

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ArkansasArtsCenter.org

**DELTA 60 to premiere at Arkansas Arts Center**

*Film produced by Arts Center explores art of the region*

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** – DELTA 60, an Arkansas Arts Center original documentary film, is set to premiere at a special event on June 28.

The hour-long documentary explores the innovative work featured in the 60<sup>th</sup> *Annual Delta Exhibition* through the eyes of 10 Arkansas artists. Following these artists as they create work that addresses place, identity, representation and history, DELTA 60 proves the power of art to challenge its viewers – and its makers.

DELTA 60 will premiere at a Film Screening and 61<sup>st</sup> *Annual Delta Exhibition* Closing Party at the Arkansas Arts Center on Friday, June 28. The screening will be followed by a reception featuring music from the film performed live by Little Rock musician Isaac Alexander.

While the *Delta Exhibition* has been an important Arkansas Arts Center tradition for more than 60 years, DELTA 60 is the first documentary film to explore the exhibition in depth.

Every year, the *Annual Delta Exhibition* – which was founded in 1958 – offers a snapshot of the art being made in the Mississippi Delta region at that moment. For 61 years, the *Delta Exhibition* has offered a conversation about its time and place, with artists often reflecting on the landscape, people and history of the region.

DELTA 60, which was directed by by Arts Center Digital Media Producer Matthew Rowe and co-produced by Rowe and Director of Marketing and Communications Angel Galloway, seeks to offer a fresh perspective on the *Delta Exhibition*.

“When we began capturing individual artist stories during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary *Delta Exhibition* last year, we realized that these stories were really part of something bigger,” Galloway said. “While we only introduce you to 10 artists in this film, this exhibition has been shining a light on regional artists across the Delta for 61 years. This film is really a celebration of that history, and all those artists who shared their vision and voice with our community.”

DELTA 60 follows both emerging and established artists as they work, joining them in their studios, homes and on the road as they dive into their craft, motivation and vision. The artists featured in the film provide a unique lens through which to view the *Delta Exhibition*:

**Melissa Cowper-Smith** uses handmade paper as an active surface for reflections on what is remembered and what is forgotten.

**Neal Harrington’s** large-scale woodcuts create a sense of mythology and folklore tied to the Ozark region.

**Tammy Harrington** explores her Chinese heritage through intricately layered prints and cut paper works.

**Robyn Horn**'s wood sculptures articulate the tensions inherent in the natural world.

**Tim Hursley**, a photographer for world-famous architects, finds the beauty in the agricultural structures of rural Arkansas.

**Lisa Krannichfeld**'s female figures demand their space while rejecting easy interpretation.

**James Matthews** humanizes the overlooked places with quilts made from the things that are left behind.

**Dusty Mitchell** uses found objects to challenge the assumed relationship between an object and its viewer.

**Aj Smith** seeks to provide a window into the souls of his subjects with intimate portraits.

**Marjorie Williams-Smith** invites her viewer to take a closer look her metalpoint self-portraits – and at themselves.

“These artists are reacting to their environment and, in doing so, challenging the way we see the things we see all the time. Several of the artists profiled are concerned with nature and land. Others still are trying to understand its people and its culture,” Rowe said. “It is my hope that viewers will be able to watch each artist’s story and gain a better understanding of their own world.”

The DELTA 60 Film Screening and *61<sup>st</sup> Annual Delta Exhibition* Closing Party will be one of the final public events held in the Arts Center’s current MacArthur Park building. The Arts Center’s public spaces will close June 30, with construction on the reimagined Arkansas Arts Center to begin this fall.

“We are thrilled to be able to share this film with the community, especially at this exciting moment in the Arts Center’s history,” Interim Executive Director Laine Harber said. “The *Delta Exhibition* has been an incredibly important piece of the Arts Center’s history and development. DELTA 60 is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the *Delta Exhibition*’s role in nurturing the artistic spirit of the region.”

DELTA 60 is produced by Angel Galloway and Matthew Rowe with original music written by Isaac Alexander. DELTA 60 is sponsored by Anne and Merritt Dyke and the Philip R. Jonsson Foundation. In addition, this project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, visit [arkansasartscenter.org](http://arkansasartscenter.org) or call [501-372-4000](tel:501-372-4000).

**June 28, 2019**

**DELTA 60 Film Screening & 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Delta Exhibition Closing Party**

5:30 p.m. Wine Bar | 6 p.m. Film Screening | 7 p.m. Reception

Join us for the world premiere of DELTA 60, a documentary produced by the Arkansas Arts Center exploring the essential work featured in the *Annual Delta Exhibition* through the eyes of 10 Arkansas artists whose work appeared in the 60th anniversary exhibition in 2018. DELTA 60 proves the power of art to challenge its viewers – and its makers.

After the screening, join us for lite bites, drinks, and music from the film performed live by Isaac Alexander as we say goodbye to the *61st Annual Delta Exhibition* – closing June 30.

Tickets are \$10 or free for members of the Arkansas Arts Center and can be purchased at [arkansasartscenter.org/tickets](http://arkansasartscenter.org/tickets).

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Contact:** [501-372-4000](tel:501-372-4000)

**Location:** Arkansas Arts Center - 9<sup>th</sup> and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

**Cost:** Free Admission

**Gallery Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Closed Monday & Major Holidays

**Arkansas Arts Center programs are supported in part by: the City of Little Rock; the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau; the City of North Little Rock and the Arkansas Arts**