Momentum is an environment created specifically for young emerging artists in Oklahoma to share their work with the community. For 22 years, the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition has brought this energetic and eclectic event to life, merging local art, live music, and interactive components into one celebration of creativity. With over 40 artists under age 30 and featuring over 60 artworks, Momentum 2023 highlights the strength and vibrancy of the arts community within our state.

A crucial component of Momentum is the expertise of our Guest and Emerging Curators. Each year, a Guest Curator with professional experience in the contemporary art sector provides guidance and mentorship to a local Emerging Curator in the curation of the General Survey and selection of the Spotlight Artists.

Coka Treviño, Guest Curator, was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, and now resides in Austin, Texas. While studying for her BFA, Treviño started working at the Museum of Contemporary Arts of Monterrey with the Exhibitions department, where she fell in love with the art world. She has worked for art galleries, museums, and universities and has held every position imaginable in the industry—curating being her favorite. In 2009 she founded The Projecto in Monterrey, looking to facilitate cultural exchange with different cities and artistic expressions. In 2010 she moved to Austin, where The Projecto has been hosting international artists and collaborating with local institutions to enable dialog and community enrichment. She is also the Curator and Director of Programming at Big Medium and an independent Music and Art curator.

Bayliegh Fields, Emerging Curator, is a twenty-one-year-old, Native American Artist from Grove, Oklahoma. They are attending Rogers State University pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Studio Art. They work at the campus gallery and previously had the opportunity to be a museum intern at the DACOR Bacon House Foundation in Washington, D.C. As a working artist, they believe it is an honor to play such a unique role in how artwork is perceived and are excited to connect to the work on a different level than just viewing it.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT:

With a wide range of mediums, and a focus on diversity and inclusion, this edition of Momentum features works of 41 artists currently creating art in Oklahoma, offering a small peek into what artists are experiencing in a raw post-pandemic environment filled with vulnerability and openness to the future.

The three spotlight artists, Nina Nguyen, Christian Dixon, and Marissa Childers, highlight the values and moods of this era with intimate works that let us learn about their paths, traditions, and inner thoughts through colored pencils, oil paints, and intricate sculpture depicting everyday scenes, and objects in unexpected, sometimes even uncomfortable ways.

Artists also focus on strange worlds filled with magical elements and whimsical characters, moving us away from reality and helping us remember that anything is still possible. Using all sorts of mediums, colors, and techniques, the 38 General Survey artists for Momentum push and pull our imaginations in every direction imaginable to land in a happy and hopeful place where Art remains, connecting us to the particular Oklahoma artist experience.

We are tremendously honored to have worked with such a fantastic group of artists and be part of their journeys through the wonderful programming of the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.

– Coka Treviño, Guest Curator, and Bayliegh Fields Emerging Curator