

The Current



Image: Chakaia Booker (Photo by Stephen Allen taken at Flying Horse)

The Current
Press Release
For Immediate Release

World-Renowned Artists Engage Vermont Community

Stowe, Vermont — The rural town of Stowe is set to host an extraordinary cultural event, welcoming internationally acclaimed artist Chakaia Booker and Master Printer Justin Sanz. These renowned artists, both currently on exhibit at The Current, will take part in a dynamic, community-centered artist residency, school outreach program, and a public artists' talk as part of The Current's *Currently Speaking* series.

On **October 17, 2024**, The Current will present an exclusive *Artist Talk* with Booker and Sanz, moderated by Rachel Moore, the art center's Curator and Executive Director. Together, Booker and Sanz will provide additional insight into the exhibitions currently on view at The Current: *Taking Time: A Solo Exhibition by Chakaia Booker*, *Climate Imprints*, and *Exposed*, the art center's

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annual outdoor sculpture exhibition which includes work from Chakaia Booker, as well as 10 other sculptors, including internally acclaimed artist Hank Willis Thomas. Booker and Sanz will also discuss the history and significance of the prestigious EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, an institution dedicated to inclusivity, experimentation, and the advancement of printmaking.

The event will begin at 5:00 PM in The Current's main gallery. The event is free and open to the public; however, due to limited seating, registration is required. Early registration will be available to members of The Current on **September 25** and open to the general public on **October 2**.

Information and registration:

<https://www.thecurrentnow.org/events-list-1/currently-speaking%3A-artist-talk-with-justin-sanz-and-chakaia-booker>

Engaging Local Schools

Ahead of their talk, both artists will collaborate with students from local schools, bringing art directly to the youth of Stowe and its surrounding areas. Over three days, more than 350 students from Stowe Elementary School will have the opportunity to work with Booker and Sanz in hands-on printmaking workshops at The Current, and guided tours of the artists' indoor and outdoor exhibitions. Additionally, 180 students from Johnson Elementary School will come to The Current utilizing bus scholarships to participate in special sessions with the artists and tours of their exhibitions, giving rural Vermont students the chance to engage directly with artists of international stature.

About the Artists:

Chakaia Booker

Internationally known for her groundbreaking sculptural work using recycled tires, Booker's art has been featured in major museums across the globe. Her works are not only aesthetically compelling but also highlight issues related to social and environmental justice. Her exhibit, *Taking Time*, currently on display at The Current, showcases her diverse body of work, including large outdoor sculptures and intimate indoor pieces, encouraging audiences to reflect on themes of beauty, hardship, and resilience.

Justin Sanz

As an educator, master printmaker, and director of the EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in New York, Justin Sanz is a significant voice in contemporary printmaking. His work, held in numerous prestigious collections, continues to inspire and foster dialogue within the art world. During his time in Vermont, Sanz will share his expertise and commitment to education through his collaboration with students and his discussions on printmaking.

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EFA Robert Blackburn Workshop

Booker and Sanz's involvement will also shine a spotlight on the prestigious EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, an institution dedicated to inclusivity, experimentation, and the advancement of printmaking. The artists' work is currently on view at The Current's *Climate Imprints* exhibition, further bridging the gap between their global work and local Vermont audiences.

About the Exhibitions:

Taking Time: A solo exhibition by Chakaia Booker. Internationally renowned multidisciplinary artist Chakaia Booker is best known for pioneering the use of recycled rubber tires as a raw material for monumental sculptural works. A fixture of the New York City East Village art scene since the early 1980's, Booker has exhibited across the US, in Europe, Africa, and Asia, with works included in more than 40 museum and private collections. Curated by Rachel Moore.

Climate Imprints. From lithographs to embroidered screenprints to woodcuts, The Current presents *Climate Imprints*, curated by three master printmakers of the highly acclaimed EFA Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, Chakaia Booker, Tara Sabharwal, and Justin Sanz. Artists include John Andrews, Chakaia Booker, Edward Fausty, Anna Fiacco, Rie Hasegawa, Essye Klempler, Shervone Neckles, Mohammad Omar Khalil, Tara Sabharwal, Justin Sanz, Sarah Sears, Yasuyo Tanaka, Ethan Tate.

Exhibition and Event Sponsors include:

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In-Kind support includes:
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Currently Speaking Series

The Currently Speaking series hosts experts in various contemporary art genres and media to encourage casual discourse and meaningful interactions between our community, speakers, and the art they showcase. The events are free to the public with a suggested donation of \$10. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, explore the galleries before the talk, and enjoy complimentary refreshments as part of this unique experience.

The Current is your center for contemporary art. Exhibitions of acclaimed international and emerging artists. Adult and youth art classes and private lessons. School tours, film screenings, lectures, outdoor exhibitions, and summer art camps. All brought to you through the generous support of our sponsors, grantors, and members like you.

Gallery Hours: 10am-5pm, Monday - Friday, Saturday 10am-3pm

Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday

thecurrentnow.org

Media

For press inquiries, including interviews and attending events.

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