



Studio 238: *Contingent Beings*, The Works of Cannupa Hanska Luger

Where: The Harwood Museum of Art
238 Ledoux Street
Taos, New Mexico

When: May 3 – 28, 2017
Opening Reception: May 5, 2 – 4pm

Taos, New Mexico - The Harwood Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening for May 2017's **Studio 238** featuring the works of Cannupa Hanska Luger, titled, "Contingent Beings."

For Cannupa Hanska Luger, the act of coaxing his fragile ceramic sculptures from the inert mass of the clay block is part of the process of creation, a cycle of generation and destruction. Its harmony depends upon decline and rebirth. Its perfection resides in this process of creative entropy. For Luger, artist and inchoate concept meet within this poetic tension between creative act and entropy. The result is the sculptor's world of clay-fired figures whose cryptic narratives recount indigenous myths and misconceptions. They are contingent beings: dependent, at risk from monsters, capable of heroism, and always seeking truth. Luger's ceramic figures evoke a fragile perfection achieved by contingent beings in touch with the earth, in dialogue with the world.

Artist Biography:

Born in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Reservation, artist Cannupa Hanska Luger comes from Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota, Austrian, and Norwegian descent. Luger's unique, ceramic-centric, but ultimately multidisciplinary work tells provocative stories of complex Indigenous identities coming up against 21st Century imperatives, mediation, and destructivity. Luger creates socially conscious work that hybridizes his identity as an American Indian in tandem with global issues. Using his art as a catalyst, Luger invites the public to challenge expectations and misinterpretations imposed upon Indigenous peoples by historical and contemporary colonial social structures. Cannupa Hanska Luger is a recipient of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation National Artist Fellowship Award and has participated in artist residencies and lectures throughout the Nation. Cannupa Hanska Luger is represented by Blue Rain Gallery and currently holds a studio practice in New Mexico.

The opening reception on May 5th is free and open to the public.

The newest gallery addition for temporary exhibitions is Harwood's Studio 238. Studio 238 is a small portable gallery/alcove space built to showcase community-based art events, and featuring work by contemporary local artists at various stages of their careers. Studio 238 enables the Museum to provide a venue for local artwork accessible to a wide audience. A rotating Exhibits Committee will review and recommend proposals submitted for exhibition in Studio 238.

For more information, contact the Harwood Museum of Art at 575.758.9826 x 109 or go to harwoodmuseum.org.