

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## John Michael Kohler Arts Center Launches New Exhibition Series With Free Celebration, May 21 at 7 p.m.



Regina Broussard, untitled, n.d.; ink on paper; 22 x 30 in. Photo courtesy of Creative Growth.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan will host a free, festive evening of exploring new contemporary art exhibitions at its Ways of Being Celebration, Saturday, May 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. The event is open to the public. Reservations, available at jmkac.org, are suggested.

Featuring music, appetizers, a cash bar, and plenty of conversation, the <u>Ways of Being Celebration</u> marks the launch of a yearlong series of exhibitions that invite Arts Center visitors to move beyond simply reflecting on the world and toward actively shaping it. Artists included in the exhibitions collectively ask, "What if?"

The celebration offers the first chance to view *Creative! Growth!*, which officially opens to the public May 22. This group exhibition is the first to consider the history of Creative Growth Arts Center in Oakland, California, the preeminent center for artists with disabilities in the United States.

Another group exhibition, *In the Adjacent Possible*, presents large-scale installations by five contemporary artists who have conjured worlds that are not quite here, yet are within our grasp. Artists included in the exhibition are Jessica Campbell, Yasmine K. Kasem, Suchitra Mattai, Haleigh Nickerson, and Nyugen E. Smith.

Four additional galleries feature artists Lee Hunter, Woody De Othello, Eva Papamargariti, and Sarah Zapata in solo exhibitions.

For more information about the Ways of Being Celebration, visit <u>jmkac.org</u> or call the Arts Center at (920) 458-6144. The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is located at 608 New York Ave. in downtown Sheboygan. Free parking is available in the Arts Center lot located on the south side of New York Ave.

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## ABOUT THE JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC), located north of Milwaukee in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is known for promoting the understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through exhibitions and commissioned works of art. Founded in 1967, JMKAC has preserved, studied, and exhibited artist-built environments, earning a worldwide reputation. Art environments involve an individual significantly transforming their surroundings into an exceptional, multifaceted work of art.

The Arts Center's downtown Sheboygan facility includes eight galleries, two performance spaces, a café, a museum shop, and a drop-in art-making studio. Among its program offerings are community arts projects; artist residencies; presentations of dance, film, and music; a free weekly summer concert series; classes and workshops; an onsite arts-based preschool; and approximately twelve original exhibitions of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists annually. JMKAC also administers the renowned Arts/Industry residency program, which is hosted by Kohler Co.

## ABOUT THE ART PRESERVE

In 2021, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center opened the <u>Art Preserve</u>, the world's first museum to focus entirely on work from art environments. Located three miles from JMKAC, the 56,000-sq.-ft., three-level building holds more than 25,000 works in the Arts Center's world-renowned collection, which includes complete and partial environments by more than 30 vernacular, self-taught, and academically-trained artists. Visitors experience unprecedented access and insight into the display, preservation, conservation, and interpretation of the Arts Center's premier collection through tableaux as well as a unique system of curated, visible storage of the works of art.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center (608 New York Avenue) and the Art Preserve (3636 Lower Falls Road) are located in Sheboygan, WI. Admission is always free. For information, call 920.458.6144, or visit <u>jmkac.org</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, or <u>Instagram</u>.