

THE ASPEN ART FAIR | at the historic Hotel Jerome

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Aspen Art Fair Names 2025 Art Prize Program Recipients

**Bethany Collins (PATRON) and Ana González (Sean Kelly) awarded
Anderson Ranch Arts Center Visiting Artist Prize**

Piper Bangs (Megan Mulrooney) awarded the inaugural Mack Art Foundation Prize

Caroline Kent (PATRON) awarded The Pardon Prize

**James Surls (Skye Gallery Aspen) awarded the
Buckhorn Public Arts / DanceAspen Set Design Award**



L to R: Piper Bangs, courtesy Megan Mulrooney; Ana González, courtesy Sean Kelly; Bethany Collins, courtesy PATRON; James Surls, courtesy Skye Gallery Aspen; Caroline Kent, photo Milo Bosh, courtesy PATRON,

(Aspen, CO.) July 31, 2025 – In partnership with Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Buckhorn Public Arts / Dance Aspen, The Pardon Collection, and Mack Art Foundation, The Aspen Art Fair announced today the winners of its expanded 2025 Art Prize Program reinforcing its commitment to supporting artists and their practices.

Five visionary artists have been recognized with prestigious awards for their contributions to contemporary art. **Bethany Collins**, represented by PATRON, and **Ana González**, represented by Sean Kelly, have each been awarded the 2025 Anderson Ranch Arts Center Visiting Artist Prize. **Piper Bangs**, represented by Megan Mulrooney, is the recipient of the 2026 Artist-in-Residency Prize from the Mack Art Foundation. **Caroline Kent**, also represented by PATRON, has been honored with the 2025 Pardon Prize from the Pardon Collection. **James Surls** is the recipient of the Buckhorn Public Arts / Dance Aspen Set Design Award.

“We established the Art Prize Program to recognize outstanding artistic talent and support creators who are pushing boundaries in their practice,” said **Bob Chase**, The Aspen Art Fair Co-founder. “This initiative provides artists with meaningful opportunities to develop new work in immersive settings while engaging with leading arts organizations. We’re proud to partner with Anderson Ranch Arts Center, The Pardon Collection, and Mack Art Foundation to help foster the next wave of innovation and dialogue in contemporary art.”

“The 2025 edition of the Aspen Art Fair marked a significant evolution, doubling in size while maintaining the curated, high-caliber experience that defines our vision,” said **Becca Hoffman**, The Aspen Art Fair Co-founder and Director. “We are deeply grateful to our partners, whose support has been instrumental in allowing us to champion emerging and established artists alike, while growing the fair in thoughtful and meaningful ways. Their collaboration is essential to shaping Aspen into a vital destination on the global art calendar.”

Anderson Ranch Arts Center Visiting Artist Prize

This year two artists Bethany Collins represented by PATRON and Ana González presented by Sean Kelly have been awarded the The Aspen Art Fair’s Anderson Ranch Arts Center Visiting Artist Prize. This prestigious honor grants each artist a one-week residency at the Ranch in Snowmass, where they will have access to studios across various disciplines including painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, and more. Collins and González join a distinguished list of past visiting artists at the Ranch, such as **Catherine Opie, Theaster Gates, Julie Mehretu, Mickalene Thomas, Tom Sachs, Kenny Scharf, and Ed Ruscha.**



(L) Ana González, *ZUE 1/ (PALMA)*, 2025, sublimation printing on roughened tarp, 58 1/8 x 58 3/4 inches (147.6 x 149.2 cm), image courtesy Sean Kelly. (R) Bethany Collins, *The Aeneid: 1971 / 1697*, 2022, Ink on handmade paper with Black Magic eraser in 2 parts, Photo credit, Evan Jenkins. Image courtesy of the artist and PATRON.

Bethany Collins is a Chicago-based artist whose conceptually driven practice explores the intersection of language, racial identity, and American history. Through acts of transcription, erasure, and recontextualization of historical texts, Collins reveals the instability and layered meanings of language over time. Her multimedia works—spanning drawing, sculpture, and installation—uncover the personal and political weight embedded in texts ranging from ancient epics to post-apocalyptic literature and American hymnals.

Ana González is a Colombian artist whose multidisciplinary practice—spanning painting, photography, sculpture, and textile—honors the ecological and cultural landscapes of her homeland. Her work reflects a deep collaboration with Indigenous communities and draws inspiration from naturalist Alexander von Humboldt to explore the interconnectedness of living systems. Through projects like *Devastations*, González weaves together environmental advocacy, historical memory, and sensory richness to preserve endangered ecosystems as sites of resilience and renewal.

“Bethany Collins and Ana González were chosen as recipients of the Anderson Ranch Arts Center Visiting Artist Prize because their work exemplifies the spirit of inquiry, experimentation, and deep engagement that defines our community,” said Andrea Jenkins Wallace, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Vice President of Artistic Affairs. “Bethany’s exploration of language, history, and identity and Ana’s interdisciplinary approach to storytelling push boundaries in ways that resonate deeply with the Ranch’s mission. Both artists reflect our commitment to supporting voices that challenge, expand, and enrich the contemporary art landscape.”



Piper Bangs, *Study for Guttation*, (2025), Watercolor on Arches paper, 17 3/4 x 14 in | 45.1. x 35.6 cm (framed), copyright the artist, courtesy of Megan Mulrooney.

The Mack Art Foundation

The newly-established Mack Art Foundation Prize has been awarded to Piper Bangs.

“The Mack Art Foundation is proud to award the 2026 Artist-in-Residency Prize to **Piper Bangs**, a rising artist whose work is marked by rich historical references and striking originality,” said Mack Art Foundation Founder, Christine Mack. “Her paintings, filled with fantastical fruit, lush florals, and flowing fabric draw from the Dutch Golden Age, French Rococo, and the intimacy of Renoir, yet feel entirely contemporary. Through this dynamic interplay of past and present, Piper has developed a singular visual language that is unmistakably her own. Piper has never lived or worked in New York, and this residency comes at a formative moment in her career. Immersing herself in the city’s vibrant energy and visual complexity will offer new perspectives and possibilities for her evolving practice. She checks every box we look for in a resident: original, technically skilled, and ready to grow. We’re thrilled to support Piper as she enters this exciting new chapter, and Megan Mulrooney is a promising new gallery that opened in 2024.”

Brian Donnelly, also known as KAWS, serves on the Mack Art Foundation’s advisory board and was at the Aspen Art Fair, where he enthusiastically approved Piper Bangs as this year’s Residency Prize recipient.

Piper Bangs is a Los Angeles-based painter whose work explores personal narrative through expressive, often figurative compositions. A recent graduate of the Laguna College of Art and Design, she has exhibited widely across the U.S., with solo shows at The Watermill Center and group exhibitions at venues including Rachel Uffner Gallery, The Pit, and Nino Mier Gallery. Represented by Megan Mulrooney, Bangs was recently an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center and continues to build a dynamic practice rooted in both technical skill and emotional resonance.



Caroline Kent, *His performance every evening was one of drink and shadow* (2025), acrylic on Belgian linen, walnut.
14 x 17 ½" | 35.6 x 44.5 x 3.8 cm, photo by Ian Vecchiotti, courtesy of the artist and PATRON Gallery, Chicago.

The Pardon Prize

Caroline Kent, represented by PATRON Gallery in Chicago is the recipient of The Aspen Art Fair's 2025 Pardon Prize. an initiative by the Pardon Collection that honors artists making significant contributions to contemporary art.

Recognized for the work *His performance every evening was one of drink and shadow* (2025), this year's selection recognizes Kent's engagement with abstraction as a form of speculative language.

Beginning with an archive of hand-cut paper shapes, Kent challenges the limits of communication and explores the ways spatial imagery is felt and implied. These 'building blocks' expand into paintings and sculptural forms that are both playful and poetic. Her work is contemplative and invites us to consider the quiet spaces that shape form and its meaning.



James Surls, *In Hand* 1991, 49 x 39 in, Linocut on Okawara paper, Courtesy Skye Gallery.

Buckhorn Public Arts / DanceAspen Set Design Award

James Surls has been awarded the **Buckhorn Public Arts / DanceAspen Set Design Award**. Surls will be commissioned to make a new, large-scale, public artwork to be installed in the heart of downtown Aspen.

Surls is an internationally celebrated artist and a Carbondale, Colorado local. His sculptures, drawings, and prints reflect his masterful artistic sensibilities combined with his deep relationships with natural forms. Surls considers himself a “being of the woods” and believes that every tree has a spirit that lives within it. In Surl’s practice, disembodied eyes and dreamlike, figurative forms allude to the subconscious and the artist’s beginnings in Neo-Surrealism. Surls’ works are in major art museums and public and private collections throughout the world, including: the the Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City; The country of Singapore; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Smithsonian American Art Museum, DC; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY.

James Surls, is a local legend and one of the true great artists in this valley,” said Chase. “His work is showing at the fair with Aspen’s youngest and most earnest art dealer, Skye Weinglass, whose nomadic gallery now migrates between Aspen and New York. We are delighted that his work will be part of Buckhorn Public Arts/Dance Aspen’s exciting, new public art project in Aspen.”

The Aspen Art Fair 2025 exhibitors include:

193 Gallery (Paris, France; Venice, Italy; Saint-Tropez, France)
Alexandre Gallery (New York, NY)
Anat Ebgi Gallery (New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA)
Anderson Ranch Arts Center (Aspen, CO)
Cadogan Gallery (London, UK; Milan, Italy)

Carlye Packer (Los Angeles, CA)
Casterline | Goodman Gallery (Aspen, CO; Santa Fe, NM)
Charlie James Gallery (Los Angeles, CA)
Cromwell Art (New York, NY)
El Apartamento (Havana, Cuba; Madrid, Spain)

Fernberger Gallery (Los Angeles, CA)
Friedrichs Pontone (New York, NY)
Galerie Gmurzynska (New York, NY;
Zürich, Switzerland)
Galerie Maximillian (Aspen, CO)
Galleri Urbane (Dallas, TX)
Harper's Gallery (New York, NY; East
Hampton, NY)
Harvey Preston Gallery (Aspen, CO)
Hexton Gallery (Aspen, CO)
Ippodo Gallery (New York, NY; Tokyo,
Japan)
IRL Gallery (New York, NY)
James Barron Art (Kent, CT)
K Contemporary (Denver, CO)
La Loma (Los Angeles, CA)
Luce Gallery (Torino, Italy)
Marianne Boesky Gallery (New York, NY;
Aspen, CO)
Megan Mulrooney (Los Angeles, CA)
Miles McEnery (New York, NY)
Nancy Hoffman Gallery (New York, NY)
Palo Gallery (New York, NY)
PATRON (Chicago, IL)
Perrotin (New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA;
Paris, France; London, UK; Dubai, UAE;

Seoul, Korea; Shanghai, China; Hong Kong,
China; and Tokyo, Japan)
Praise Shadows (Brookline, MA)
Ronchini (London, UK)
RYAN LEE (New York, NY)
Sean Kelly (New York, NY; Los Angeles,
CA)
Secci (Milan and Pietrasanta, Italy)
Skye Gallery (Aspen, CO. and New York,
NY)
Southern Guild (Cape Town, South Africa;
Los Angeles, CA)
TASCHEN (Beverly Hills, CA; Hollywood,
CA; Miami, FL; Milan, Italy; Berlin,
Germany; Brussels, Belgium; Cologne,
Germany; Hong Kong, Tokyo; London, UK;
Madrid, Spain; Paris, France)
Timothy Yarger Fine Art (Los Angeles,
CA)
The Sunday Painter (London, UK)
The Spaceless Gallery (Paris, France)
Tristan Hoare (London, UK)
Vielmetter Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)

Cultural Partners: Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen Chamber Resort Association, Aspen Film, Biennial of the Americas, Buckhorn Public Arts, DanceAspen, Mack Art Foundation, Resnick Center for Herbert Bayer Studies.

Sponsors: Bank of America, Buccellati, CCY Architects, Christie's, Cohart, Dry Farm Wines, East West Bank, MTArt Agency, Pardon, Private Client Select, Sotheby's International Realty, The Fine Art Group, and WTW | Willis.

Media Partners: Apollo, Art & Object, Artnet, Aspen Daily News, California Home + Design, Canvas, *CULTURED* Magazine, *frieze* magazine, Galerie, and The Baer Faxt.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit: <https://www.aspenartfair.org>

About The Aspen Art Fair

The Aspen Art Fair, the art, design, luxury, travel, and hospitality takeover set against Aspen's stunning backdrop will return to the historic Hotel Jerome from July 29-August 2, 2025 kicking off Aspen Art Week.

Its second edition brings together international exhibitors and specially-curated projects with a global network of art dealers, collectors, and enthusiasts for a boutique and bespoke fair experience that sets itself apart at a MICHELIN Key-rated hotel – the landmark, Hotel Jerome, one of the most outstanding hotels in the U.S. The fair is committed to creating a dynamic and engaging environment with international and local representation, and to contributing to the

cultural fabric and relevance of the city and its community with year-round, cross-disciplinary programming in partnership with Aspen's world class organizations.

The Aspen Art Fair is co-founded by fair director Becca Hoffman – also the founder of arts organization 74th Arts, which includes the fair as part of a larger global series of nomadic pop up art, design, lifestyle and cultural convenings in key cities around the world, and Bob Chase of Aspen's Hexton Gallery.

The Aspen Art Fair

Location

[Hotel Jerome](#), 330 E Main St, Aspen, CO 81611

Fair Hours

Opening Reception, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, 3-5pm
Wednesday, July 30, 2025, 12pm - 6pm
Thursday, July 31, 2025, 12pm - 6pm
Friday, August 1, 2025, 12pm - 6pm
Saturday, August 2, 2025, 11am - 4pm

Tickets

[VIP | \\$200](#)

[Run of Show \(Tues – Fri\) 4-day pass | \\$100](#)

[Day Pass | \\$35](#)

Website

www.aspenartfair.org

www.74tharts.com

Social Media

Instagram: [@aspenartfair_org](#)

Instagram: [@74tharts](#)

Instagram: [@hoteljeromeauberge](#)

[#theaspenartfair](#)

The Aspen Art Fair Press Office

Lyn Winter, Inc. - aspenartfair@lynwinter.com

[**DOWNLOAD PRESS KIT AND IMAGES HERE**](#)

ENDS