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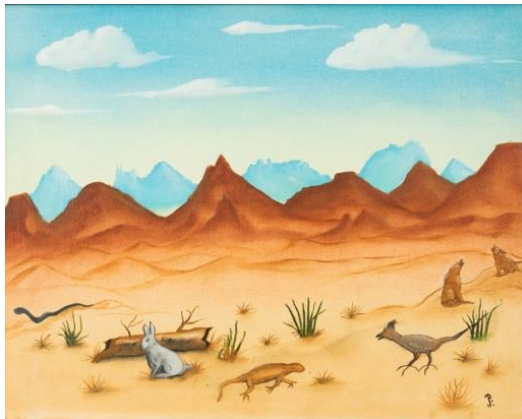
# NEWS

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Artists Honor A Proposed New National Monument at The Doyle Starting September 26



Paul Jackson, *In the First Times*, acrylic on canvas

On display at Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion from September 26 until December 1, ***Spirit of the Land: Artists Honor Avi Kwa Ame*** is a group exhibition in which artists offer their art as love letters to the plants, animals, geology, history, and culture of the Avi Kwa Ame landscape at the southernmost tip of Nevada.

The exhibition celebrates a recent bill introduced in Congress, that would permanently protect 443,000 acres of the area as Nevada's fourth National Monument, to be named Avi Kwa Ame (Ah-VEE kwa-meh), the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain and the surrounding landscape in Southern Nevada. It is the source of life and place of origin for 10 Yuman-speaking tribes of the Mojave: Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, Halchidhoma, Cocopah, and Kumeyaay,

and is sacred land to the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute people.

Organized by the Barrick Museum of Art at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and curated by Kim Garrison, Checko Salgado and Mikayla Whitmore, this travelling exhibition features selected works by 23 regional, national and Indigenous artists who have chosen to celebrate the country around Spirit Mountain, known as Avi Kwa Ame. Additional artists will be highlighted in the slideshow on a screen, along with the community postcard images. The three curators for the exhibition were key activists through the arts in their advocacy for bringing the proposal forward to Congress.

"The exhibition at OCC's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion highlights works that showcase the diversity of perspectives on this landscape: from native cultural stories, scientific studies and natural wonders, to concerns about proposed industrial projects, holiday trash, drought and climate change," says Kim Garrison, co-curator of *Spirit of the Land* and OCC faculty member.

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Chelsea Mosher, *Industrial Frequency*, photograph

*Spirit of the Land* also reflects on the continuing spiritual importance of this revered wilderness area, and the changing roles of nearby rural communities such as Searchlight, Nelson, Cal-Nev-Ari, and Ft. Mojave, all of which are searching for pathways that will carry them forward into a sustainable future. Through painting, photography, sculpture and storytelling, this exhibition offers glimpses of the complex beauty of this unique desert, and an invitation to ponder its continued existence for future generations.

More information can be found at [www.spiritoftheland.org](http://www.spiritoftheland.org)

Support for this exhibition is provided by Nevada Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nevada Conservation League, Clark County Parks and Recreation, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, the Wilderness Society, the Searchlight Betterment Organization, and the Conservation Lands Foundation.

Preview reception: Thursday, Sept. 29, 5–7 p.m.; Opening reception: Saturday, Oct. 1, 2–4 p.m. including Curator-led exhibition tour, 2–3 p.m. Additional curator-led tour by Kim Garrison: Tuesday, Oct. 25, 12:15-1 p.m. Admission to all events is free. Presently, masks are not mandated but are strongly recommended for indoor events on campus. **Please check the [gallery website](#) for any change in schedule due to evolving COVID-19 restrictions.**

Concurrent exhibitions at The Doyle in Fall 2022 includes “**For some memory or some land**,” a group exhibition of Chicana/o/x artists recapturing and reconstituting concepts of nature, open from Sept. 26 until Dec.1.

The Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion at Orange Coast College focuses on contemporary visual culture and creates dynamic programming that inspires interaction and dialogue between artists, students, scholars, and local and international communities.

Admission is free for all exhibitions. Gallery hours, Fall 2022: Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and First Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Fridays and school holidays. The Doyle is located next to OCC’s [Parking Lot D](#), off Merrimac Way, building 180, between Starbucks and the Art Center classrooms. For additional information, call (714) 432-5738, or visit [The Doyle website](#).

*Orange Coast College, founded in 1947, is one of the nation's top transfer schools. With a student population of 25,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to Associate degrees and 130 career programs. The college's 164-acre campus is located in the heart of Costa Mesa.*