Spring Exhibition 2022
March 3 – June 12

Natani Notah: Inner Lining
West Gallery

Works by Kevin Townsend
East Gallery

Erica Green: Once They Were Red
Union Works Gallery

In our galleries you will discover artwork created by three artists: Natani Notah, Kevin Townsend and Erica Green. All three artists explore ideas about mark making by using lines, dots, dashes, hash marks and knots. They use a wide variety of materials and techniques such as sewing and beading, tying wool, collaging on paper, and drawing on the wall.

As you walk around BMoCA exploring the three galleries, ask yourself:

- What do these artists have in common with each other and what is different?
- What stories are these artists trying to tell?
- What questions do you have about their artwork?
- What ideas do they give you for making your own art?

Let’s meet our artists!

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Natani Notah lives in Tulsa, OK and is a proud member of the Navajo Nation. Throughout her childhood, she grew up hearing, “every cloud has a silver lining.” While this expression is meant to encourage positivity and optimism, it also encouraged her to ask questions.

In some of Natani’s artwork, you might notice the face of Mia, the Indian Butter Maiden from Land O’Lakes Inc. butter packaging. In 2020, the company removed Mia’s image from their packages. Natani wanted to know what happened to Mia, so she created a visual story in her art about what Mia is doing in her retirement. In some of Natani’s soft sculptures, she stitches together old, discarded clothing with Native American symbols to give them new life and new stories, adding beads and fur to transform them.
Kansas City based artist Kevin Townsend thinks a lot about the passage of time. Beginning with a single line, Kevin draws each proceeding mark in response to the one before it. These small single marks become swarms or clouds of marks as he adds more and more. What things can you see within these clusters of marks? What do you think he thinks about as he draws his hundreds of repeated marks?

What kinds of marks do you enjoy making?

In the rectangle below, try making your own squiggles, dots, dashes, thin and thick lines, and create your own swarm or cloud-like collection of marks.

Top image: Headshot Kevin Townsend. Photograph courtesy of the artist.
Bottom image: Kevin Townsend, narrowly discernible as a past (in progress/studio view), 2021, acrylic, flashe, and colored pencil on panel. Image courtesy of the artist.

³/works by Kevin Townsend

Your Artwork’s Title: ____________________ Artist Signature:___________________
Boulder artist Erica Green also creates repeated marks in her art. Specifically her marks are made of knots that she hand ties using strips of wool and felt. You might notice small, red dots hidden among her knots. The red dots are pins that she often uses in sewing. She specially designed this artwork to fit into the window cut-outs of the gallery. Erica’s process of knot tying calls to mind the idea of running a marathon - it takes a lot of perseverance and hard work to complete her final artworks. Why do you think she ties so many knots? She also likes to contrast lightness with darkness, and hardness with softness with her materials.

Design your own artwork to fit into the shapes below. What kind of marks, shapes, designs, lines or colors will you use? Can you create soft marks and hard marks, light marks and dark marks? Explore adding a “surprise” of color (such as a red dot) in your own artwork.