



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado College's IDEA program presents Force/Resistance, a new exhibition exploring the intersections of institutional power and social justice at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. January 11, 2017 – From Feb. 25 through Sept. 10, 2017, the InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts Program (IDEA) at Colorado College presents *Force/Resistance*, an exhibition featuring work by Floyd Tunson, Dáreece Walker and Bunky Echo-Hawk. This collaborative project mark the transition of the IDEA program to its new home at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, following the announcement in August 2016 of an alliance between Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

The public is invited to attend the free gallery talks with the artists on Monday, Feb. 27 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

About the exhibition: Issues of social justice and racially motivated violence have been tragically at the forefront of the news in the past several years. The deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, and many others have brought with them a painful awareness for many Americans of the sometimes hidden forces that continue to undermine civil rights in our society. The exhibition *Force/Resistance* seeks to stimulate dialogue around the complex relationships between systems of power and violence in the United States. The artists in the exhibition address a range of issues including racial profiling, mortality, racially motivated conflict and legislative oppression.

About the Artists:

- Painter, sculptor, printmaker, photographer **Floyd D. Tunson** freely and fluidly combines a variety of media and artistic styles to create artworks that address social and political themes, but also engage ideas of beauty, philosophy, and popular culture. He embraces the complexity of the world in his work, acknowledging in his artist statement, *"Looking at life from one direction, I see the terror of chaos, man's inhumanity to man, mortality, and the vastness of the unknown. From another direction, the human condition seems like a magnificent, orderly evolution of extraordinary beauty. The totality of my work reflects my quest to comprehend and express these forces and their interconnectedness."*
- **Dáreece Walker's** black and white images capturing instances of police brutality, racial violence, and daily micro-aggressions experienced by African Americans force a direct confrontation of issues of social injustice. Rendered in a classical style, the images bear the weight and the grace of history. He writes, *"I was told as a boy, from family and teachers and other adults, 'Your life will be harder because you are a Black man'. If that's true, then I must strive to make the world*

better for the next generation of Black men, so that a lack of self-confidence and discrimination can no longer be a hindrance. I'm inspired by the future, and what can be."

- Throughout his career, **Bunky Echo-Hawk** has merged traditional values with artist creation and activism. Using hyper-pigmented tones and dreamlike settings, his paintings call for environmental justice and firmly identify the violation of sacred lands as systemic oppression. He writes, *"In my opinion, it comes down to raising awareness. The vast majority of environmental threats dwell in Indian Country and along our borders, often in economically depressed minority neighborhoods. The government and predatory corporations seek out places that could (will/do) affect our communities. Without public awareness, these issues will continue to occur in our back yards."*

Exhibition Events

- **Monday, February 27, 5:30p: Reception and Artist Talks**
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Free and open to the public
Featuring Floyd Tunson, Bunky Echo-Hawk and Dáreece Walker
- **Friday, March 3, 5:30p: First Friday Progressive Performance**
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and GOCA 121
Featuring performance poetry, music, and dancing.

Fine Arts Center

In 1919 the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA) was established in the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose. After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof. And that's how the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) came to be. The FAC, built in 1936, is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, professional theatre company and arts education center. Built on the foundation of the prestigious BAA, the FAC carries the legacy of Colorado's arts and cultural heritage. One of 16 charter members of the American Alliance of Museums, the FAC offers the best in visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, as a TCG member theatre company, and through arts education with the FAC's Bemis School of Art. The FAC building is considered an architectural treasure in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org

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