

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts to Open Ambitious Group Exhibition Centered on Water and Climate Justice

OMAHA, Neb. (May 13, 2025) — Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts is proud to present [*From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains: The Visible Currents of Climate Change*](#), an immersive multimedia group exhibition on view from June 13 through September 14, 2025. Curated by Rachel Adams, Chief Curator and Director of Programs, the exhibition brings together 21 artists and an artist collective to examine the environmental, cultural, and political implications of water in two vital North American regions.

While often marginalized as “flyover country,” the Great Lakes and Great Plains are indispensable landscapes where climate change is acutely visible. Participating artists — who have lived or worked in these regions — grapple with water as both life-giving and contested, revealing its roles in systems of resilience, exploitation, and transformation. Works span media and perspectives, with artists drawing from disciplines including ecology, activism, technology, history, and documentary practices.

Artists featured in this exhibition include [Teresa Baker](#), [Jess Benjamin](#), [Nadia Botello](#), [Andrea Carlson](#) + [Rozalinda Borcila](#), [Hoesy Corona](#), [Timothy Frerichs](#), [LaToya Ruby Frazier](#), [Dana Fritz](#), [Sky Hopinka](#), [JeeYeun Lee](#), [Dylan AT Miner](#), [Trey Moody](#), [John Pfahl](#), [Platte Basin Timelapse](#), [Asad Raza](#), [Karen Reimer](#), [Anna Scime](#), [Bently Spang](#), [Colleen Thurston](#), and [Tali Weinberg](#). Their contributions range from film and installation to weaving, sculpture, and sound—together offering imaginative responses to the urgent global water crisis.

Among the highlights are monumental clay sculptures by Jess Benjamin, evoking the Hoover Dam intake towers and reflecting on infrastructure’s long-term environmental toll; a new commission by Tali Weinberg that translates 130 years of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) temperature data from four U.S. river basins into woven textile panels; and Bently Spang’s immersive *War Shirt #6 – Waterways*, a powerful reinterpretation of the Plains Indian war shirt composed of 26 video monitors capturing the sights and sounds of water across Indigenous homelands.

“This exhibition presents water as a material, a metaphor, and a matter of survival,” said Adams. “The works engage with land usage and climate justice in deeply local and deeply global ways. From the Ogallala Aquifer and the Missouri River spanning eastward to Lake Erie, the artists ask us to reconsider how we relate to one another and to the ecosystems that surround us.”

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From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains: The Visible Currents of Climate Change is generously supported, in part, by Back to the River Inc, Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund, the Claire M. Hubbard Foundation, and Nebraska Arts Council/Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Public Programs

The exhibition will be accompanied by a robust series of public programs, including an [Opening Reception on June 13](#) from 7 to 9 p.m. with complimentary libations, light hors d'oeuvres, music mix by DJ Kethro, and several artists in attendance.

June 13: Opening Reception + Member Preview

June 14: Artists Talk Water

June 26 + August 14: Curator-Led Tours

June 28: OMA ARTalks with UNMC Water, Climate and Health Program

July 10, August 9, September 13: Exhibition Highlights Tours

July 31: Lunch + Learn with Monroe Burianek of Lauritzen Gardens

August 7: In Conversation: Author Anna Farro Henderson and Exhibiting Artist/Poet Trey Moody

August 21: Film Premiere: *Drowned Land* with Colleen Thurston and Taylor Keen

August 23: Experimental Music Performance: Nadia Botello's *Other Channels* with Omaha Symphony

All programs are free to attend. Visit bemiscenter.org/events for full details and RSVP options.

Exhibition Details and Visitor Information

Exhibition Dates: June 13–September 14, 2025

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

Gallery Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m.

Admission: Free

Plan your visit at bemiscenter.org/visit.

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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Bently Spang, *War Shirt #6 – Waterways*, 2017.
Courtesy of the artist.



Asad Raza, *Orientation*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist.
Photo: Field Studio.



Teresa Baker, *Missouri River*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and de boer, Los Angeles and Antwerp. Photo: Jacob Philip.