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Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
Contact: Kelsey Karper, 405.879.2400
publications@ovac-ok.org
High Resolution Images Available

Moving Forward: *Momentum* Spotlights Young Oklahoma Artists

OKLAHOMA CITY —The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition (OVAC) will feature the best work made by young Oklahoma artists at ***Momentum***, a multimedia, interactive art event to be held March 6-7, 2015 from 8-11 pm at the Farmer's Public Market, 311 S. Klein in Oklahoma City.

Momentum exhibits Oklahoma artists ages 30 and younger in a venue created specifically for them, helping them gain experience and meet new audiences. Attendees encounter film, performance, new media, installations, live music and more in an environment that is designed to help audiences discover and engage with art in new ways.

Each year, hundreds of young artists submit their work to be considered for the exhibition. Guest curators narrow submissions to the best-of-the-best artwork for the two-night event. This year's curators are Juan William Chávez and Suzanne C. Thomas. Chávez is an artist and cultural activist in St. Louis, Missouri who explores the potential of space through creative initiatives that address community and cultural issues. Thomas, selected as the *Momentum* Emerging Curator, is an artist and a professor of Art at Rose State College in Midwest City.

Selected in late 2014, three artists received *Momentum Spotlight* awards of \$2,000 to create new artistic and socially engaging projects just for *Momentum*. The *Spotlight* artists, Randall Barnes of Midwest City, Jenna Bryan of Norman, and Eric Piper of Norman, also receive three months of guidance from the guest curators, who help them refine their projects.

Drawing on his past experience as a graffiti remover, Barnes is creating a workshop of "buffing" or removal, including an alleyway with active participants continually reworking the surface of the wall with graffiti and "buffs." Inspired by the structure of video games and the aesthetics of Japanese culture, Bryan invites visitors to customize their own avatar from a series of hand-printed paper dolls in *Kamisphere*. A gallery director and organizer, Piper's project focuses on community and creation, and includes running a community space for one month. His installation will include artifacts from its events and a miniature model of the space.

The event begins on Friday, March 6 with *Momentum: Downtempo*, a more mellow evening with music by John Calvin Abney, The Daddy's, and Scott A.F. *Momentum: Full Speed* on Saturday, March 7, offers a louder, faster paced experience with music by Bowlsey and Depth & Current.

Tickets for each night of the opening weekend are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at www.MomentumOklahoma.org, 405-879-2400, or at outlets: Blue 7, The Paramount, Guestroom Records (OKC & Norman), and Café Evoke (Edmond).

Free gallery hours follow the opening weekend on March 8-9, 2-7 pm each day. On Monday, March 9 at 6 pm the *Spotlight* artists will give brief talks about their projects at a closing reception.

Momentum is made possible by generous sponsors such as the Mid-America Arts Alliance; the National Endowment for the Arts; Downtown OKC, Inc.; Dunlap Coddling P.C.; Hillary, Peter and Rowan Farrell; Michi and Charles Susan; Staplegun Design, Inc; and Nathan Guilford DDS and Julia Kirt. OVAC is an Allied Arts Member Agency.

For more information, visit www.MomentumOklahoma.org.

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