

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Innovative New Urban Landscape Series

Launches with Willie Baronet's We Are All Homeless Exhibition
and Exhibition of Works by the Stewpot Artists

Opening Reception Saturday, April 2, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Patrons May Participate in a Performance by Baronet
and Meet the Stewpot Artists



Willie Baronet, "We Are All Homeless". Image courtesy of the artist.

As the first exhibition in the New Urban Landscape series, The MAC is proud to present We Are All Homeless by Dallas artist and SMU professor Willie Baronet in conjunction with a group show by members of The Stewpot Art Program, on view April 2 through April 23. The MAC, in its new location in the Cedars neighborhood south of downtown Dallas, is near many of the city's community and homeless-outreach organizations, including The Stewpot, The Bridge, Vogel Alcove, and others. This exhibition sheds light on this topic, demonstrating how the arts provide an outlet for

those in need and play a vital role in creating a dialogue between people. Guests at the opening reception will have the opportunity to participate in a performance by Baronet and meet the Stewpot artists on Saturday, April 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The MAC invites patrons to bring an art supply to donate to The Stewpot Art Program, including acrylic paints (please no oil paint), stretched canvas, drawing pads, or brushes.

Willie Baronet began collecting signs made by homeless individuals in 1993, and the project developed slowly as a labor of love, before materializing as We Are All Homeless. Now with more than 1,000 signs, the project is Baronet's attempt to confront an often ignored and uncomfortable issue. Each sign tells the story of a conversation, a person, a struggle, and acknowledges something simple - humanity. We Are All Homeless has been exhibited nationally and featured on NPR, Al Jazeera America, the Huffington Post, and Upworthy. Baronet is currently a professor in Creative Advertising at Southern Methodist University and holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at Dallas.

The Stewpot Art Program, established over 20 years ago, is a community outreach program serving the homeless and at-risk populations of Dallas. It is utilized by over 30 people looking for an environment to express and create through the medium of art. The program also provides opportunities for artists to exhibit and sell their work, validating the creative process. The members of the Stewpot Art Program are usually self-taught artists and create work in various styles, from drawings and paintings, to quilts and embroidery. The initiative was established by Dallas artist Pamela Nelson and is part of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas in downtown.

### When/Where

New Urban Landscape: We Are All Homeless
Opening reception Saturday, April 2, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
On view April 2 through April 23
The MAC
1601 South Ervay Street
Dallas, TX 75215
214.953.1212

Entrance @ 1600 Gano St. Parking available on street.

The MAC has embarked on a new series of exhibitions, art talks, and site-specific projects revolving around the theme New Urban Landscape. Taking place from April through September 2016, programming will address the role of the arts in shaping the Cedars and the broader community of Dallas, striving to empower through the exchange of ideas, values, culture, and knowledge. Dallas and Fort Worth artists in the series include Willie Baronet, Christopher Blay, H. Schenck, Giovanni Valderas, and K. Yoland, who explore issues related to homelessness, displacement, gentrification, and immigration.



The MAC, formerly The McKinney Avenue Contemporary, relocated in the summer of 2015 from its home of more than 20 years on McKinney Avenue to a century-old five-building complex in the Cedars neighborhood south of downtown Dallas at 1601 S. Ervay Street. Exciting renovations are already underway for commercial galleries, restaurant and retail space, and an urban green space. The opening target date is early 2017. Fortunately, this interruption has not deterred The MAC from continuing to present its adventurous programming in the raw warehouse space. During the past months, hundreds of visitors have explored

the captivating complex through exhibitions, installations and events including the collaboration with Aurora in October, the partnership with Cedars Open Studios in November, and the Jeff Parrott show in February. The driving force behind this programming is a vital component of The MAC's mission: local artists and experimental programming.

#### The MAC Mission

The MAC is a nonprofit organization that stands as a Dallas advocate for creative freedom offering the opportunity for experimentation and presentation of art in all disciplines. It supports the emerging and established artist's role in society by providing a forum for critical dialogue with their audiences. This relationship is cultivated through education and innovative programming.

The MAC is open for special events and by appointment as we undergo renovations at our new location.

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