



PRESS RELEASE

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CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Alien Invasion: RAM Virtual Community Art Show

Racine, WI April 15, 2021

Racine Art Museum (RAM) and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts in Racine, Wisconsin invite artists across the globe to submit a digital entry to *Alien Invasion: RAM Virtual Community Art*—the museums' second-ever virtual exhibition. Existing online at ramart.org and accessible via tablets in the galleries, this exhibition will officially run from July 21, 2021 through January 22, 2022.

Alien is one of those English words that has multiple meanings. Primary definitions include things that belong to a foreign country or nation; something unfamiliar or disturbing; plants or animals that were introduced to a new environment and naturalized; and beings from other worlds. In a contemporary context, with social and cultural concerns so present in conversation, the ideas associated with the word alien are especially layered and complex.

The upcoming RAM exhibition, *Alien Invasion: (Un)Familiar Forms in Contemporary Art*—a physical counterpart to the RAM Virtual Community Art Show—will feature objects and images from the museum's permanent collection that are both fantastical and familiar. The contemporary artists whose works will be featured—many of whom use the natural world as inspiration—do not shy away from the oversized, dramatic, or intriguing.

Entry to the RAM Virtual Community Art Show is free and open to artists of all ages.

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Makers are invited to submit innovative and imaginative work that explores the concept of intrusion. Artists may choose to invent imaginary plants, animals, and creatures using a wide variety of materials, or take the theme more literally, and include whatever fits their understanding of the word alien.

All work submitted—one entry per person—must have been made after January 1, 2019 and must not have been previously exhibited at RAM or RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts.

Further information and a form to submit an entry are available on the RAM website, ramart.org. High-quality images of work must be submitted on the museum website by Monday, June 28, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

Exhibitions at Racine Art Museum are made possible by: Platinum Sponsors—Anonymous, Nicholas and Nancy Kurten, Wingate Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Administration; Diamond Sponsors—Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors—Anonymous, David Charak, Tom and Irene Creecy, David Flegel, Herzfeld Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, Kathy Robins, Trio Foundation of St. Louis, W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; Silver Sponsors—A.C. Buhler Family, Andis Foundation, Lucy G. Feller, Ben and Dawn Flegel, Ron and Judith Isascs, Johnson Financial Group, Bill Keland, Dorothy MacVicar, RDK Foundation, Inc., Real Racine, Twin Disc, Inc.; Bronze Sponsors—Anonymous, Susan Boland, Virginia Buhler, Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Educators Credit Union, Fredrick and Deborah Ganaway, Tom and Sharon Harty, Andrea and Tony Hauser, The Norbell Foundation, Bill and Mary Walker; Media Sponsor—Wisconsin Public Radio.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture, and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

After temporarily closing its doors in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, RAM and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts are currently open to the public. Both museums are operating with limited hours, open Wednesday through Saturday from Noon to 4:00 pm. Information regarding safety protocols and what to expect when visiting the museums are available on the RAM website, ramart.org.