

# PRESS RELEASE

AUGUST 26, 2019

Press Contact

**Rachel Eggers**  
Manager of Public Relations  
rachele@seattleartmuseum.org  
206.654.3151

## SEATTLE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS AWARD-WINNER NATALIE BALL'S SOLO EXHIBITION

Textile-based sculptures exploring Native identity now on view by winner of the 2018 Betty Bowen Award



SEATTLE  
ART  
MUSEUM  
  
ASIAN  
ART  
MUSEUM  
  
OLYMPIC  
SCULPTURE  
PARK

1300 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206.625.8900  
seattleartmuseum.org

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) presents *Natalie Ball: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Snake* (August 10–November 17, 2019), the solo exhibition of the winner of the 2018 Betty Bowen Award. Natalie Ball approaches her sculptural work through the lens of auto-ethnography, dislodging dominant narratives and expectations surrounding Native experience and history to establish more complex racial narratives.

For her solo show at SAM, Ball created two new mixed-media sculptures that wryly challenge the visual legacies and representations of Native Americans. In the two works, the artist uses traditional Indigenous forms, playfully suggestive homonyms, repurposed fabrics, and animal hides to complicate and reclaim Indigenous histories and forms of knowledge.

*Re-Run* (2019) features a large textile stretched loosely across two large pine sticks. It's composed of various found materials, including repurposed athletic wear, quilts, and rattlesnake skins. The form of *You Mist, Again (Rattle)* (2019) bears a host of associations: an oversized rattle, a traditional Native baby carrier, and the snake whose skin adorns the work. Materials such as animal skins, braiding hair, bullet shells, and a lone pink Converse shoe all offer different meanings depending on the viewer.

### ABOUT NATALIE BALL

Natalie Ball was born and raised in Portland, Oregon; she currently lives and works in Chiloquin, Oregon, her ancestral homelands. She has a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Ethnic Studies and Art from the University of Oregon. She furthered her education in New Zealand at Massey University where she attained her Master's degree, focusing on Indigenous contemporary art. Ball has an MFA degree in Painting & Printmaking from Yale School of Art.

Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, including: Vancouver Art Gallery, BC; Te Manawa Museum, NZ; Half Gallery, NY; Portland Art Museum, OR; Museum of Contemporary Native Art (MoCNA), NM; Seattle Art Museum, WA; and SculptureCenter, NY. She has received prestigious awards including a



2019 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and an upcoming 2020 Rauschenberg Residency.

**Photo credits:** Installation view of *Natalie Ball: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Snake* at the Seattle Art Museum. © Seattle Art Museum. Photo: Natali Wiseman

### **ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM**

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. The building is currently undergoing a renovation and expansion with a scheduled reopening in early 2020. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.