

| O | K | L | A | H | O | M | A |
| C | O | N | T | E | M | P | O | R | A | R | Y |

SCHOOL GROUP VISIT INFORMATIONAL PACKET



WHO WE ARE

Oklahoma Contemporary is an inclusive center for the arts where people of all ages and backgrounds can experience art, encounter new ideas and ignite their creative potential. Through art exhibitions, performances, public programs, community-building initiatives, outdoor installations and special events, we create opportunities for everyone to come together in celebration of contemporary culture and artistic expression. With year-round classes and camps across multiple disciplines, the arts center's education programs encourage youth and adults to express their ideas across a variety of media and learn new skills.

Oklahoma Contemporary's spectacular new arts center is on a 4.6-acre campus at NW 11th and Broadway in Oklahoma City. Our 8,000 square feet of gallery space, classroom studios, performance spaces, community lounge, café and outdoor spaces ensure that there will always be something new to see and experience. Oklahoma Contemporary is your arts center. Admission to exhibitions is always free. **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**



WHY VISIT?

School Group Visits enhance critical-thinking skills, empathy and curiosity about art, culture and the world. A School Group Visit strengthens areas of school curriculum from observation, analysis and problem solving to vocabulary-building, reading and writing. We are committed to fostering a positive learning environment that values thoughtful questioning, recognizes mistakes as learning opportunities and encourages open dialogue. All schools will receive a free gallery tour with art making experience. Oklahoma City Public Schools will receive transportation (busing) reimbursement.

EXHIBITON CALENDAR

Open World: Video Games and Contemporary Art

- 22 artists with 67 artworks
- Location: Eleanor Kirkpatrick Main Gallery
- **Available visit dates: Jan. 5 - Feb. 18, 2022**

Visual artists are gamers, too, yet video games are rarely examined as a major influence on contemporary art. *Open World: Video Games and Contemporary Art* draws attention to this phenomenon through the presentation of artworks including painting, sculpture, textiles, prints, drawings, animation, video games, video game modifications and game-based performances and interventions by makers who self-identify as artists.

The artworks in *Open World* reference a broad cross-section of games, ranging from early text adventure and arcade games to modern massively multiplayer online roleplaying games and first-person shooters. Participating artists are influenced by some of the most beloved video game franchises, including *Super Mario Bros.*, *The Legend of Zelda*, *The Sims* and *Final Fantasy*.

The exhibition's title refers to open-world video games, which allow a player to roam through a virtual world, freely selecting their objectives. Through games, artists build immersive, alternate worlds. They use digital games to create meaning through imagery, music, sound effects, animation and narrative. The rules governing the experience of playing a video game can express a viewpoint and encourage critical thinking or empathy by directing the player's attention to systems at work within the real world.



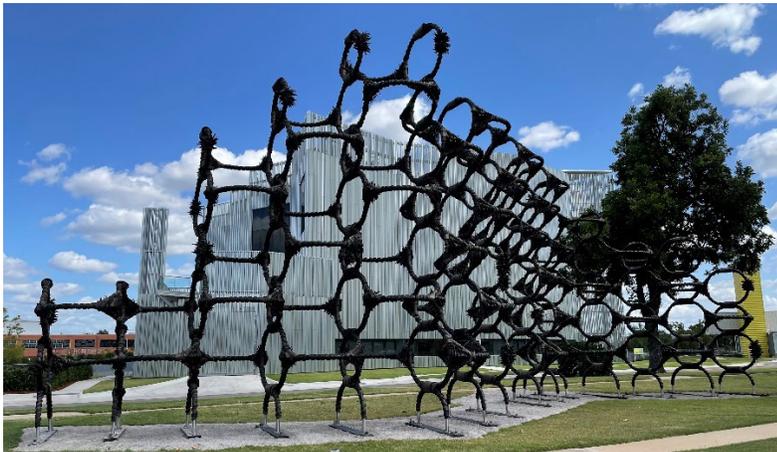
Installation view of *Open World*

Shaved Portions

- Artist: Chakaia Booker
- Location: Campbell Art Park | outdoor installation
- **Available visit dates: Jan. 5 – May 20, 2022**

Chakaia Booker’s body of work is marked by her distinct ability to radically transform her signature material — salvaged rubber tires — into an incredible array of biomorphic sculptures. To the artist, “It is about beauty, rhythm, and a common humanity. It is about how we create to connect with one another.” Booker slices, twists, weaves and rivets this medium into radically new forms and textures, which easily withstand outdoor environments. For her, the varied tones of the rubber parallels human diversity, while the tire treads suggest images as varied as African scarification and textile designs.

Repurposed from cast-off industrial scraps that would otherwise have remained symbols of urban blight or measures of wanton waste, *Shaved Portions* is a monumental work standing sentinel atop Automobile Alley in Oklahoma Contemporary’s Campbell Art Park.



Shaved Portions

Nature, Sweet Nature

- Artist: Maren Hassinger
- Location: Sculpture Garden | Outdoor Installation
- **Available visit dates: Jan. 5 - May 20, 2022**

Maren Hassinger's piece *Nature, Sweet Nature* is made of two installations built with galvanized wire rope. The two pieces, *Garden* and *Paradise Regained*, each stand in rows at relative human scale; one near the entrance to the arts center and the other within the Sculpture Garden. *Garden's* uncoiled ends fans out tall ornamental grass while *Paradise Regained* is made of lengths of industrial rope leaning in a single direction. The movement as one walks the path beside each sculpture creates a kinetic effect — a gentle illusion of blowing in the wind while remaining still speaks to Hassinger's practice in dance as well as sculpture.



Paradise Regained

ARRIVE READY TO LEARN

Educators / Chaperones

- Visits require a 1:10 ratio for chaperones.
- Arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled visit time. If you are running late, call 405.951.000 to let a staff member know your estimated time of arrival.
- Arrive at the museum with or before students.
- Accompany any student who requires personal/medical assistance or needs to use the restroom.
- Remain behind the group while moving between spaces.
- **Be in the moment. Refrain from talking with fellow chaperones or focusing on cell phones.**
- Read the *How to be a Chaperone* one-pager for more helpful information.

Students

- **Before arrival, students should have on a NAME TAG and be divided into GROUPS OF 10.**
- Don't bring what you don't need. Backpacks are not allowed in galleries and studios. We will provide a large bin for coats, lunches and other personal belongings.
- In the event of disruptive behavior, we ask that educators/chaperones resolve the situation with support from the Gallery Guide.

ARTS CENTER MANNERS

You are welcome here, and we are going to have a meaningful experience together! There are just a few things we would like you to keep in mind. We encourage active learning, observation and dialogue in our galleries and studios. Please be mindful of other visitors in the arts center and follow guidelines manners below.

Educators and chaperones: Please share these guidelines with your group prior to the visit so everyone understands the importance of protecting the art. This extra step is especially important for those who may be visiting a museum or arts center for the first time.

Read the list below out loud to your group before you visit.

- Do not touch any works of art. When we look at art together, we stay at least two arms' lengths away to make sure the art is safe.
- During your visit, you may see staff or guards in uniform. They have a very important job: to protect the artwork. They will remind us of these manners if we forget.
- When we want to look at a work of art or if we want to rest, we can sit on the floor or on a bench together. We should not lean against walls or display cases.
- When we talk inside the arts center, we need to use our inside voices.
- When we are looking at art in the galleries, we need to stay together.

- Remember to walk, not run, in the arts center.
- If we want to take a break for a snack, we can go outside. Food and drinks are not allowed in the galleries, studios or classrooms.
- If you need to use the restroom, notify an adult and they will walk with you to the closest restroom.