

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Temple Contemporary Presents "DREAM DIFFERENT: A Wonder Rebellion"

Opening Aug. 25, the group exhibition brings together artists and architects whose work explores play, wonder and everyday acts of attention as responses to digital overwhelm.

On view Aug. 25–Dec. 5, 2026 | Opening reception: Aug. 25, 5–7 p.m.



Jan Vormann "Dispatchwork"
2007–present, Plastic construction
bricks, dimensions variable.

PHILADELPHIA (July 19, 2026) — Temple Contemporary, the gallery at Temple University's Tyler School of Art and Architecture, presents "DREAM DIFFERENT: A Wonder Rebellion," a group exhibition opening Aug. 25 that considers how play, imagination and wonder can offer meaningful alternatives to the distractions and pressures of contemporary digital life. Bringing together artists, architects, educators and designers working across a range of media, the exhibition invites visitors to reconsider the everyday spaces and practices that shape how we connect with one another and the world around us.

As conversations about technology increasingly focus on fractured attention and information overload, "DREAM DIFFERENT" shifts the conversation from individual habits to our shared environments. Through installations, sculpture, and participatory works, the exhibition asks visitors to consider how creativity, physical play and close observation can become acts of renewal, encouraging audiences to engage more deeply with their neighborhoods, public spaces and communities.

"'DREAM DIFFERENT' gives the debates about our stolen attention different forms, faces and places," said Temple Contemporary's Director of Exhibitions and Public Programming

Dr. Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta. "Wonder lives at the scale of a streetlight — on your block, your corner, your zip code. And here, play is more than resistance. It's rebellion. A set of quieter, slower practices you can return to every day."

Collectively, the participating artists and architects examine how small acts of curiosity, care and play can reshape our relationships to place and to one another. Their work recalls the value of public gathering spaces, creative expression and shared experiences, proposing that these everyday practices remain essential to building more connected and imaginative communities.

By bringing together diverse artistic perspectives, "DREAM DIFFERENT" offers visitors an opportunity to slow down, look closely and imagine different possibilities for the places they call home.

Participating Artists and Organizations:

- Nick Autiello
- SoSo Capaldi
- Linda Fernandez + Martha O'Connell of Amber Arts Design
- Magnus Juliano
- nnennia mazagwu
- Pedro Neves + Amira Hegazy
- Sarah Lytle of the Playful Learning Landscapes Action Network (PLANN)
- James Rojas + John Kamp
- George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Collection and Friends Neighborhood Guild Photograph Collection, courtesy of Temple University Libraries Special Collections Research Center (SCRC)
- Michael Velliquette
- Jan Vormann

"DREAM DIFFERENT: A Wonder Rebellion" is on view Aug. 25 through Dec. 5, 2026 at Temple Contemporary. An opening reception will take place on Aug. 25 from 5–7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

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

Tyler School of Art and Architecture Temple University 2001 N. 13th Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

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](#).

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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