

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2025

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) presents *Who by Fire*, a food-focused collaborative exhibition by the Los Angeles based artist Ray Anthony Barrett.

Exhibition Dates: July 12 – August 9, 2025

Gallery Hours: Thursdays 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Fridays 12:00 – 6:00 PM,
Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212

Price: Free

Website: pica.org/events/whobyfire

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Portland, OR — Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) presents *Who by Fire*, an exhibition by the Los Angeles-based artist Ray Anthony Barrett. Rooted in dovetailing practices of artmaking and gastronomy, Barrett's work often explores themes that emerge through field studies in the landscapes of the American West. For the last five years, his work has centered critical inquiries into sustainability and future means of existence in a late capitalist society, informed by American legacies of enslavement, genocide, and white settler colonialism.

PICA

Through a decolonial lens, *Who by Fire* returns to fire as one of the most fundamental elements for human survival. The exhibition takes as its starting point the near total estrangement between people and fire in the 21st century, which is closely tied to a broadscale contemporary disconnection from the natural world. This phenomenon is itself an enduring effect of colonialism and white supremacy in the United States, as Black and Indigenous peoples' connections to the land have been systematically erased for generations. Using only the most basic tools, Barrett goes deep into the American landscape to engage with fire in a decolonial project of making and maintaining, thinking ahead and looking back for ancestral guidance.

The communal and food-oriented dimensions of fire starting and keeping are a major focus of the exhibition, which features a collaboratively-designed dining area and space dedicated to fire-based cooking. The hearth and table are where people come together to share stories and meals, and to take care of one another. For Barrett, utilizing repurposed and reclaimed materials made through collaboration embodies a holistic philosophy of art that is characteristic to many African, Asian, and Indigenous aesthetic traditions, without hierarchies or divisions between fine art, functional design, or craft, and animated by the art of living, eating, storytelling, spirituality, and dancing.

This project is funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Special thanks to MK Guth for your support.

15 NE HANCOCK STREET
PORTLAND OREGON 97212
503 242 1419
pica.org

*****IMPORTANT TIME/DATE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW*****

IMPORTANT INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

Exhibition Title

Who by Fire

Artists

Ray Anthony Barrett

Location

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)
15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212

Exhibition Dates

July 12 – August 9, 2025

Opening Reception

July 12, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Exhibition walkthrough from 12:30 – 1:00 PM

Food and refreshments from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Closing Reception

August 9, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Gallery Hours

Thursdays 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Fridays 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Free and open to all

Access

This exhibition is on the ground level of PICA's main warehouse space and is accessible to those with mobility aids. ADA accessible, gender neutral restrooms and a water fountain are located on the ground floor PICA. If you have questions about accessibility, contact us at boxoffice@pica.org or call (503) 242-1419.

Transportation

PICA is located in the Boise-Eliot neighborhood of Northeast Portland, close to bus lines 4, 6, 17, and 44. Stops for the A Loop and B Loop Streetcar are approximately 0.3 miles from our building. The nearest MAX station is Rose Quarter Transit Center, which is approximately 0.5 miles away. On-street parking is available. Please be aware that PICA is in a residential area and, therefore, ask that all of our guests, staff, and audience members treat our neighborhood and neighbors, housed and unhoused, with the utmost respect.

About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures, and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art. More information can be found at pica.org.

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