

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Announces Two Major Exhibitions for Summer 2026



Miatta Kawinzi, *Numma Yah*, 2024. Installation view at Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY. Multi-channel sound, video, and sculptural installation. Image courtesy of Smack Mellon. Photo by Etienne Frossard.

Rachel Cox, *V, M, and Egg*, 2026. Silver gelatin prints. Courtesy of the artist.

Rose Marie Cromwell, *The Cactus*, 2026. Archival inkjet print. Courtesy of the artist.

OMAHA, Neb. (May 5, 2026) — Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (724 S. 12th St.) welcomes audiences to two summer exhibitions opening June 5: ***Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding*** and ***MOTHER TIME: Measuring ourselves within the landscape***. On view through September 13, 2026, both exhibitions examine themes around care, collective memory, and the lived experience across landscapes.

[Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding](#)

Curated by Chief Curator and Director of Programs Rachel Adams, *Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding* is a solo exhibition by the Kenyan-Liberian-American artist, whose experimental and multidisciplinary practice explores themes of hybridity, memory, and sustenance. This site-responsive exhibition unfolds through her varied practice that integrates mixed media, sculpture, installation, sound, video, and text.

Currently based in New York City, Kawinzi creates work that draws from personal archives and broader histories of migration, land, labor, and language. Across two galleries, the exhibition unfolds as an intimate-yet-expansive exploration of cultural lineage, ecological interconnection, and the embodied practices through which individuals and communities persist and adapt.

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Kawinzi's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and her return to Bemis Center marks a meaningful continuation of a longstanding relationship with the institution: She was a Bemis Center artist-in-residence in 2016 and was later recognized as the recipient of the organization's first Ree Kaneko Award in 2019.

"It feels incredibly meaningful to return to Bemis Center in this way," said Miatta Kawinzi. "My time in Omaha helped shape important parts of my artistic journey, and I'm excited to share this body of new and recent work and connect again with a place that has been part of that unfolding."

Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding is planned to travel to other institutions, with locations to be announced. An exhibition catalogue — co-published by X Artists' Books and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts — is forthcoming.

[MOTHER TIME: Measuring ourselves within the landscape](#)

Also curated by Rachel Adams, *MOTHER TIME: Measuring ourselves within the landscape* brings together a variety of image-based media by Iowa City-based artist **Rachel Cox** and Miami-based artist **Rose Marie Cromwell** in an exhibition examining themes of tenderness, care, and motherhood.

Through distinct yet overlapping visual practices, Cox and Cromwell explore the complexities of closeness — emotional, physical, and spatial — revealing vulnerabilities surrounding familial and personal relationships and public and private life. Cromwell's work often engages the American landscape as both subject and witness, while Cox's photographs move between documentary and dreamlike observation, tracing emotional and environmental transformation. Together, they create a layered meditation on intimacy, perception, and the ways we locate ourselves within a changing world.

Both artists have exhibited widely, with Cox's work shown at institutions including the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and the Musee del'Elysee in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Cromwell's work recently featured in a solo museum exhibition at Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) Miami.

"We are especially excited to present a photography-focused exhibition this season and to introduce the work of Rachel Cox and Rose Marie Cromwell to Bemis audiences," said Rachel Adams. "Paired with Miatta Kawinzi's deeply expansive practice, these exhibitions open up a compelling dialogue about how we come to understand ourselves through landscapes we move through and occupy. Together, they invite visitors into spaces of reflection that feel both personal and urgently timely."

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Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding and *MOTHER TIME: Measuring ourselves within the landscape* are generously supported, in part, by Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Arts Council, and Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Kawinzi's work has additionally received support from Creative Capital.

Public Programs

Bemis Center invites the community to participate in a series of exhibition-focused special engagements, including an Opening Reception on June 5 with complimentary libations and light hors d'oeuvres. Current Bemis Center members may arrive early for an exclusive preview of the exhibitions and Meet + Greet with exhibiting artists, directly preceding the public reception from 6 to 7 p.m.

Admission to all programs and tours is free; ticket reservations are encouraged. Visit bemiscenter.org/events for details.

Friday, June 5, 6–7 p.m.	Member Preview and Meet + Greet
Friday, June 5, 7–9 p.m.	Opening Reception: <i>Miatta Kawinzi: An Alphabet of Unfolding</i> + <i>MOTHER TIME: Measuring ourselves within the landscape</i>
Saturday, June 6, 3 p.m.	Tour with Exhibiting Artists Miatta Kawinzi, Rachel Cox, and Rose Marie Cromwell
Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m.	Curator-Led Tour
Saturday, June 27, 3 p.m.	Exhibitions Highlights Tour
Saturday, July 11, 3 p.m.	OMA ARTalks
Saturday, July 18, 1:30 p.m.	Exhibitions Highlights Tour (part of Open House / Open Studios)
Saturday, July 18, 3:30 p.m.	Curator-Led Tour (part of Open House / Open Studios)
Saturday, August 8, 11 a.m.	Exhibitions Highlights Tour
Saturday, August 8, 2 p.m.	Exhibitions Highlights Tour
Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m.	In Conversation: Miatta Kawinzi with Chrislyn Laurore
Thursday, August 20, 7 p.m.	Curator-Led Tour
Saturday, August 29, 2 p.m.	Exhibitions Highlights Tour
Saturday, August 29, 3 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Rachel Cox, Rose Marie Cromwell, and Michelle Millar Fisher
Thursday, September 10, 7 p.m.	Lecture with Yasmina Price, Yale University

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Details and Visitor Information

Exhibitions Dates: June 5–September 13, 2026

Location: Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, 724 South 12th Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Gallery open hours starting June 6: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and until 9 p.m. on Thursday

Admission: Free

For press inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact Rachel Grace at 531-466-5256 or press@bemiscenter.org. Media kits, including high-resolution images of select works, are available at bemiscenter.org/press.

About the Artists

[Miatta Kawinzi](#) is a multidisciplinary artist, experimental filmmaker, writer, and educator. Her research-informed practice explores cultural hybridity, memory, freedom dreaming, and ecologies of possibility within inner and outer landscapes. Her practice spans installation, sculpture, still and moving images, sound, painting, and poetics. She is interested in illuminating African/Diasporic points of connection, transformation, and continuity across place, space, and time. Of Liberian and Kenyan heritage, Kawinzi was raised in the U.S. South and is based in NYC.

Her work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Smack Mellon and CUE Art Foundation in New York, and group presentations at Anthology Film Archives, the Africa Center, PS122 Gallery, and the Studio Museum in Harlem (NYC); Knoxville Museum of Art (TN); Ann Arbor Film Festival (MI); Pan African Film Festival with LACMA, and ICA Los Angeles (CA); Houston Museum of African American Culture (TX); New Orleans Film Festival (LA); and Des Moines Art Center (IA). Kawinzi's work has been supported by Creative Capital, Jerome Foundation, Harpo Foundation, Artadia, Queer|Art, and New York Foundation for the Arts.

Select residencies/fellowships include G.A.S. Foundation with Yinka Shonibare Foundation (Lagos, Nigeria), Àsìkò Art School (Cairo, Egypt), Smack Mellon (NYC), MacDowell (NH), Residency Unlimited (NYC), Cité internationale des arts (Paris, France), SOMA Summer (Mexico City, Mexico), and the Bag Factory (Johannesburg, South Africa). Her work is included in collections at the Studio Museum in Harlem (Harlem Postcards, NYC), Art Connects New York, and Art in Embassies (Liberia). Her practice has received press in *Hyperallergic*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, and *MoMA Magazine*. She holds an MFA in Studio Art from Hunter College, and a BA in Interdisciplinary Art & Cultural Theory from Hampshire College. She is currently on faculty at the School of Visual Arts in New York. She was a resident at Bemis Center in 2016 and the 2019 recipient of Bemis Center's annual [Ree Kaneko Award](#).

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[Rachel Cox](#) is a contemporary artist working primarily in the disciplines of image-based media. Her work explores themes of reproduction, mothering, and personal autonomy through photography, printmaking, and historical analog processes. Cox holds an MFA in Photography from the University of New Mexico. Her work has been featured widely in the U.S. and abroad, including the Joslyn Art Museum, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, the Des Moines Art Center, Southeast Museum of Photography, The Belfast International Photography Festival, The Musee del'Elysee (Lausanne, Switzerland), Museo Amparo (Puebla, Mexico), and Photo London.

[Rose Marie Cromwell](#) is a photographer and artist from Seattle, based in Miami. Her first book, *El Libro Supremo de la Suerte* (TIS Books, 2018), won the Light Work Photobook Prize and was named one of TIME's 25 Best Photobooks of 2018. She later published *Eclipse* (TIS Books) and *A More Fluid Atmosphere* (Pomegranate Press) in 2021.

In 2024, Cromwell presented her first solo museum exhibition at ICA Miami, a solo exhibition at Pier 24 Photography, and was included in *Truth Told Slant* at the High Museum of Art. Her work has also been exhibited at the Norton Museum of Art, Aperture Foundation, and The Carnegie as part of the FotoFocus Biennial. In 2025, she had a solo exhibition with VISU Gallery in Miami and exhibited with EUQINOM Gallery at ZSONAMACO and Photo London. She opened her first solo exhibition with EUQINOM Gallery in November 2025. Her work will also be included in the 2026 Florida Prize exhibition at the Orlando Museum of Art.

Cromwell is a recipient of a Fulbright Grant and a Getty Reportage Grant and was an Artist-in-Residence at Light Work. Her work is held in the permanent collections of The Getty, the High Museum of Art, ICA Miami, the Norton Museum of Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and the libraries of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

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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