FACES from the INTERIOR
The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer

Opens October 2 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – During the early 1830s, a dynamic network of Native American nations—largely unknown to non-Native people beyond trappers and traders—inhabited the Upper Plains region of North America. The Swiss draftsman Karl Bodmer (1809–1893) was one of the first European artist-observers to create a visual record of these communities' leaders, lifeways, and homelands. Hired by the German naturalist Maximilian, Prince of Wied-Neuwied, Bodmer accompanied a scientific expedition from Saint Louis to the northwestern reaches of the Missouri River, a round trip of nearly five thousand miles, between April 1833 and May 1834. Intending to reveal what Maximilian called “the natural face of North America,” Bodmer produced numerous portraits of Indigenous people that record the lives of specific individuals. They also evidence the complexity of cultural encounters at a time when

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Euro-American settler colonization introduced disease, depleted natural resources, and led to the forcible removal of Indigenous people from their homelands.

*Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer*, on view October 2, 2021–May 1, 2022 at Joslyn, features over sixty recently conserved watercolors, drawn entirely from Joslyn's renowned Maximilian-Bodmer collection. This includes portraits of individuals from the Omaha, Ponca, Yankton, Lakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Assiniboine, and Blackfoot nations, among the many encountered by the travelers. A selection of Bodmer’s Missouri River landscapes and field sketches, as well as portraits made by the Mandan man Sih-Chidä (Yellow Feather) and prominent Mandan chief Mató-Tópe (Four Bears), reveal the dynamic cultural exchanges that characterized artistic production of this era. Bodmer’s acute sensitivity of observation and his subtle, refined brushwork provide an unparalleled level of detail that make these portraits particularly captivating. These details matter; every beaded design, carefully arranged feather, and painted robe carries meaning and tells a story. Indigenous knowledge bearers, artists, and scholars from the nations that Bodmer and Maximilian visited have contributed texts for this exhibition that highlight the diverse histories, beliefs, and practices embodied in the portraits.

*Faces from the Interior* additionally premieres four short films—contemporary portraits that testify to the enduring power of Bodmer's images. Personal stories shared in these films illuminate generations of Indigenous teachings that bridge historical and contemporary featherwork and beadwork, dancing, tribal histories, and traditional ecological knowledge. Joslyn Art Museum gratefully acknowledges the participation and generosity of exhibition contributors and film participants.

Exhibition text contributors include:

- Gerard Baker, Yellow Wolf, Mandan/Hidatsa, Assistant Director, American Indian Relations, National Park Service (retired)
- Aaron Bird Bear, Mandan Hidatsa and Diné; citizen of Three Affiliated Tribes, Tribal Relations Director, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Abaki Beck, Blackfeet and Red River Métis, Writer and public health practitioner
- Gabriel Bruguier, Ph.D., Yankton Sioux Tribe, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Mid-America Transportation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Dakota Hoska, Oglála Lakȟota, Pine Ridge, Wounded Knee, Assistant Curator of Native Arts, Denver Art Museum
- Frank Buffalo Hyde, Onondaga Nation, Beaver Clan, Artist
- David S. Christensen, Mandan/Hidatsa, Grandchild of Mató-Tópe
- Judi Gaiashkibos, Ponca Tribal Member, Descendent of Schuh-De-Gá-Che (Smokemaker)
- Nancy Gillis, Eastern Cherokee and Choctaw descent, Independent historian and retired instructor of Native Studies; Former Executive Director, John G. Niehardt Historic Site
- Jessa Rae Growing Thunder, Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe), Traditional artist, beadwork/quillwork art historian
- Joe D. Horse Capture, A’aniih, Vice President of Native Collections and the Ahmanson Curator of Native American History and Culture, Autry Museum of the American West
- Dwight Howe, Cultural Guidance Counselor, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- Zig Jackson, Buffalo Getting up in the Grass (Rising Buffalo), Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara, Professor Fine Arts, Photography, Savannah College of Art & Design
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- **Wynema Morris**, Omaha Tribal Member, Adjunct Professor of Native American Studies, Nebraska Indian Community College
- **Beth Piatoe**, Nez Perce, Author of *The Beadworkers: Stories*
- **Xavier Webster**, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Umōhō Nation Public Schools student (mobile tour only)

Film participants include:

- Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa)
- Michael Bartholemy (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation)
- Justin Deegan (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation) *Director of film about the Manda, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation*
- Barbara McKillip Erixson (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska)
- Jessa Rae Growing Thunder (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe)
- Joyce Growing Thunder (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe)
- Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe)
- Tracy Mitchell (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska)
- Lani Moran-Samqua (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Rosebud Sioux)
- Wynema Morris (Omaha Tribal Member)
- Izzy Tamayo (Lakota)
- Steve Tamayo (Sicangu Lakota)
- Up Stream Singers (singing and drum group)
- Jennifer YoungBear (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation)


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Exhibition Tickets, Hours, & Visitor Information

*Faces from the Interior* is a ticketed exhibition: $10 for general public adults; $5 college students with ID; free for members and youth ages 17 and younger. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition.

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Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer

Faces from the Interior is open during all regular Museum hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm; extended hours (10 am to 8 pm) on Fridays, November 5 and December 3.

For the most current general information for visitors, see https://bit.ly/JoslynVisitorInfo
Join the conversation at #bodmerportraits

Exhibition Self-Guided Tour

Enhance your exhibition experience with the Faces from the Interior bilingual digital tours; transcript available in the website options. Some mobile tour stops include generous insights provided by Indigenous knowledge bearers and descendants of the communities visited by Karl Bodmer.

Mobile Tour: in person, using your mobile device
- English phone number (402) 881-3601
- joslyn.org > Mobile Tours
- Spanish tour coming in November!

Virtual Tour: from afar, using your computer – joslyn.org > Education > Multimedia

Free Wi-Fi is available in all Joslyn galleries. Presented by Joslyn and OnCell. Special thanks to 91.5 KIOS-FM.

Exhibition Catalogue

The Maximilian-Bodmer Collection has been a cornerstone of Joslyn Art Museum for more than four decades. The Museum is proud to announce a new publication drawn from the collection—Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer. The first book to focus on Bodmer as a portraitist, it provides new perspectives on Euro-American encounters with nineteenth-century Indigenous communities in the American West. The catalogue includes essays examining Bodmer’s artistic practice within the context of nineteenth-century ethnography; the international dissemination of his images; and the ongoing significance of his work to Indigenous communities. Over fifty watercolor portraits are reproduced, accompanied by a selection of the artist’s landscapes and renderings of camp and ceremonial sites.

Generous support for this historic volume comes from Mary and Joe Daugherty. Additional support granted by Susan and Michael Lebens, Barbara and Ronald Schaefer, and the Wyeth Foundation for American Art.

Faces from the Interior is edited by Toby Jurovics, Joslyn’s former chief curator and Richard and Mary Holland Curator of Western American Art, with a foreword by Jack Becker, Ph.D., Joslyn’s executive director & CEO. Contributors include Marsha V. Gallagher, editor of The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied and Joslyn’s former chief curator, and leading academic and museum scholars Scott Manning Stevens (Akwesasne Mohawk Nation), Lisa Strong, and Kristine K. Ronan. Annika K. Johnson, Ph.D., Joslyn’s associate curator of Native American art, presents an essay drawn from her interview with Gerard Baker of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. Available in Joslyn’s Hitchcock Museum Shop: $44.95 hardcover; member discounts apply.

New Permanent Collection Installation: Indigenous Matriarchy

Opening in November in the balcony gallery, an installation curated by Joslyn intern Alexandria Walker examines Indigenous matriarchy beyond the stereotypical images of the “Indian Princess” and “squaw.” Indigenous women are often shrouded from the public eye. Yet, prior to colonization, many tribal nations were matrilineal societies and led by Indigenous women. A selection of historical and contemporary artworks shows how today, we honor our Indigenous women for their artistic abilities, knowledge, and leadership in Indian Country.

Alexandria Walker is a citizen of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska Omaha in Creative Nonfiction and Native American Studies. She works with the Great Plains Action Society to advocate for the rights of nature, missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, and decolonization. Walker’s internship is sponsored by the American Association of Museum Directors.
**Exhibition Programs & Events**

For the safety of all visitors and in accordance with CDC Health recommendations, event logistics are subject to change.

**Friday, October 1 @ 5–8 pm (talk @ 6 pm)**

**Members Preview**

Joslyn members will enjoy a preview of the exhibition in the galleries and a talk by Annika K. Johnson, Ph.D., Joslyn’s associate curator of Native American art. The Hitchcock Museum Shop and ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity will be open during this event. Joslyn members received invitations with registration instructions. To join Joslyn, visit joslyn.org. **Masks are required for this event.**

**Monday, October 4 @ Noon–3 pm (gallery talks @ 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm)**

**Members Day**

Joslyn members can enjoy *Faces from the Interior* when the Museum is normally closed to the public! Annika K. Johnson, Ph.D., Joslyn’s associate curator of Native American art, will conduct gallery talks at 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm (the exhibition galleries can accommodate up to thirty people for each talk, first come, first served). The Hitchcock Museum Shop will be open during this event. Joslyn members received invitations with attendance instructions. To join Joslyn, visit joslyn.org.

Exhibition-inspired portrait drawing classes are offered for kids, teens, and adults. Visit joslyn.org>Education>Classes.

Docent-guided public tours of the exhibition are offered on selected Saturdays and Sundays at 1 pm. For scheduled tours, visit joslyn.org>Visit>Calendar of Events.

**Wednesday, November 10 @ 10:30 am**


Participants will meet at the Museum to discuss the book and discover connections to the exhibition *Faces from the Interior*. *Visualizing Literature* explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and virtual tours led by Joslyn docents.

*Visualizing Literature* is free to Joslyn members; $10 for general public. Space is limited; advance reservations are required at joslyn.org. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is available for purchase through Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum shop: $18 softcover; member discounts apply.

**Friday, December 3 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)**

**Curator Gallery Talk**

Free program with exhibition ticket.

Join Annika K. Johnson, Ph.D., associate curator of Native American art, for a look at the exhibition *Faces from the Interior*. She will discuss the significance of the exhibition while considering key works on view as well as filmed interviews and written texts contributed by Indigenous elders and knowledge bearers.

**Note:** The exhibition galleries can accommodate up to thirty people for this talk, first come, first served. A second group will be formed, as needed, for a repeat of the talk at 7:15 pm.

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Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum’s original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free

Special Exhibition Admission: Additional charge for Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer tickets for general public adults ($10) and college students ($5). Exhibition tickets for members and youth are free.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; extended hours (10 am to 8 pm) on the first Friday of each month (excluding October 1, 2021); closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays.

Masks are strongly encouraged for all visitors. Masks are required for all visitors ages 5+ who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19. Masks must be worn by all visitors, regardless of vaccination status, in selected areas within the Museum, such as ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity. These requirements are indicated with signage. Thank you for your cooperation. Visit https://bit.ly/JoslynVisitorInfo for complete details.

www.joslyn.org  |  (402) 342–3300  |  2200 Dodge Street  |  Omaha, NE 68102