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Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers

May 18–September 15, 2024

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
724 S. 12th Street, Omaha, NE 68102

bemiscenter.org/exhibitions/raven-halfmoon

Co-Curated by Rachel Adams, Chief Curator and Director of Programs, Bemis Center & Amy Smith-Stewart, Chief Curator, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

Organized by Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Installation of *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers*, 2024. On view at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. Courtesy of Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. Photography by Colin Conces.

Flags of Our Mothers is the first major traveling exhibition for artist Raven Halfmoon. Her practice spans torso-scaled and colossal-sized stoneware sculptures, with some soaring up to twelve feet and weighing over eight hundred pounds. With inspirations that orbit centuries from ancient Indigenous pottery to Moai statues to Land Art, Halfmoon interrogates the intersection of tradition, history, gender, and personal experience.

Halfmoon, who was born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, learned about ceramics as a teenager from a Caddo elder. Working mainly in portraiture, she hand-builds each work using a coil method. Her surfaces are expressive and show deep finger impressions and dramatic dripping glazes—a physicality that presences her as both maker and matter. She fuses Caddo pottery traditions (a history of making mostly done by women) with more contemporary gestures, often tagging her work as a reference to Caddo tattooing and ancient pottery motifs. Her works reflect stories of the Caddo Nation, specifically her feminist lineage and the power of its complexities.

For this exhibition, Halfmoon was commissioned by both Bemis Center and The Aldrich to create some of her largest works to date, including *Flagbearer*, a three-part stacked ceramic sculpture standing over twelve feet tall, greeting visitors at the entrance to Bemis's building.

Support for *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers* was provided by Mid-America Arts Alliance. Additional support by Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund; Michel Cohen, Collection Montparnasse; Mutual of Omaha; Nebraska Arts Council/Nebraska Cultural Endowment; Omaha Steaks; and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.