



**MEADOWS MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2022 MOSS/CHUMLEY
ARTIST AWARD WINNER TAMARA JOHNSON**

DALLAS (SMU)—May 11, 2022— The Meadows Museum, SMU announces that Tamara Johnson has won the 2022 Moss/Chumley North Texas Artist Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding North Texas artist who has exhibited professionally for at least ten years and has established a proven track record as a community advocate for the visual arts. The award brings a \$2,500 cash prize.

Johnson is a Dallas-based sculptor whose work explores the nuances of obsolete domesticity, ephemeral and simulated landscapes, and the body as a metaphor for sculptural making. Utilizing a wide range of materials to embed meaning in the everyday, she creates both large-scale and intimate installations and sculptures in private and public settings, highlighting the body’s relationship to domestic architectures and subtle material combinations.

As cofounder and director of Sweet Pass Sculpture Park—a 1-acre outdoor art space in West Dallas that opened in 2018 and features the work of emerging and mid-career artists on a rotating basis—Johnson and her partner, Trey Burns, have worked with over 100 artists, local universities in the DFW metroplex, and various organizations and institutions from the Boys & Girls Club to the Dallas Museum of Art, and given more than \$25,000 in artist stipends. The park’s mission is to expand ideas of public and green space, contemporary art and education in an area of the city with few art-viewing venues. In 2021 they received a grant from the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture to fund a new alternative education program called Sweet Pass Sculpture School and continues to create opportunities for students and local artists.

"Being selected for the 2022 Moss Chumley Award feels truly incredible," says Johnson. "It not only provides a financial boost to my studio practice but feels validating to know my work and service outside of the studio is seen and appreciated in North Texas."

Johnson’s public commissions include *Picnic* (2018), NYC Parks & Recreation, sponsored by Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn, NY; *Backyard Pool* at The Lot (2014), commissioned by Socrates Sculpture Park and Rockrose Development Corp., Long Island City, NY; *A Public Pool* (2013), EAF 13: Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City; and an upcoming, large-scale public project in California commissioned by the City of West Sacramento to be complete by 2024. In addition to many galleries and art spaces in the New York area, she has exhibited at museums nationwide such as the Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas), Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (Salt Lake City), Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Blanton

Museum of Art (Austin) , and an upcoming solo show at the St. Louis Art Museum in the fall of 2023. Johnson's work has been recognized with numerous grants and awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 2020, SMU Meadows Faculty Development grants in 2019 and 2020, and a Brooklyn Arts Council grant in 2018. She was a Hopper Prize finalist in 2018 and received the 2016 Individual Artist Award from The Santo Foundation. In the past, she has served as a Visiting Lecturer in Sculpture at SMU (2018-2021), as an adjunct faculty member at Texas Christian University and the Rhode Island School of Design, and was recently awarded the Henry L. and Natalie E. Freund Teaching Fellowship in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis. A native of Waco, Johnson holds a BFA in studio art from The University of Texas at Austin and an MFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Olivia Turner, curatorial assistant for the Meadows Museum and member of the jury stated, "The impact that Tamara Johnson has had in her short time here in Dallas is quite remarkable. Her fervent community engagement and the unique format of the Sweet Pass Sculpture Park, offered a crucial outlet for Dallas artists and art lovers during the pandemic and will continue to serve the community in meaningful ways for years to come. Her commitment to excellence is echoed in her own deeply engaging sculptural work, exploring a range of materials and subjects in a comprehensive and accessible way. We are so pleased to recognize Tamara as an artist, educator, and advocate with this award, and we look forward to collaborating with her in the future."

The jury for the 2022 Moss/Chumley award included Turner, as noted above; Kerry Butcher, artist, Interpretation Associate, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Shelley DeMaria, Dallas art historian and curator; Alicia Eggert, 2021 Moss/Chumley recipient; Clarisse Fava-Piz, 2021–23 Mellon Curatorial Fellow, Meadows Museum; and Jessica Fuentes, News Editor, *Glasstire*, Director, Kinfolk House, and museum consultant.

Moss/Chumley Memorial Fund and Artist Award

The Moss/Chumley Memorial Fund was created in 1989 by Frank Moss and the Meadows Museum as a tribute to Jim Chumley; Moss's name was added to the fund upon his death in 1991. Moss and Chumley were two Dallas art dealers who made outstanding contributions to the visual arts in North Texas during the 1980s. The pair operated the Nimbus Gallery on Routh Street from 1980 to 1987 and the Moss/Chumley Gallery at the Crescent Court from 1986 to 1989, where they showcased numerous new artists.

Established in 1995, the Moss/Chumley Artist Award is given in their memory. The award—which carries a cash prize of \$2,500—is open to artists working in any medium who live in one of the eleven North Texas counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise.

Past recipients include Bernardo Vallarino, Carolyn Sortor, Giovanni Valderas, Sedrick Huckaby, Annette Lawrence, Darryl Lauster, Christopher Blay, Stephen Lapthisophon, Frances Bagley, Isabelle du Toit, Juliette McCullough, David McCullough, Noah Simblist, Catherine Chauvin, Ludwig Schwarz, Janet Tyson, David Dreyer, Marie Van Arsdale, Sherry Owens, Kaleta Doolin, David Hickman, Tracy Hicks, Mary Vernon, Marilyn Waligore, Susan Kae Grant, and Bob Nunn.

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters.

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