

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ART READY Selected Works from the Artist Mentorship Program

May 20—24, 2026

Opening Reception: Wed. May 20, 6-8PM



This exhibition presents the artwork of students who participated in the 2025-2026 session of Art Ready, Smack Mellon's arts mentorship program for NYC public high school students interested in pursuing a career in the visual arts. This year, students worked with professional artists who specialize in photography, architecture, painting, sculpture, textile, printmaking, and video. The exhibition showcases an impressive range of media including paintings, public art, architectural models, prints, videos, apparel, and sculptures, as well as topics, some of which are sensitive. We ask visitors to view with care.

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Art Ready engages young people in a way no other arts education program does—by pairing students directly with successful working artists. Mentors provide professional and creative guidance as the students make decisions about their futures in the arts. They tutor the students in their creative process, introduce them to new ways of working, and encourage critical reflection. Museum admission, session in the Mentor’s studios, snacks, and subsidized transportation are all provided to students free of charge.

Coming from 13 high schools, this year’s Art Ready students include: Ignacio Achugar-Granoff, Sofia Almendral, Wenqing Dou, Maria Flores, Chris Grullon, Wren Guthrie, Christian Hill, Fallou Kane, Eve Kennedy, Pyae Thiri Khin, Kaung Ko, Sofia Komanova, Laura (Reece) Kovacs, Isalia Lebron-Dunlap, Nicole Lieb, Pilar Martinez, Nazar Oleksiuk, Daniel Ortega-Siaca, Arcady Ritter, and Maloni Robinson.

This year’s professional Artist Mentors included: Sam Chang & Charlotte Sie Wing Ho (Sage & Coombe Architects), Florencia Escudero, Marcela Florido, Craig Anthony Miller (CAM), Nazanin Noroozi, and Phillip Shung.

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