

14
FEB

RECEPTION

OSU MUSEUM OF ART

5 – 7 p.m.

Featuring *50 States: Oklahoma* Performance

PERFORMANCES

50 STATES: OKLAHOMA, COLORADO, TEXAS, AND WYOMING

Performative, multi-media artist lectures will explore the connections between little-known regional LGBTQIA+ histories and contemporary experiences in Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and Wyoming. These performances will introduce the themes of each individual state installation, and inspire unique opportunities to engage with the art on view.

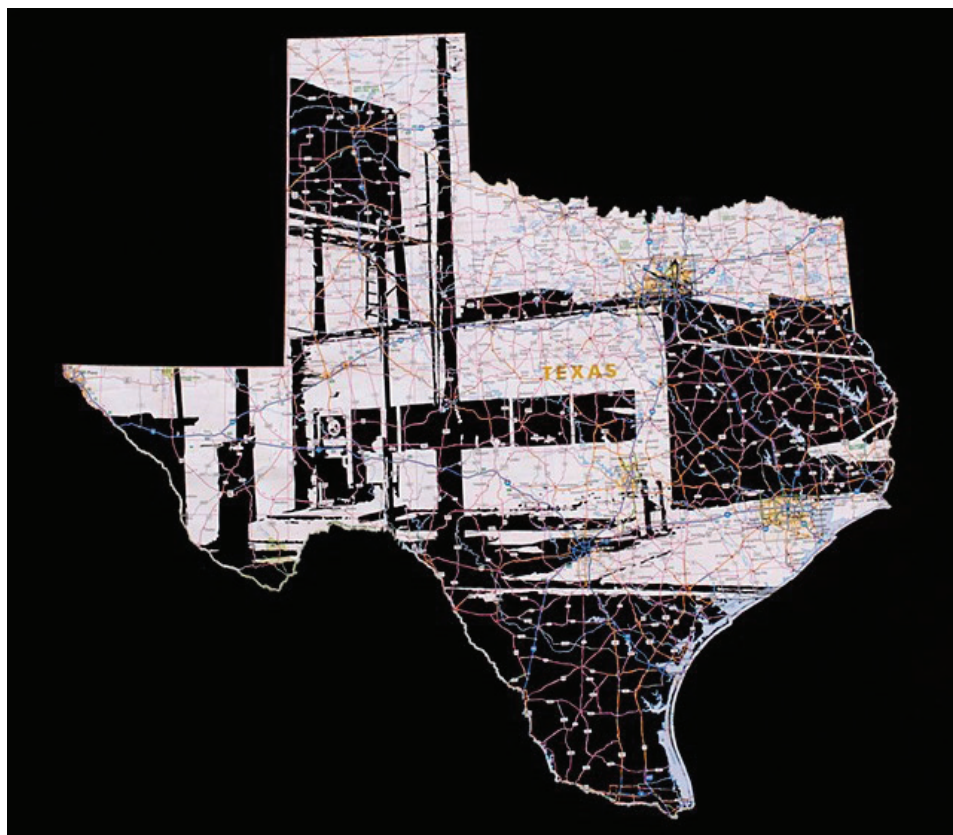
Oklahoma: February 14, 6 p.m., OSU Museum of Art

Texas: March 26, 6 p.m., University of Central Oklahoma Melton Gallery

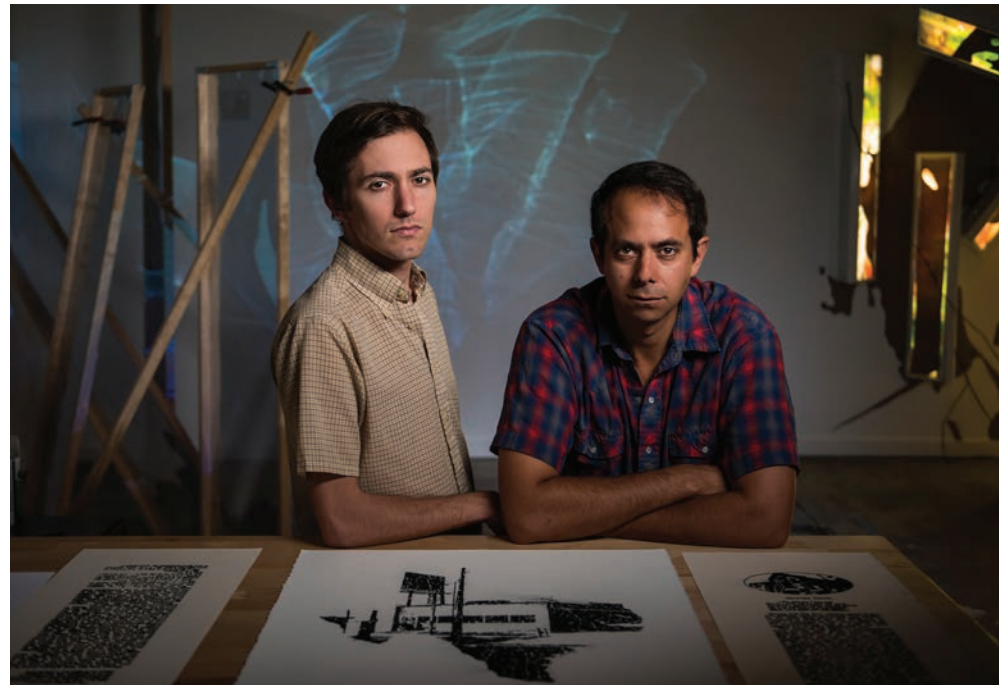
Colorado: March 27, 6 p.m., Living Arts, Tulsa

Wyoming: March 30, 7:30 p.m., Lake Carl Blackwell in Stillwater

For further details about performances and events, visit museum.okstate.edu or contact Casey Pankey: 405.744.2781 or casey.pankey@okstate.edu.



Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin, *Mary's Naturally*, 2015, hand-cut found road map, 24 x 24 inches. Courtesy the artists.



Artists Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin. Photo by Jeremy Charles.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NICK VAUGHAN AND JAKE MARGOLIN

Based in Houston, Texas, married couple Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin have had solo exhibitions at Devin Borden Gallery, Art League Houston and Aurora Picture Show. The artists have also presented their work in non-traditional venues such as community college campuses, libraries and LGBTQIA+ bars—reaching audiences that may have limited opportunities to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. The artists are currently developing *50 States: Arkansas*, which will debut March 2019 at The Invisible Dog in Brooklyn, New York.



This project is provided in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

Additional funding comes from Malinda and Dick Fischer, Mary Ann and Ken Ferguson, the OSU Museum of Art Advocates, the Raymond & Bessie Kravis Foundation, and the OSU Museum of Art Founding Patrons and Charter Members.



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50 STATES

OKLAHOMA, COLORADO,
TEXAS, AND WYOMING

FEBRUARY 12 – JUNE 29, 2019

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Interdisciplinary artists Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin explore the connections between LGBTQIA+ histories and contemporary experiences in the United States. *50 States* is an ongoing series of installations made in response to little-known LGBTQIA+ histories from each state predating the 1969 Stonewall riot that launched the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement. This multi-decade endeavor engages critically with perceptions of history and community in a time where our culture's views of gender and sexuality progress at an astonishing pace while provoking deeply troubling social and legislative backlashes. Their research draws from recent groundbreaking academic work, the artists' archival research and significant time spent learning from and collaborating with local LGBTQIA+ community members.

In addition to their installations, the artists create intricately hand-cut works on paper in which they layer LGBTQIA+ imagery over found road maps then selectively cut away the "land" to reveal a delicate system of roads and waterways beneath. Inspired by anatomical drawings of the human vascular system, the cut maps assert that the iconography of the LGBTQIA+ community has a deep, corporeal connection to the nation's geographies.

Oklahoma explores daily life of the vibrant LGBTQIA+ community of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, through video. It is inspired by a pioneering, experimental documentary about Santa Fe by the gay, Cherokee playwright Lynn Riggs. An Oklahoma native, Riggs is better known for his 1930 play *Green Grow the Lilacs*, which inspired Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical and film *Oklahoma!*.

Colorado pays tribute to an incident of gender variance in Trinidad, Colorado. It focuses on the life of Charles "Frenchy" Vosbaugh, a transgender resident of the coal-mining town in the 1880s. This unsung pioneer's complex story is digitally captured and celebrated through the eyes of transgender and gender-nonconforming writers and activists in five U.S. cities.

Texas recognizes an early example of LGBTQIA+ literature by a Texas doctor. *Norma Trist, or Pure Carbon: a Story of the Inversion of the Sexes* (1895) features one of the first unambiguously lesbian protagonists in American fiction as well as progressive defenses of same-sex desire. This installation presents the complete text of *Norma Trist*, stenciled in powdered graphite. Accompanying images of former sites of gay and lesbian bars across the state of Texas comment on the erasure of LGBTQIA+ spaces.

Wyoming remembers an extraordinary cross-country excursion culminating in a six-week party in 1843. A homosexual Scottish lord-turned-fur-trader and his Cree/French-Canadian lover, a celebrated hunter, trekked 1,200 miles from St. Louis to a remote, Wyoming lake in the company of 100 like-minded men. There they threw a six-week bacchanal replete with liquor and Renaissance costumes. Artists Vaughan and Margolin have retraced the journey, making a video and sculptural record from the route.



Artists Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin. Photo by Andres Alcoser.

WORKSHOPS + EVENTS

Led by artists Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin

LUNCH + LEARN

February 12, OSU Museum of Art, 12 to 1 p.m.

The artists will discuss their ongoing *50 States* project. Attendees may bring their own lunch.

STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATIVE CREATION OF HISTORICALLY-BASED WORK

March 28, OSU Museum of Art, 4 to 7 p.m.

Attendees will explore methods of creating collaborative works inspired by historical research or identity politics. With ten years' experience of collaboration with other artists, activists, and community members, Vaughan and Margolin will discuss ethical concerns on creating community-based work and engaging with histories that may be controversial, contested, or veiled in mystery. A variety of fun, interactive activities will challenge groups to brainstorm and propose interdisciplinary art projects derived from source materials.

IDENTITY, COMMUNITY AND PRACTICE: MAKING WORK THAT IS ABOUT SOMETHING

March 29, OSU Museum of Art, 1 to 4 p.m.

Discover the possibilities of integrating identity into the personal practice of art making. The artists will share their evolution of creating identity-based work and insight on creating art that is meaningful to a broad range of society. The workshop will analyze examples of community-based work, provide a framework for creating community-based projects, and consider the emerging field of community-based social practice.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

All events at the OSU Museum of Art are free and open to the public. To discover more workshops, lectures, screenings, performances and events, visit museum.okstate.edu.

COVER: Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin, *Lynn Riggs (3 Layers)* from *Oklahoma, 50 States* series, 2016, 29 x 39 x 5 1/2 inches, hand-cut, found road maps. Courtesy the artists.



Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin, *50 States: Oklahoma*, 2016, 25-minute video loop, two-way mirror film, and wood, 10 x 15 x 30 feet. Courtesy the artists.