FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Temple Contemporary Presents "Indigenous Irregularities: Anna Tsouhlarakis"

The second Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist-in-Residence exhibition at Temple University's Tyler School of Art and Architecture features sculptures and text works challenge fixed ideas of Native identity.

On view Aug. 25–Dec. 5, 2026
Artist Talk: Sept. 17, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA (July 19, 2026) — "Indigenous Irregularities: Anna Tsouhlarakis," is the second annual exhibition presenting works created by the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist-in-Residence at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture. Opening Aug. 25 at Temple Contemporary, the show features text collages and newly created sculptures by Tsouhlarakis. In conjunction with the exhibition the artist will deliver a public lecture at Tyler on Thursday, Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m.

Anna Tsouhlarakis. YOU KNOW SHE BUYS HER SAGE AT URBAN OUTFITTERS, 2024, paper collage on wood panel, 48 x 72 inches. Courtesy of Jack Tilton Gallery.

"Indigenous Irregularities: Anna Tsouhlarakis" explores unexpected, contradictory and often improvised aspects of contemporary Native experience. Tsouhlarakis incorporates found objects, industrial materials, and hand-crafted elements to embrace irregularity as both a formal strategy and a conceptual framework, challenging fixed narratives surrounding Indigenous histories, aesthetics, and cultural authenticity. Fragments are reassembled, materials are repurposed, and disparate visual languages combine to create works that are at once humorous, critical, and personal.

During her residency, Tsouhlarakis ventured into glass for the first time, expanding her interdisciplinary practice in Tyler's state-of-the-art glass studio. Working closely with students and faculty, under the guidance of Jessica Jane Julius, Associate Professor and Program Head of Glass, she embraced a material entirely new to her, using the residency as an opportunity for experimentation and discovery.

"Being this complete novice and entering the studio, I was nervous and wasn't sure what to expect. Learning not only from the faculty but the students at Tyler has been amazing," said Tsouhlarakis. "I really appreciate the open arms I received here and the generosity of the artistic spirit that permeates every part of this place."

"Anna demonstrated that artistic growth and experimentation remain vital at every stage of an artist's career, offering a powerful model for our students. Her residency fully embodied the spirit of the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist Residency by catalyzing meaningful artistic evolution as a member of Tyler's creative community," said Susan E. Cahan, dean of Tyler School of Art and Architecture.

The annual residency was established through a gift from Edgar Heap of Birds (MFA '79), a leading Native American artist, educator and activist and provides time and resources for artists to expand their studio practice while working with Tyler students.

ABOUT ANNA TSOUHLARAKIS

Anna Tsouhlarakis (b. 1977; Navajo Nation, Creek, Greek) works in sculpture, installation, video, and performance. She received her BA from Dartmouth College with degrees in Native American Studies and Studio Art. She went on to receive her MFA from Yale University in Sculpture. Her work has been presented at leading national and international venues, including the National Portrait Gallery, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Nasher Museum of Art, MCA Denver, the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, the Ford Foundation and, most

recently, the 2026 Whitney Biennial. She is an Associate Professor of Art Practices and Director of the Foundations Arts Program at the University of Colorado Boulder and a mother of three.

ABOUT THE EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS FAMILY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
The Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist Residency and Exhibition Program is designed to support artists whose work is primarily focused on the history and lived experience of North American federally recognized tribal citizens and whose art and activism brings attention to the lives, struggles, and triumphs of Native Americans. The residency program brings artists to Tyler who might not otherwise have access to the school's studio facilities, faculty, and staff. Hock E Aye Edgar Heap of Birds, (b. 1954; Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation, MFA '79) is an alum of the Tyler School of Art and Architecture. The inaugural Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist in Residence, in 2025, was Norman Akers.

ABOUT TEMPLE CONTEMPORARY
Temple Contemporary serves as a beacon for art, architecture and community imagination along the North Broad cultural corridor in Philadelphia. The 3,400-square-foot gallery, located within Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University, champions experimental practices that center joy, justice and genius while fostering dialogue between academic and community knowledge. Temple Contemporary has an artistic lineage stretching back to the mid-1980s, formerly located in the University's Center City building, then in Philadelphia's Old City gallery district before its establishment on Temple University's Main Campus in North Philadelphia in 2009. More information is available on Instagram at @temple_contemp and online.

The Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist Residency is made possible through the generosity of the Edgar Heap of Birds Family, the Fleischner Family Charitable Trust and Sandy Cadwalader.

Temple Contemporary
Tyler School of Art and Architecture
2001 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19122
Enter the building's Norris Street entrance between N. 12th & N. 13th streets. Admission is free.

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