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**CAFESJIAN ART TRUST MUSEUM PRESENTS FIRST-EVER CONTEMPORARY
ABSTRACT PAINTING AND GLASS SCULPTURE EXHIBITION IN THE US
Abstraction and Ourselves runs March 6 – July 31, 2026**

ST. PAUL, MINN. — January 14, 2026 — The Cafesjian Art Trust Museum (the CAT) presents *Abstraction and Ourselves*, on view from March 6 through July 31, 2026. The exhibition is the first in the United States to unite contemporary abstract painting and glass sculpture on this scale. Featuring monumental paintings and sculptures—including internationally recognized sculptors Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová—the exhibition draws upon the CAT’s exceptional holdings of abstract glass sculpture, recently acquired paintings and significant loans from local and national museums.

A link to images is available [here](#).

Abstraction and Ourselves is the first exhibition curated at the CAT by Jill Ahlberg Yohe, the museum’s inaugural curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. Her decades-long career creating innovative exhibitions and advancing curatorial practice informs this significant new chapter in the museum’s history.

“When I arrived at the CAT last winter, I learned the museum holds the largest collection in the United States of sculptures by legendary Czech artists Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová,” says Ahlberg Yohe. “The artistic virtuosity of their work is breathtaking, and it became the inspiration for *Abstraction and Ourselves*—an exhibition that expands the conversation by showcasing a broader range of artists working in abstraction.”

“Surprisingly, abstract glass sculpture is rarely curated as abstract art in the United States, as it is in Europe,” adds Ahlberg Yohe. “Abstract paintings and abstract glass sculptures are seldom shown together in American museums, although many European artists represented in the CAT’s collection were trained in abstraction. Our outstanding sculpture holdings made this pairing feel both necessary and overdue.”

Abstraction and Ourselves also offers an unexpected and visitor-centered approach to abstraction. “Art museums sometimes present abstraction in ways that might feel intimidating or exclusive, leaving some visitors unsure how to engage,” Ahlberg Yohe explains. “The truth is abstraction is deeply personal. This exhibition invites visitors to trust their own responses, and encourages them to reflect on their immediate reactions to artworks while also learning about artists’ perspectives and diverse approaches to abstraction.”

The exhibition features more than 20 works in painting, works on paper, mixed media and sculpture from the CAT’s collection, including the rarely seen architectural sculpture *Blue Concretion* by Libenský and Brychtová, which debuted at Expo 67 in Montreal and helped launch the artists on the international stage. Works by other legendary abstract artists Georgia O’Keeffe, Helen Frankenthaler, Claire Falkenstein, Howardena Pindell and Joan Snyder will also be presented alongside nationally recognized contemporary artists Dyani White Hawk and Minnesota-based Edith Carlson. Newly acquired works by Abenaki/Canadian artist Rita Letendre and South African artist Thando Ntobela, as well as paintings by American artists Jin Jeong and Steven Yazzie, further complement the CAT’s deep holdings in abstract glass sculpture.

Abstraction and Ourselves is made possible through generous support and loans from Art Bridges, with additional thanks to Bockley Gallery and the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota.

Art Bridges Foundation is the vision of philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton. Founded in 2017, Art Bridges creates and supports projects that share works of American art with communities across the United States and its territories. Art Bridges partners with a growing network of over 300 museums—impacting 25 million people nationwide—to provide financial and strategic support for exhibitions, collection loans, and programs designed to educate, inspire, and deepen engagement with local communities. The Art Bridges Collection represents an expanding vision of American art from the 19th century to present day and encompasses multiple media and voices. For more information, visit artbridgesfoundation.org.

The Cafesjian Art Trust Museum (The CAT) is a dynamic modern and contemporary art museum in the Twin Cities that inspires creativity, curiosity, and connection through art. The museum is free and welcomes everyone to experience a growing collection, compelling exhibitions, and robust public programming in an inclusive and welcoming space. The CAT is open Thursdays and Fridays with free, reservation-only tours; Friday evenings from 5–8 pm; and Saturdays from 10 am–4:30 pm with no reservations required. The museum also offers free programming for families, students, teachers, people with disabilities, and community partners. For reservations and hours, visit cafesjianarttrust.org or call 612-359-8991.

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