

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONSILIENCE,
CURATED BY BRIAN FLEETWOOD**

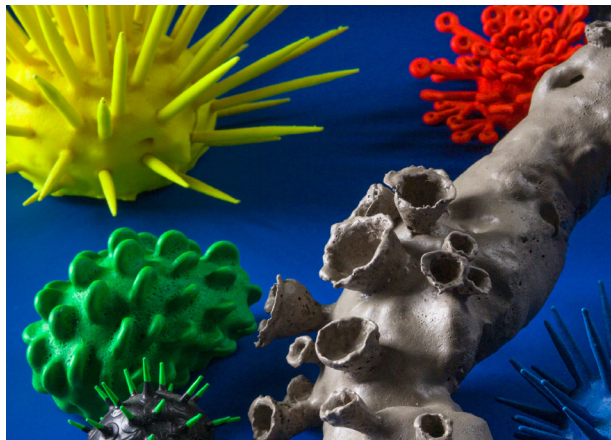
March 27–June 13, 2020

ARTISTS TALK

Friday, March 27, 4pm

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, March 27, 5–7pm



© Brian Fleetwood

**THE ARTIST'S ECOSYSTEM: PLOTTING THE CREATIVE PATH OF ONE OF
SANTA FE'S MOST INNOVATIVE & INFLUENTIAL JEWELRY ARTISTS**

(March 2020) *form & concept* invites viewers to experience *Consilience*, a group show curated by jewelry artist **Brian Fleetwood** and *form & concept* director Jordan Eddy that is part premiere, part personal retrospective, and all participatory. Featuring **never-before-seen work by Fleetwood** alongside the mentors and students who shaped and continue to advance his artistic philosophy, *Consilience* includes modular installation, adorned sculpture, embellished textiles and masterful metalwork, in addition to 3-D printed objects for the taking. An **artist talk** is scheduled on **Friday, March 27 at 4pm** followed by the **opening reception, 5–7pm**.

What began as a solo exhibition for Brian Fleetwood soon transformed into the ambitious group show currently residing in the upstairs gallery at *form & concept*. As Fleetwood's transdisciplinary, highly collaborative philosophy guided the curatorial process, gallery director and co-curator Jordan Eddy saw an opportunity to anchor the near and far-flung panoply of the artist's influences in his hometown gallery. "In our early conversations about the show, it became clear that a traditional solo exhibition couldn't hold what Brian was trying to say," Eddy says. "His work, and his community, has become a crossroads for this expansive, transdisciplinary story."

Flanked on one side by his mentors, and on the other by recent students under the artist's guidance at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Fleetwood presents an amoebic representation of significant milemarkers along his creative journey. From large-scale installation to traditional fine metalsmithing, the guest artists on view encircle and inform Fleetwood's latest work. Fleetwood's plant-like, interactive installation, made primarily of industrial materials such as rubber, foam and resin, is adorned with 3-D printed brooches any visitor can pluck for themselves, to then take out into the world and home, mirroring the life of spores, and the metaphorical dissemination of idea pollination and creative arc. "I'm on the autism spectrum, so there's always been a slight disconnect between my mind and body. Jewelry for me is one of the most fundamental human art forms, and it's become a way for me to understand that connection. Paying attention to the preciousness of an object and how it interfaces with the body allows us to look at forms in new and innovative ways. Making that effort to connect is everything."

Important to *Consilience* is the Creek artist's inclusion of multiple indigenous artists that highlight jewelry's expansive and amorphous definition. "There are so many indigenous practices that the contemporary art world would not necessarily consider jewelry, but those artists do. I'm interested in communicating culture in all its under-explored ways."

Featured Artists: Brian Fleetwood, Chris Ramsay, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Herndon, Susie Ganch, Carly Feddersen, Tania Larsson, JQ Nightshade, Anangookwe Wolf

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ARTIST BIOS

Brian Fleetwood (Mvskoke Creek) is a Santa Fe-based jewelry artist whose work addresses ideas involving the connections between knowledge and the act of making, and the ways we can use making as a way of knowing. His work explores scientific themes, especially relating to biology and ecology, systems, and taxonomy. Fleetwood's contemporary jewelry designs reflect the diversity of forms found in nature and invite us to adorn ourselves with its beauty. Fleetwood holds an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is currently teaching at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Chris Ramsay has been teaching metals and jewelry courses at Oklahoma State University since 1990 and served as the Head of the OSU Art Department from 2008-2012. Ramsay has presented numerous metalworking workshops nationally in universities and craft schools including Arrowmont, Penland and Haystack and taught summer courses in Cortona, Italy. He is the recipient of a 2016 Tulsa Artist Fellowship and a 2013 Open Studio Residency at Haystack School of Crafts in Maine. Ramsay's artwork is included in several personal and permanent collections including the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK, Children's Hospital of Cleveland, OH, and the botanical gardens of Southern Living Magazine, Birmingham, AL.

Kenneth Johnson (Muscogee/Seminole) is a contemporary Native American designer and accomplished metalsmith working in copper, silver, gold, platinum and palladium. His career spans over two decades and is recognized for bold combinations of stampwork and engraving often incorporating coins and bead set gemstones. Signature techniques include original dates of coins visible in the designs, Seminole patchwork patterns, rocker arm engraving and Southeast style concentric line designs. Johnson lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife and children.

Mark Herndon is a master metalsmith and former teacher at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe. His collaborative studio practice with wife Naomi Herndon, Herndon Forge, is based in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, and has been featured on MTV and sold commercially with Sundance. Brian Fleetwood apprenticed under Herndon on his arrival to Santa Fe between 2009-2011.

Susie Ganch is a first-generation American artist of Hungarian heritage. She is a sculptor, jeweler, and educator living in Richmond, VA where she is Interim Chair for the Department of Craft/Material Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. Ganch received her MFA from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Part of her practice is Directing Radical Jewelry Makeover, an international jewelry mining and recycling project that continues to travel across the country and abroad. Issues of waste and cultural habits of consumption are imbued through her work. Her work has been shown in museums across the globe, including the Smithsonian National Museum for Women in the Arts, MFA Boston, the Design Museum, London, the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, Japan, Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI, Milwaukee Art Museum. Public/private collections include LACMA, Los Angeles, CA, Asheville Art Museum, NC, MFA Boston, MA, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA, Metal Museum, Memphis, TN, Quirk Hotel, Richmond, VA, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI, and Kohler Company, Kohler, WI.

Carly Feddersen (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) couples humor and irony alongside traditional stories of the Columbia Plateau and pop culture. Carly received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Spring 2016 with a concentration in jewelry. She also works in print, glass, and fibers.

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Tania Larsson (Gwich'in) designs contemporary, northern Indigenous adornment based on Gwich'in culture, created with land-based materials. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, with a focus in jewelry and digital arts at the Institute of American Indian Arts, May 2017. She was the apprentice to renown jeweler Keri Ataumbi during two years. Tania is one of the founding members of Dene Nahjo, an Indigenous innovation collective in Denendeh (Northwest Territories) working to advance social and environmental justice for northern peoples and promote Indigenous leadership. Born and raised in France, Tania moved to Canada with her family at age fifteen to reconnect with her culture and the Gwich'in land. She has consistently sought opportunities to deepen her understanding of history and culture and to apply this learning to her artistic work.

JQ Nightshade is an internationally collected Mexican artist examining the inherent magic in the human experience, from the spectacular to the mundane, through photography, jewelry & mixed media work. Recent exhibitions include "In The Ruins Of The Anthropocene" at Ellsworth Gallery, Santa Fe, and "Botellas de Agua" at SITE Santa Fe. They were awarded the Lorenzo Di Medici Biennale Residency, Venice in 2017 and received their BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2018.

Anangookwe Wolf (Assiniboine) is an interdisciplinary artist who interweaves narratives of familial history in relation to cultural inheritance and present-day afflictions. By utilizing traditional and contemporary forms of craft, connecting the past and present, their main focus is to create a visual story of the interpersonal lives of those they've known and have never met for the future generation. In 2019, Wolf was chosen to be a SITE scholar. She graduated with her BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe the same year.

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