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Marin Museum of Contemporary Art presents
Follow the String
A fiber arts exhibition, developed in partnership with
Cedars and NIAD Art Center
October 29 – December 23, 2022

NOVATO, CA. Marin Museum of Contemporary Art announces its fall exhibition ***Follow the String*** opening October 29 and running through December 23, 2022. The exhibition was developed in partnership with Cedars and NIAD Art Center, two Bay Area-based progressive studio programs for adults with developmental disabilities. *Follow the String* explores how fiber arts uniquely provide agency for artists and community members of all backgrounds and abilities. [More Info](#).

Curated by NIAD’s Emma Spertus and Julio Rodriguez with Felicia Griffin, Dorie Reid, and Kiesha White, the exhibition features renowned contemporary Bay Area artists alongside Cedars and NIAD studio artists. The exhibition showcases conventionally trained artists alongside artists with disabilities, blurring distinctions between “insider” and “outsider” art. A workshop will bring together participating artists to create new fiber-based works for the exhibition.

In one of many free-wheeling conversations between exhibition curators Emma Spertus and Kiesha White about fiber art and rug-making, Kiesha (also a NIAD studio artist) described her process: just “follow the string.” Emma goes on to say, “We’re bridging communities—Cedars and NIAD and the greater arts community—and it’s exciting to see where interests and creative voices overlap. Fiber was the starting point, but it has really exploded. Like any medium that has deep roots, there’s a wellspring of continual interest in fiber, and *Follow the String* is a snapshot of what that interest looks like today.”

The material of thread is a simple and powerful metaphor for connectivity. As individuals we are strands; as communities we are intertwined. These concepts draw from the rich history of Northern California utopian design and craftwork centered in Marin County and the Bay Area in the 1960’s and 70’s. *Follow the String* will trace a lineage from these countercultural dreamers to contemporary practitioners who continue to deploy craft and handwork as a means to achieve a more democratic and inclusive world.

Public programs will be designed around the model of inclusive and collaborative craft and handwork forums, to create opportunities for dialogue, discussion, and problem-solving through collective action. An artist-led workshop by master weavers from

Cedars will demonstrate their working techniques and artistic process. *Program dates to be announced.*

Participating artists include Indira Allegra, Miguel Arzabe, Jean Coury, Sylvia Fragoso, Felicia Griffin, Gail Lefevre, and Ramekon O'Arwisters, among many others. Please visit marinmoca.org for the complete list of artists.

An accompanying satellite exhibition will run concurrently in NIAD's Annex Gallery space in Richmond.

This exhibition is generously supported by Carson Wealth. Additional support is provided by Kathleen Gaines and Ray Welch, William Otton, and Ronald Zech.

About Cedars. Cedars has been inspiring creative, productive, joyous, and healthy lives for individuals with developmental disabilities in Marin County for over 100 years. Participants choose from a wide variety of activities such as weaving, art, jewelry, volunteering in the community, animal husbandry, and more. Cedars supports nearly 200 adults through residential and day programs where their accomplishments are celebrated, personal choice is encouraged, and individual skills are recognized. [Learn More](#)

About NIAD Art Center: Through its visual arts studio program, NIAD gives people with disabilities the skills and experience to express themselves, be independent and earn income as an artist. This nurturing community of artists fosters experimentation, increases competence to make informed choices and increases connections among diverse communities through the commonality of creative expression. [Learn More](#)

About MarinMOCA. The Marin Museum of Contemporary Art is dedicated to championing the development of artists at all stages of their careers through exhibitions, programs, scholarship, and the production of new works that reflect, engage, and inspire our diverse communities of the greater Bay Area. We strive to be a regionally and nationally recognized destination for celebrating the artistic legacy of Northern California and connecting it with the most innovative artistic voices of our time, whether local or global. MarinMOCA empowers artists and curators to experiment with new modes of expression as well as more traditional mediums that expand the public's appreciation of the power of contemporary art. www.marinmoca.org

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