



**John Michael
Kohler Arts Center**

KOHLER.

John Michael Kohler Arts Center and Kohler Co. Announce 2027 Arts/Industry Artists-in-Residence

Sheboygan/Kohler, Wis – October 20, 2026 – The John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) and Kohler Co. today announced the 12 artists who have been selected to participate in the 2027 Arts/Industry residency, a competitive three-month residency that enables artists to experiment with industrial materials and techniques at the Kohler Co. factory, working in collaboration with skilled manufacturers to produce new works in cast ceramic, iron, and brass.

The 2027 artists-in-residence are: **Emily Endo, Raul De Lara, Amy Yoes, Erin Jane Nelson, Esther Elia, Christina Forrer, Jiha Moon, Tyanna Buie, Ben Gould, Gina Michaels, Chenlu Hou, and Jude Griebel.**

“This year, we are excited to welcome a talented cohort of artists from different backgrounds and stages in their careers, advancing JMKAC’s mission of nurturing creativity through collaboration and exchange. Across more than 50 years of Arts/Industry, the program has fostered longstanding relationships between artists, craftspeople, and the Arts Center itself, creating an expansive community of innovators and creators. We are thrilled to grow our community with such a dynamic group representing the 2027 cohort, a few of whom are returning or expanding upon their collaboration with us in new ways.” said **Amy Horst, Executive Director of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center.**

“The 2027 Arts/Industry cohort brings an inspiring group of individuals whose innovations in material and form tackle relevant issues on both a personal and collective level. We are excited to bring such a robust group to Kohler, and to support the careers of artists through hands-on collaboration and dialogue.” said **Laura Kohler, Arts/Industry Executive Sponsor and Kohler Foundation President.**

Established in 1974, Arts/Industry is a collaboration between the **John Michael Kohler Arts Center**, a nonprofit arts organization in Sheboygan, WI, and **Kohler Co.**, the global kitchen and bath manufacturing company headquartered in nearby Kohler, WI. Created by JMKAC executive director Ruth DeYoung Kohler II in collaboration with Kohler Co. Executive Chairman Herbert Kohler Jr. as a forum for creative exchange, the program provides 12 artists each year with studio space in Kohler Co.’s Pottery and Foundry, along with materials, use of equipment, and opportunities to collaborate with factory associates—exchanging expertise to explore new ways of thinking and working, both in the studio and on the factory floor.

Arts/Industry has inspired major bodies of work, unlocked new creative practices, and sparked longstanding collaborative relationships. JMKAC and the Kohler Foundation, who serve as stewards of the collection, overseeing its management and care, each receive a work created during every artist’s residency, establishing collections that trace half a century of artistic

experimentation by more than 600 artists, including Arlene Shechet, Edra Soto, Ghada Amer, Jack Earl, Joel Otterson, Joyce Kozloff, Robert Gober, Beth Lipman, Theaster Gates, Willie Cole, and Woody De Othello. Nine program alumni have returned to the factory on commissions for JMKAC's signature artist-designed washrooms; among these, Wisconsin-based artist and curator Michelle Grabner recently donated over 2000 works spanning her career and teaching practice to JMKAC, and ceramicist Ann Agee will receive her first major survey exhibition at the Arts Center in 2027 (*Ann Agee: AGEE MFG*, on view March 6 – August 22, 2027).

Throughout the year, Kohler Co. will host four artists at a time for the three-month residency; within each cohort, two residents work in the Kohler Co. Pottery and two in the Foundry. Advance experience working with clay or metal is not required—simply an interest in adapting industrial processes to the artist's practice. In addition to 24/7 studio access, residents receive free industrial materials, equipment, technical support, photographic services, housing, round-trip transportation, and a monthly honorarium.

Applications for the 2028 Arts/Industry residency will open on January 1, 2027. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2027. Visit jmkac.org for full details and application guidelines.

About the 2027 Arts/Industry Artists-in-Residence

Cohort 1 (January 25 – April 30, 2027)

Emily Endo (Foundry)

Emily Endo works across sculpture, scent, and installation, pursuing a research-driven practice at the intersection of science and mysticism. Through sculptural forms and systems, they explore how bodies, nature, and matter evolve and co-constitute one another across biological, geological, and cultural scales. Their work brings together visual, chemical, and physical processes through layered material compositions. Endo holds an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Their work has been exhibited at Somerset House (London); Massey Klein (New York); John Michael Kohler Art Center (Sheboygan); Marta, Harkawik, and the Neutra VDL House (Los Angeles); LVL3 (Chicago); and Bullseye Projects (Portland). Recent press includes Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles, The New York Times Style Magazine, Wallpaper, and Architectural Digest. Endo lives and works in Yucca Valley, California.

Raul De Lara (Foundry)

Raul De Lara (b. 1991, Culiacán, Sinaloa, México) is a sculptor who explores the emotive and storytelling qualities of materials. He is interested in how social, cultural, and spiritual qualities can be imbued into wood through the act of carving. His research preserves, honors, and propels forward traditional uses of wood while combining them with new developments in the global industry of woodworking. De Lara immigrated from Mexico to the United States at the age of 12 and has been a DACA recipient since 2012. His work reflects on themes of belonging, queer identity, and his immigrant experience. He lives and works in New York City.

De Lara received his MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2019, and a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. Recent solo exhibition sites include The Contemporary Austin, SCAD Museum of Art and Gaa Gallery. His work

has been included in exhibitions nationally and internationally at the Tucson Museum of Art, Wharton Esherick Museum, The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture, The Armory Show, Hermès Paris, Alexander Berggruen Gallery, Honor Fraser Gallery, and Reynolds Gallery, among others.

De Lara's selected awards include the Maxwell/Hanrahan Award in Craft, the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in Craft/Sculpture, and Art in America Magazine's Top 20 Global New Talent, as well as residencies at Wendell Castle Workshop, Silver Art Projects, LMCC Governor's Island, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Haystack Mountain School of Craft, Ox-Bow School of Art, Penland School of Craft, and Chicago Artists Coalition, among others.

Amy Yoes (Pottery)

Amy Yoes works in a multi-faceted way, alternately employing installation, photography, video, painting, and sculpture. One of her largest projects, Hot Corners (a multi-room installation), was on view at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, from 2021-2025. Other recent projects include Correspondências, a solo exhibition at the Contemporary Sculpture Museum in Santo Tirso, Portugal, and multiple Fire Projects, where she builds complex sculptures that get burned in a choreographed blaze before a live audience.

A lifelong interest in decorative language and architectural space permeates her work. Yoes's ongoing research into craft, architecture, and ornament has been furthered by travel and research opportunities. She teaches every fall semester at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and lives most of the year in Narrowsburg, upstate New York, with her husband Jorge Colombo and their two cats, Inky and Sharpie.

Erin Jane Nelson (Pottery)

Erin Jane Nelson is an interdisciplinary artist based in Santa Fe, NM. She has had solo exhibitions at Abrams-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts at The University of Alabama at Birmingham; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia; Chapter NY, New York; DOCUMENT, Chicago; and the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, among others. Her work was included in the Whitney Biennial 2026 and 2021 New Museum Triennial and has been included in group exhibitions at institutions such as The San Jose Art Museum; The Knoxville Museum of Art; The Phoenix Art Museum; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Aspen Art Museum; the Fries Museum in Leeuwarden, Netherlands; La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain, Noisy-le-Sec; and the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich. Nelson was a recipient of the 2023 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fine Arts.

Cohort 2 (May 17 – August 20, 2027)

Esther Elia (Foundry)

Esther Elia (she/her) is from Turlock, California. She received a BFA in Illustration from California College of the Arts, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Painting/Drawing from the University of New Mexico. Her art practice focuses on the Assyrian experience in diaspora and uses painting and sculpture to explore themes of creating homeland and culture as a currently stateless nation. She uses storytelling as a tool for decolonization and community healing and collects contemporary Assyrian histories as a salve to the Western institutional canon and its hyper-focus of Assyrians solely within their ancient context. Esther is currently represented by Hecho a Mano gallery out of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Christina Forrer (Foundry)

Animated by an interest in fables and folklore, Christina Forrer's vibrant weavings and electrifying works on paper explore the depths of human emotion. Depicted in her signature representational style of fantastical characters with cartoonish features, her work is rendered with a keen attention to the boldness of color and richness of pattern. While many of her works showcase dramatic moments of explosive conflict, they also provide the viewer access into smaller, more personal terrors: private anxieties, internal tensions, and irrational fears. Her weavings are often enormous in scale, tableaux of psychological space populated by characters that may be human, animal, or vegetal. Retaining the figurative elements of her tapestries, Forrer's drawing practice is more widely varied, ranging from quick sketches and notations to fully articulated, discursive paintings on paper.

Christina Forrer (b. 1978, Zürich) lives and works in Los Angeles. Selected solo exhibitions include *Christina Forrer: MATRIX 187*, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT (2021-2022); *Christina Forrer: Feet of the Devil*, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art, Savannah, GA (2019-2020); *Swiss in Situ | Christina Forrer: Grappling Hold*, Swiss Institute, New York (2017); and *Cat Lady*, The Finley, Los Angeles (2016). Selected group exhibitions include *Burning Down the House: Rethinking Family*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland (2024); *Narrative Threads: Textile Art Now*, Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University, Houston, TX (2023); *Bianca Beck, Tamara Gonzales, Christina Forrer*, Beeler Gallery, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH (2021); *THIS IS AMERICA*, Kunstraum Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany (2021); *Made in L.A. 2020: A Version*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA (2020-2021); *Happy !*, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, FL (2019-2020); *Dirty Protest: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2019); *Niko Pirosmami: Promeneur entre les mondes*, Fondation Vincent Van Gogh Arles, Arles, France (2019); and *Unorthodox*, The Jewish Museum, New York (2015). She is the recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grant (2014). A monograph of her work was recently published by Luhning Augustine in collaboration with Gregory R. Miller & Co (2025).

Jiha Moon (Pottery)

Jiha Moon's work investigates the fluid, multivalent nature of cultural imagery in an era of global movement and exchange. Working across gestural painting, mixed media, ceramic sculpture, and installation, Moon explores shifting identities and the circulation of people, objects, and symbols across cultures. Her practice draws from Eastern and Western art histories, folk traditions, popular culture, and personal narrative, creating hybrid visual languages that are at once playful, critical, and deeply layered.

Moon is a 2023 Guggenheim Fellow and has received numerous awards, including the 2016 Artadia Award, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia's Working Artist Project fellowship (2013), and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant (2011). She has participated in residencies at the Fabric Workshop and Museum, MacDowell, Headlands Center for the Arts, Art Omi, Ucross Foundation, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, among others.

Her work is held in major public collections including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Asia Society, the High Museum of Art, the Mint Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Renwick Gallery, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Moon has presented solo exhibitions at institutions such as the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, the Taubman Museum, the Mint Museum, and

the James Gallery at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her work has been widely reviewed in *The New Yorker*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Hyperallergic*, *Art Papers*, *Art Asia Pacific*, and other publications.

Tyanna Buie (Pottery)

A native of Chicago and Milwaukee, Tyanna Buie earned her BA from Western Illinois University and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has participated in residencies at the Joan Mitchell Center, Women's Studio Workshop, Vermont Studio Center, Project 1612 AIR, and Hotel Pupik. Her accolades include the 2012 Mary L. Nohl Fellowship, the Love of Humanity Award from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the 2015 Joan Mitchell Painters & Sculptors Grant, the 2019 Kresge Artist Fellowship, the 2019/2020 Grant Wood Fellowship, the 2020 Fellowship.art award, and the 2023 Ruth Arts/Mary L. Nohl Alumni Award.

Buie has exhibited widely, with solo exhibitions at Freeport Art Museum, South Bend Museum of Art, The Alice Wilds, Materia Gallery, and cam.contemporarie Gallery, and group exhibitions at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Cranbrook Art Museum, RISD's Chace Center Gallery, the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, and the University of Kentucky Art Museum. She is among a select group of artists commissioned to create a permanent public artwork for the Obama Presidential Center. Committed to community engagement, she has led printmaking workshops nationwide. Her work is held in major institutional and private collections internationally and has been featured in *Hyperallergic*, *Essay'd*, and *New American Paintings*. Buie is a Professor and serves as the Graduate Program Director in Printmaking at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI.

Cohort 3 (September 6 – December 10)

Ben Gould (Foundry)

Ben Gould is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York whose practice is directed by changing states of health and disability, and builds meaning through a reckoning of an unstable body. Gould's work draws from the history of sculpture, personal medical procedures, disability treatment history, the built and natural world, and a care for the principles of craft. His practice is cultivated by a deep interest in how energy is directed, transformed, and transferred, and is deeply informed by his "charged" experience of living with Tourette Syndrome. While exploring the body's limits, resistance, and loss of control, his condition has become a motor for movement-based performance that has resulted in site-specific works throughout the USA such as salt flats in Death Valley, a limestone mine in Kansas City, a power plant in New York, and a moving vessel on the Chicago River. Gould's work has been presented by Palais de Tokyo, KANAL Centre Pompidou, Bozar, The Center for Craft, The Chicago Cultural Center, Wave Hill, The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Pangée in Montreal, and the Watermill Center in New York, amongst others. Previous residencies and grants include Ox-Bow (2015), Haystack Open Studio (2019), Lighton International Artists Exchange Program Grant (2020), NYFA Fellow in Interdisciplinary Work (2021), and a 2026 Arts/Industry residency with the John Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) and Kohler Co.

Gina Michaels (Foundry)

Gina Michaels is a sculptor and printmaker. Her work explores the gestural and energetic expressions common to humans and the botanical world. Gina has developed a spontaneous, improvisatory method of working with bronze. She works in open sand, creating movements that become exuberant plant-like forms when bronze is ladled directly into the mold. She then welds the cast elements together, combining the ancient tradition of bronze casting with the open forms

of contemporary sculpture fabrication. Gina's work has been featured in numerous solo, group, and public art exhibitions nationally. Fellowships include the Vermont Studio Center, the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, and the New Courtland Fellowship. Gina received an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania, studied intensively at the New York Studio School, and received a BA from Oberlin College. She lives and works in Philadelphia, where she is the owner/manager of Legacy Atelier.

Chenlu Hou (Pottery)

Chenlu Hou (Lulu) is a Chinese-born, Providence-based artist and educator whose interdisciplinary practice spans sculpture, drawing, paper-cutting, video, sound, and installation. Her work explores migration, cultural memory, food, and belonging, drawing from Chinese folk-art traditions and everyday objects and experiences. Her current research examines histories of Chinese immigrant labor in New England in relation to broader questions of displacement, adaptation, and cultural memory.

Hou has been an artist-in-residence at Harvard Ceramics, MASS MoCA, the Museum of Arts and Design, Penland School of Craft, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, and the Archie Bray Foundation. She was named a 2025 NCECA Emerging Artist and a 2025 Center for Craft Teaching Artist Fellow. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is held in the permanent collection of the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. Her work and practice have also been featured in *Boston Art Review* and *Galerie* magazine.

Jude Griebel (Pottery)

Jude Griebel's sculptures probe the intersections between consumerism, ecology, and myth—translating environmental precarity into carefully crafted, allegorical forms. The mechanics of consumerism are a driving theme behind his sculptures, with a specific focus on the factory food system and its implications for land depletion and climate shift. These interests have broadened from his family's agrarian history on the prairies to the complexities of global food challenges, ecological strain, and interspecific relationships. Recent works incorporate materials such as stained glass and porcelain, creating distinctive links between craft histories, the species that sustain us, and their distorted representation in visual culture.

Griebel is a 2026 Guggenheim Fellow, and his work has been supported by major grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Recent exhibitions include Powerhouse Arts, New York; The Armory Show, New York; Massey Klein, New York; Chart, New York; The Rochester Center for Contemporary Art, NY; Leitrim Sculpture Centre, Ireland; and Le Carmel Pamiers, France. Griebel is a 2025 recipient of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center's Arts/Industry Residency, and his work has been further supported by institutions including Pioneer Works, New York; International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York; Halle 14 Center for Contemporary Art, Leipzig, and Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha.

About the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Founded in 1967, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) is a nonprofit creative hub dedicated to presenting and preserving the work of contemporary artists through original exhibitions, commissions, residencies, community arts programming, and publications. The only institution in the world that collects artist-built and artist home-based environments, JMKAC is a leading center for research and presentation of self-taught and folk artists, preserving and championing work that cannot be found anywhere else. Spanning two facilities that are free and

open to the public, the Arts Center and the Art Preserve, JMKAC's campus includes eight galleries, two performance spaces, and 56,000 square feet of curated, visible collections storage. JMKAC's wide range of programming responds to community needs and fosters both global idea exchange as well as lifelong engagement with the arts, including an onsite preschool; free classes and events; and its flagship Arts/Industry residency program, a partnership with Kohler Co. that provides artists with resources and studio space at the Kohler factory. For more information, visit jmkac.org.

About Kohler Co.

For more than 150 years, Kohler Co. has been a global leader in bold design and innovation, dedicated to helping people live gracious, healthy, and sustainable lives through its kitchen and bath products; wellness products and services; and luxury hospitality experiences and major championship golf. Privately held Kohler Co. was founded in 1873 and is headquartered in Kohler, Wisconsin. The company also develops sustainable living solutions to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations. Its Innovation for Good platform addresses pressing issues, such as clean water and safe sanitation, with breakthrough products and services for underserved communities. David Kohler serves as Chair and CEO and represents the fourth generation of Kohler family leadership.

Media Contacts:

Onnie Woods / Lucy Duda

Resnicow and Associates

owoods@resnicow.com / lduda@resnicow.com

212-671-5170 / 5187