

RE-RIDING HISTORY: FROM THE SOUTHERN PLAINS TO THE MATANZAS BAY

JANUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2015

The *Re-Riding History* project expands our frame of memory. The 72 exhibiting artists ask us to imagine anew our shared histories across generations. Their visions demonstrate a plurality of ideas about memory, history and time.

Re-Riding History proposes there is not one version of history; history is subjective. What we may think of as the “official” chronicle of a city is but one telling among many. Taken further, this idea of histories (in the plural) also suggests something very important about how we think of time.

Hours, days, months, years, decades, and centuries may be considered as linear, with one day following cumulatively upon the other. The artists and curators of *Re-Riding History* suggest something different. This Native reading of time is cyclical, forever turning on itself, like a spiral continuously circling to the same moments, re-inscribing these events with new insights.

Working closely with a selected group of artists, many of whom have relatives that were imprisoned at Fort Marion, the *Re-Riding History* curators ask us to circle back in time, suggesting in the words of artist and project director Emily Arthur that, “It’s not history.” Memory and alternative temporalities have conspired to make history present and alive. Scholars today describe this continuance as a form of “visual sovereignty.”

The story of St. Augustine, Florida is a story of Native peoples. Caddos, Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyennes and Seminoles imprisoned at Fort Marion in the 1800s were subject to military control, but they were not simply prisoners. These hundreds of men, women and children were husbands, fathers, mothers and daughters. Their humanity exceeds the designation of “prisoner.” As my uncle Harry Mithlo states in his artist statement, “Our history continued despite captivity at St. Augustine.”

In this cyclical version of time, *Re-Riding History* artists, curators and educators create a new visual history of St. Augustine and in doing so; they claim the personhood of our ancestors.

-- Nancy Marie Mithlo, PhD, Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Arts,
Occidental College and Chair of American Indian Studies,
Autry National Center Institute

Re-Riding History is the curatorial project of Emily Arthur, Marwin Begaye and John Hitchcock. The curators and participants are grateful to the staff at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Flagler College for making this valuable opportunity available for new histories to be told. Special thanks to Julie Dickover, Director, Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Kelly Enright, PhD, Assistant Professor of History & Director of Public History, Flagler College for their enthusiasm and support.

The *Re-Riding History* exhibition and symposium are concurrent activities of the 450th Commemoration of the city of St. Augustine. This exhibition and related symposium were made possible through a generous grant from The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Additional support for the curatorial project was provided through the Arts Institute Creative Arts Award and Graduate School Research Grant, from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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| Faisal Abdu’Allah | Jon Goebel | Alex Peña |
| Norman Akers | Shan Goshorn | Nicole Pietrantonio |
| Lynne Allen | Fred Hagstrom | Dolores Purdy |
| Neal Ambrose-Smith | Melissa Harshman | Beau Redmond |
| Jennifer Angus | Edgar Heap of Birds | Jolene Rickard |
| Emily Arthur | John Hitchcock | Alison Saar |
| Jamison Banks | Mary Hood | Brandon Sanderson |
| Jessie Barnes | Tom Jones | Jenny Schmid |
| Marwin Begaye | Karen Kunc | Katy Seals |
| Annie Bissett | Ina Kaur | Sarah Sense |
| Melissa Bob | Katherine Liontas-Warren | Hoka Skenandore |
| Denise Bookwalter | Jason Lujan | Juane Quick-to-See Smith |
| Linda Broadfoot | Bobby C. Martin | Cat Snapp |
| Derrick Buisch | Michelle Martin | Tanja Softić |
| Mel Chin | Jacob Meders | Wanesia Spry-Misquadance |
| Laurie Beth Clark | Nathan Meltz | C. Maxx Stevens |
| Sonya Clark | America Meredith | Fred Stonehouse |
| Cynthia Clay | Meg Mitchell | Tracy Templeton |
| Michael Connors | Harry Mithlo | Zahni Thurher |
| Georgia Deal | Maren Muñoz | Tony Tiger |
| Jim Denomie | Molly Murphy-Adams | Erika Walker |
| Rory Elier | Candy Nartonis | Dyani White Hawk |
| Xenia Fedorchenko | Juanita Pahdopony | Monte Yellow Bird Sr. |
| Ruthann Godollei | Chris Pappan | |

