

# Henry

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dana Van Nest

[danavn@henryart.org](mailto:danavn@henryart.org)

(206) 616-9625 (not for publication)

### Demian DinéYazhi' receives the 2017 Brink Award

June 16, 2017

SEATTLE -- The Henry is delighted to announce Demian DinéYazhi' as the recipient of the 2017 Brink Award. Demian DinéYazhi' (b. 1983) is an Indigenous Diné transdisciplinary artist born to the clans Naasht'ézhí Tábaqahá (Zuni Clan Water's Edge) and Tódích'í'í'nii (Bitter Water). An artist and activist, DinéYazhi' has exhibited work nationally and internationally at art institutions and essential DIY alternative run spaces. He currently lives in Portland, OR.

The Brink Award was established with the generous support of longtime Henry benefactors and Seattle philanthropists John and Shari Behnke, and provides financial support and increased exposure from an internationally recognized arts institution, with the aim of fostering the artistic and professional development of emerging artists in the region. DinéYazhi' will receive a prize of \$12,500 and be given a solo exhibition at the Henry next spring. In addition, a publication will be produced and a work of art will be acquired for the museum's permanent collection.

This year, 81 qualified submissions were received from artists nominated by a group of arts professionals from across the Pacific Northwest. This group was chosen for their strong commitment to recognizing, promoting, and supporting emerging artists in the Cascadia region.

The 2017 jury was comprised of Roya Amirsoleymani, Director of Community Engagement for the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art; Amanda Donnan, curator of the University Art Galleries at Seattle University; Charlene Vickers, an Anishnabe artist living and working in Vancouver, B.C.; and Nina Bozicnik, Associate Curator at the Henry. The jurors conducted studio visits with the seven finalists in early June.

Of their decision to award the Brink to DinéYazhi', the jury says, "We are compelled by the way Demian complicates dominant queer narratives and understandings of indigeneity. Through a multi-modal practice, he enacts an ethics of mutuality and reciprocity, and pursues the decolonization of body and land. In the studio and in conversation with Demian, we observed that these ideas are moving in promising new directions."

DinéYazhi''s work is rooted in a reverence for traditional Diné cultural practices and social formations, and also a desire to give voice to a contemporary Indigeneity that challenges Western archetypes and notions of authenticity.

#### HENRY ART GALLERY

University of Washington  
15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE + NE 41<sup>st</sup> St  
Box 351410  
Seattle, WA 98195-1410  
(206) 543 2280  
[henryart.org](http://henryart.org)

He uses conceptual strategies inclusive of image and text to talk truth to power, and to reclaim sovereignty from the white heteronormative patriarchy. Working across formats, from zines to exhibitions, and often in collaboration with others, DinéYazhi' is also founder of R.I.S.E.: Radical Indigenous Survivance & Empowerment, an Indigenous operated artist/activist/warrior initiative dedicated to the education, dissemination, and evolution of Indigenous art and culture. DinéYazhi' received a BFA from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2014.

The Brink is in its fifth biennial cycle. In 2009, The Brink was awarded to Isabelle Pauwels, Vancouver, B.C.; in 2011, to Andrew Dadson, Vancouver, B.C.; in 2013, to Anne Fenton, Seattle, WA; and in 2015 to Jason Hirata, Seattle, WA and New York, NY.

The Brink Award complements the Henry's role as a catalyst for the exhibition and creation of contemporary art, while simultaneously demonstrating the museum's commitment to artists working in our region.

## ABOUT THE HENRY

A museum of contemporary art and ideas, Henry Art Gallery presents exhibitions by a multi-national roster of emerging and mid-career artists. Known for taking risks and for allowing space for uncertain outcome, we anticipate the conversations and opinions that will be important and relevant in the field.

### HOURS & ADMISSION

The Henry is open 11-4 on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and 11-9 on Thursdays. We are closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Every Sunday, admission is free.

\$10 general, \$6 seniors (62 and older); free to Henry members, UW students, faculty and staff; students, and children.

### CONTACTS

Information: (206) 543-2280

General Email: [info@henryart.org](mailto:info@henryart.org)

#### Media Contact:

Dana Van Nest

Associate Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations

(206) 616 9625

[danavn@henryart.org](mailto:danavn@henryart.org) (Not for publication)

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