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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Center for Visual Art Presents  
*Colorado Women to Watch*  
August 18 – October 21, 2023

DENVER, COLORADO – Center for Visual, Metropolitan State University of Denver (CVA) presents the work of five outstanding Colorado artists whose work breaks through boundaries and emphasizes the strength of female artists. *Colorado Women to Watch* highlights the work of Kim Dickey, Ana María Hernando, Maia Ruth Lee, Suchitra Mattai and Senga Nengudi. With a combined total of more than 100 major exhibitions around the world and artworks in the permanent collections of countless museums, these artists represent the best of Colorado’s artistic talent. “Despite the writings, legislation, and impassioned work of many people for decades to create equity in the arts, women artists do not receive the opportunities, resources or support that men artists do, still in 2023. This exhibition is a celebration and amplification of the ground-shaking, influential work of five women artists with roots in Colorado.”, states Cecily Cullen, CVA Director & Curator.

The ceramic sculptures of Kim Dickey (b. White Plains, NY) address many dichotomies: nature vs. human made, classical vs. modern, interior vs. exterior, real vs. ideal. Through her work, Dickey seeks to transform perceptions of traditional decorative ceramics. Dickey’s work incorporates bodge, the Rococo decorative art tradition of encasing objects in clustered, miniature flowers. With this technique, she creates monumental sculpture from delicate, handmade elements traditionally used as decoration for small objects.

Ana María Hernando (b. Buenos Aires, Argentina) uses a variety of media to explore femininity and the power found within. Hernando seeks to make visible that which is invisible, featuring materials that are delicate, feminine, and often created or used predominantly by women. Her work centers around textiles and most recently has transformed into large-scale sculptures of tulle, a material associated with brides, ballerinas, and fairytales. But the scale and environment of these tulle sculptures imbue the fabric with power. The brightly colored fabrics cascade in great flows, suggesting forceful movement, or tower above viewers in monumental forms.

In her multi-disciplinary exploration of identity, Maia Ruth Lee (b. Busan, South Korea) excavates

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her migratory upbringing in bodies of work that present the psychological experience of living a diasporic life. For this exhibition, we look to the glyphs Lee has created from the cast-off metal bits of buildings and other structures. Glyphs are the shapes and lines that we use to graphically represent language. In this way, Lee creates her own visual language pulling from the three very different cultures that have informed her identity: Korean, Nepali, American. She sees these glyphs as a combination of physical object and graphical representation, pictographs crossed with talismans.

Suchitra Mattai (b. Guyana, South America) also uses her work as an exploration of diasporic identity. Specifically, her work seeks to reimagine the myths, memories and narratives surrounding colonialism. Mattai pulls vintage materials from the cultures that inform her identity with a focus on objects typically associated with or crafted by women. She reconfigures these everyday objects into intricately patterned, jewel-colored, sculptures and paintings that insist viewers pay attention to the stories behind them.

Senga Nengudi (b. Chicago, IL), whose artistic career began in the late 1960s, is an essential artist within the history of performative art having arrived at her practice via the study of art and dance. Her performative sculpture is about creating an electric experience that leaves the viewer vibrating with connection. Nengudi creates extraordinary environments out of lost and forgotten places filling them with elusive shapes resembling limbs from the human body. Her sculptures have developed out of a fascination with the elasticity of the human body, particularly the female body as it experiences pregnancy, and speak to how life pulls and stretches the body out of shape.

These five artists were nominated for inclusion in the exhibition *A New World: Women to Watch 2024* at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington, D.C. The *Women to Watch* exhibition series is designed to increase the visibility of, and critical response to, promising women artists. Nominated for consideration by the Colorado Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts (CCNMWA), the five artists were selected to represent Colorado on the national level by Nora Burnett Abrams, Ph.D., Mark G. Falcone Director, MCA Denver. NMWA chose Ana María Hernando to participate in the *A New World: Women to Watch 2024* exhibition.

## **Exhibition Events**

### **Opening Reception**

August 18

Member Preview: 5:30-6pm

Public Reception: 6-8pm

### **Artist Talk**

September 14, 6pm

A conversation with Nora Burnett Abrams, Ph.D., Mark G. Falcone Director, MCA Denver and the exhibiting artists. Registration required.

A complete list of events with registration links will be announced on CVA's website and through CVA's e-newsletter, [www.msudenver.edu/cva](http://www.msudenver.edu/cva)

## **About CVA**

Center for Visual Art is the off-campus contemporary art center for Metropolitan State University of Denver. CVA provides a year-round schedule of bold, contemporary exhibitions of both local significance and international reach, educational programming open to the community and immersive workforce development for students interested in creative fields. CVA's mission is to provide access to diverse, high-quality art experiences that advance the global urban dialogue. The Center for Visual Art is free and open to all.

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