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Multimedia installation explores racial justice and climate change from an indigenous perspective

CINCINNATI (May 17, 2022): “Regeneration,” a new multimedia installation that examines the link between racial justice and climate change from the lens of indigenous peoples, opens Friday, May 27 as part of Cincinnati Museum Center’s “America’s Epic Treasures featuring Preternatural by Michael Scott.”

Curated by musician Erin Fung and Sahtu Dene filmmaker Tate Juniper, this installation explores Indigenous perspectives on changing landscapes, the magnitude of the erasure of First Nations peoples, and the global impact of local plastics production and pollution. Visitors will experience authentic dialogue between hunters, artists, elders and youth in an immersive, multimedia recreation of a roundtable discussion and individual interviews within the Northern community of Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

The project is funded through a 2022 Black and Brown Artist Grant Fung received from ArtsWave. Fung is one of 22 BIPOC artists creating projects this year that explore the theme of “truth and reconciliation.” The program culminates in a showcase that will be held later this summer.

Fung and Juniper collaborated with the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition and consulted with members of the Western Arctic Youth Collective to create “Regeneration.” The installation, inspired by the Halq’eméylem concept of *xwelalam* (witnessing/gathering/listening), encourages deep listening and open conversation.

“Regeneration” will be presented as part of Cincinnati Museum Center’s “America’s Epic Treasures featuring Preternatural by Michael Scott,” an immersive, multimedia exhibition showcasing nature’s beauty and its destructive, disproportionate impact. The exhibition runs through January 8, 2023.

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About Erin Fung: In addition to a broad and rich career as an orchestral clarinetist, Erin has recently expanded her artistic practice, guided by the belief that the creation of new music and artistic experiences can bear witness to injustice, lay groundwork for empathy, and serve as a call to action. Motivated by her knowledge that music has the ability to bridge societal divides and heal cultural wounds, Erin's recent artistic projects have focused on racial justice. Her 2021 project "Isolation Commissions: The Past We Step Into," came as a response to the rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans following the COVID-19 pandemic and was inspired by the Black Lives Matters movement and Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem, "The Hill We Climb." Currently, she is working on a new multidisciplinary installation art project focusing on Indigenous issues, "Regeneration," exploring the link between racial justice and climate change; funded by ArtsWave, this will be presented at Cincinnati Museum Center this summer.

About Tate Juniper: A filmmaker and artist from the Délı̄nę region of the Northwest Territories of Canada, Tate Juniper's work centers on authentic representations and portrayals of Indigenous peoples. In 2021, he traveled 17,000 miles to take portraits and record stories from Indigenous communities across America as part of his project, "We Are the First." He is guided by the belief that authentic representation comes through conversation and listening and seeks to demystify what it means to be a contemporary Indigenous person.

About ArtsWave: ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 150 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. Over the last two years, ArtsWave has awarded 49 Black and Brown Artist grants to projects like this one that explore the theme of "truth and reconciliation." Funding comes from ArtsWave in partnership with the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Macy's, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Hard Rock Casino. You can support efforts like these by making a gift to ArtsWave at artswave.org/give.

About Cincinnati Museum Center: Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) at Union Terminal is a nationally recognized, award-winning institution housed in a National Historic

Landmark. CMC is a vital community resource that sparks curiosity, inspiration, epiphany and dialogue. CMC was awarded the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums in 2012, one of a select few museums in the nation to receive both honors. Organizations within CMC include the Cincinnati History Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, Children's Museum, Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater, Cincinnati History Library and Archives and the Geier Collections and Research Center. Housed in historic Union Terminal – a National Historic Landmark restored in 2018 and recognized as the nation's 45th most important building by the American Institute of Architects – CMC welcomes more than 1.8 million visits annually, making it one of the most visited museums in the country. For more information, visit www.cincymuseum.org.