uninterrupted time and space — along with critical financial and human resources — for the creation of new work.

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Bemis's Residency Program fosters experimentation and risk-taking across disciplines, including visual arts, sound, and curatorial practice. Residents receive a private live/work studio with 24-hour access to extensive installation and production spaces, including the Okada Sculpture + Ceramics Facility — a 9,000-square-foot industrial workshop for large-scale fabrication — and a Sound Studio for rehearsing and recording, among other amenities.

Selected residents participate in one of three tracks: **Artist-in-Residence**, **Sound Art + Experimental Music Artist-in-Residence**, and **Alumni Artist-in-Residence**.

2026 Artists-in-Residence

Spring 2026 (January 21–April 17):

[Scout Cartagena](#), Chicago, Ill.

[Patrick Costello](#), New York

[Ricardo De Lima](#), Chicago, Ill./La Gran Colombia

[Verónica Gaona](#), United States/Mexico

[Justin Jinsoo Kim](#), United States/South Korea

[Jard Lerebours](#), Bay Shore, N.Y.

[Mauricio López F.](#), United States/Chile — Sound Art + Experimental Music Artist-in-Residence

[bryan ortiz](#), Stanton, Calif.

[Prerna](#), Twin Cities, Minn.

[Amia Yokoyama](#), Los Angeles, Calif. — Alumni Artist-in-Residence

Summer 2026 (May 20–August 14):

[Sholeh Asgary](#), United States

[Tanya Brodsky](#), Los Angeles, Calif.

[Peggy Chiang](#), Brooklyn, N.Y.

[M Howard](#), Brooklyn, N.Y.

[Kei Ito](#), Baltimore, Md.

[SR Lejeune](#), Pine Plains, N.Y.

[Stephanie Mercedes](#), Washington, D.C

[Parsons & Charlesworth](#), United States

[Warren Realrider](#), Tulsa, Okla. — Sound Art + Experimental Music Artist-in-Residence

[Kat Thompson](#), Va.

[Johanna Winters](#), Bloomington, Ind.

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Fall 2026 (September 9–November 14):

[AYDO](#), New York, N.Y.

[Susana Canales Barrón](#), San Francisco, Calif.

[Abigail Raphael Collins](#), Los Angeles, Calif.

[Victoria Dugger](#), Athens, Ga.

[Yacine Fall](#), United States

[Kandis Friesen](#), Berlin, Germany — Alumni Artist-in-Residence

[Jude Griebel](#), Calgary, Alberta/New York, N.Y.

[Hillerbrand+Magsamen](#), Houston, Texas

[Miriam Parker](#), New York, N.Y.

[Matt Romein](#), Brooklyn, N.Y.

[Gabie Strong](#), Western United States

[Katja Zimmer](#), San Diego, Calif.

2026 Visiting Curators

As part of the 2026 Residency Program, Bemis Center will also host three visiting curators who will spend time in Omaha conducting studio visits and engaging in dialogue with current residents. These visits offer residents additional opportunities for critical feedback, connection, and exchange within a broader curatorial network.

[Lele Barnett](#), Seattle, Wash., in April

[Pilar Tompkins Rivas](#), Los Angeles, Calif., in July

[Thea Quiray Tagle](#), Providence, R.I., in August

2026 Selection Panelists

Applications are reviewed and residents are selected by a rotating panel of artists — including a number of program alumni — and arts professionals such as curators, academics, and critics.

**Bemis Artist-in-Residence Alum*

***Bemis Sound Artist-in-Residence Alum*

****Bemis Curator-in-Residence Alum*

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Spring + Summer 2026 Round One:

Angelica Arbelaez, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Ga.

Dejá Belardo, Assistant Curator, The Shed, New York, N.Y.

Moonoka Begay, Gochman Family Collection Curatorial Associate, New York, N.Y.

Tricia Laughlin Bloom, Senior Curator, American Art, The Newark Museum of Art, Newark, N.J.

Frances Cathryn, Writer and Curator, Kingston, N.Y.

Kathy Cho, Independent Curator, St. Louis, Mo.***

Adriana Corral, Artist, Texas

Leia Genis, Artist and Critic, Atlanta, Ga.

Joe Harjo, Artist/Educator, San Antonio, Texas*

Leon Jones, Artist, Kansas City, Mo.*

Julie Le, Assistant Curator, The Contemporary Austin, Austin, Texas

Monique Long, Curator and Writer, New York/Harlem, N.Y.

Deb Sokolow, Artist and Associate Professor of Instruction, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill.

Leila Weefur, Artist, Oakland, Calif.*

Claudia Zapata, Associate Curator of Latino Art, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas

Spring + Summer 2026 Round Two:

Ionit Behar, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Valerie Cassel-Oliver, Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Va.

Pavel Pyś, Curator of Visual Arts and Collections Strategy, Walker Art Center, Poland, Australia, United Kingdom

Fall 2026 Round One:

Kristen Becker, Founder, KB Art Strategies, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sarrah Danziger, Education Program Manager/CPW, Kingston, N.Y.

Damien Davis, Artist, Newark, N.J.

Raphael Fonseca, Curator and Head of Department of Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art at the Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colo.

Patricia Margarita Hernandez, Curator, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Melanie Kress, Senior Curator, Public Art Fund, New York, N.Y.

Lia Rose Newman, Director/Curator of the Davidson College Art Galleries, Charlotte, N.C.

Katherine Ransbottom, Associate Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Kalamazoo, Mich.

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Lane Relyea, Associate Professor, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill.

Amina Ross, Artist and Educator, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

Elsbeth Schulze, Visual Artist, Tulsa, Okla.*

Fall 2026 Round Two:

Taylor Jasper, Susan and Rob White Associate Curator, Visual Arts, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

Magdalena Moskalewicz, PhD, Chief Curator and Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, Neb.

Amanda Sroka, Senior Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Calif.

Sound Art + Experimental Music 2026 Residencies Round One:

Stacey Barelos, Composer, Piano, Toy Pianist, Deep Listening Teacher, Omaha, Neb.

MV Carbon, Multidisciplinary Artist, Brooklyn, N.Y.**

Luba Drozd, Artist, Brooklyn, N.Y.**

Victoria Keddie, Artist, New York, N.Y.**

Phil Peters, Artist, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dayang Yraola, Associate Professor, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines

Sound Art + Experimental Music 2026 Residencies Round Two:

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe, Artist/Curator, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dena Beard, Executive Director, Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

Tess Oldfield, Artist, Providence, R.I.**

Alumni 2026 Residencies:

Rodrigo Valenzuela, 2015 Alumni Award Recipient, Artist, Los Angeles, Calif.

Paula Wilson, Artist, 2024 Ree Kaneko Award Recipient and 2017 Bemis Solo Exhibitor, Carrizozo, N.M.

Lee Running, Artist, Bemis Board Member, Omaha, Neb.*

Bemis Center's Residency Program is sponsored, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Omaha Steaks, Ruth Scott, and the Simon Families.

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Residency Program Update

The next Open Call for applications to Bemis Center's [Residency Program](#) is anticipated to open in early 2028 for sessions beginning in 2029. Residency sessions in 2027 and 2028 will be paused as Bemis Center undertakes capital improvements to its historic building, with additional details to be announced in the coming months.

Artists are encouraged to join the mailing list for future updates and Open Call announcements: mailchi.mp/bemiscenter/residency-email-signup.

Meet the Artists-in-Residence

Bemis Center invites the community to engage with its artists-in-residence through **Open House / Open Studios**, held three times annually. These events offer an opportunity to visit artists' studios and view works in progress, while touring the contemporary art exhibitions on view and participating in artist-led activities. The 2026 Open House / Open Studios dates are **this Saturday, March 28, July 18, and October 24**, from 1 to 5 p.m. View upcoming schedules and RSVP for free at bemiscenter.org/events.

About Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts facilitates the creation, presentation, and understanding of contemporary art through an international residency program, exhibitions, and educational programs to inspire an open and diverse dialogue on the critical issues that give shape and meaning to the human condition. Learn more at bemiscenter.org.

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