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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Frances Jacobus-Parker  
Curator of Exhibitions and the Collection  
[jacobusparkerf@southbendart.org](mailto:jacobusparkerf@southbendart.org) | 574-235-9252

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**The South Bend Museum of Art Presents *City in a Garden: Melanie Daniel and Max Kauffman in Summer 2025***

**May 24–August 24, 2025**, the South Bend Museum of Art (SBMA) presents a major two-person exhibition featuring new work by artists Melanie Daniel and Max Kauffman.



Left:  
Max Kauffman,  
*Topanga Portal*,  
2024.  
Acrylic, gouache,  
water-based spray  
paint and latex on  
canvas.  
36 x 66 in.  
© Max Kauffman.  
Photo: Wes Magyar.

Right:  
Melanie Daniel,  
*Headwall and  
Recluse*,  
2025.  
Oil on canvas.  
33 x 27 in.  
© Melanie Daniel.  
Photo: the artist

Through vivid, immersive paintings and site-specific installations, *City in a Garden* explores the relation of humans to nature and the built environment. In Daniel's psychedelic, richly-textured landscapes, figures inhabit otherworldly ecosystems in which nature runs riot. In Kauffman's work, a vocabulary of forms in vibrant hues recurs across paintings, drawings, found objects, and architectural space. While using two distinct visual languages, both artists draw on mythology, folklore, and personal association to create fantastical vistas that hint at narratives just beyond our grasp.

*City in a Garden* is the 2025 edition of SBMA's biennial *Conversations* exhibition series, which aims to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between established regional artists and established artists from outside of the region. Kauffman was raised in South Bend and is based in Colorado, while Daniel is from and is based in British Columbia, Canada.

*City in a Garden: Melanie Daniel and Max Kauffman* is on view in SBMA's Warner Gallery May 24–August 24, 2025 and includes 15 paintings by Daniel and 23 paintings and a site-specific installation by Kauffman. The exhibition is organized by Frances Jacobus-Parker, curator of exhibitions and the collection, with Josh Miller, associate curator and collections manager, and Morgan Watters, preparator.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Melanie Daniel** (b. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada) received MFA and BFA degrees at Israel's Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design. She previously studied philosophy and literature at the University of British Columbia and Concordia University. Daniel exhibits internationally, with solo shows at galleries including Asya Geisberg Gallery, NY; Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami; the Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; and Galleri Christoffer Egelund, Copenhagen. Her work is included in collections such as the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Harvard Business School, and the Brandes Family Art Collection. Daniel is the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, a Creative Capital Grant, the Rappaport Prize for a Young Israeli Painter, and the NARS Foundation Residency in New York City. In 2020 she completed a three-year position as the Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at Grand Valley State University, MI.

**Max Kauffman** (b. Chicago, Illinois) is an artist and curator based in Colorado. He received a BFA in Ceramics with a minor in Anthropology from Arizona State University. He has exhibited his work nationally in solo and group exhibitions, including at Museum of Friends in Walsenburg, CO; Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada, CO; Gildar Gallery in Denver, CO; Cass Contemporary, Tampa, FL; and the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, CA. He has painted murals in cities across North America, including Oakland, Los Angeles, Mexico City, New York, Chicago, and Denver. He is the recipient of residencies at the Newnan Art Center in Newnan, GA, the Black Book Gallery in Denver, and the Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI. Kauffman's curatorial project, Neü Folk, highlights handmade, traditional, and folk art practices.

## RELATED EVENTS

**First Friday Reception, June 6, 5:00 to 8:00 pm.** Free and open to the public. Join artists and curators to celebrate the opening of *City in a Garden* and the concurrent group exhibition, *Irrepressible: 2025 Pride Exhibition*. Catch SBMA's other temporary exhibitions, *Dustin Philipson: The Plinth Degree* and *Ramiro Rodriguez: Linaje a Línea (Lineage to Line)* before they close.

Contact [jacobusparkerf@southbendart.org](mailto:jacobusparkerf@southbendart.org) for additional information and high-resolution images.

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## ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The South Bend Museum of Art is a free, public museum that serves the community by showcasing up to 15 exhibitions a year in its 5 galleries, conserving over 1200 works of art in its permanent collection, engaging in school and community partnerships, and offering studio art classes and numerous educational programs to the public.

The museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [southbendart.org](http://southbendart.org)