

# NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION *Bio*

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## T. LULANI ARQUETTE

T. Lulani Arquette is the President and CEO of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), a national organization dedicated to advancing equity and Native knowledge with a focus on arts and cultural expression that helps strengthen American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists and communities. With offices in the Pacific Northwest, the foundation provides support to Native artists, tribal organizations, and communities across the nation. Arquette, a theatre performing artist herself with degrees in Political Science and Drama & Theatre, brings over 25 years of professional experience steering organizations to their highest creativity and potential, advocating for cultural perpetuation and social change, and catalyzing change in communities. Her current work is especially focused on how we attend to cultural equity, social justice, leadership, and the environment to build a more compassionate and just nation.

## JOY HARJO

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke) has published eight books of poetry, including her most recent collection, *An American Sunrise*. She has also published a memoir, *Crazy Brave*, children's books including *For a Girl Becoming*, and a play *Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light*. She has also produced several award-winning music albums including *Red Dreams, A Trail Beyond Tears*. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Wallace Stephens Award from the Academy of American Poets and the Ruth Lily Prize from the Poetry Foundation. She is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and was recently named the 23rd U.S. Poet Laureate. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma where she is a Tulsa Artist Fellow.

## RUPERT AYTON

Mr. Ayton joined NACF in 2011 and is responsible for all operating functions of the organization. Prior to joining NACF, he was a financial services executive with over 30 years of financial management experience and consulting in for-and non-profit organizations. His experience includes real estate development, finance and management. He holds a BA in accounting from California State University-Northridge and an MBA from Golden Gate University. He comes from an artistic family and is a painter in his spare time.

# YALE UNION *Bio*

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Yale Union is a nonprofit contemporary art center founded by artists in 2009 and located in Portland, Oregon. Yale Union's mission is to support artists in creating and presenting new artworks, propose new modes of production, and engage the national and international conversation around contemporary art. Housed in an historic industrial laundry building, Yale Union offers 10,000 square feet of exhibition space in addition to artists' studios, an art library, audio recording studio, letterpress and offset print shops, and fabrication studios.

Commissioning new work from artists is the strength of Yale Union's artistic program; solo exhibitions have been commissioned by artists such as Lucy Skaer (b. 1975, UK), Charlemagne Palestine (b. 1947, U.S.), Yuji Agematsu (b. 1956, Japan), Park McArthur (b. 1984, U.S.), Lutz Bacher (b. 1940s, U.S.), Jef Geys (b. 1934, Belgium), Cathy Wilkes (b. 1966, UK), and Sky Hopinka (b. 1984, U.S.). YU has presented over one hundred exhibitions and events. These exhibitions have toured the U.S., Europe, Canada, Brazil, and New Zealand.

Through its publishing imprint and its in-house print shop, Yale Union has published ten books since 2013. It has printed limited edition artist's books with Lucy Skaer, Yuji Agematsu, and the estate of Yutaka Matsuzawa; poetry books with Susan Howe, Rae Armantrout, and Bernadette Mayer; and exhibition readers, booklets, and ephemera.

Yale Union's dedicated music and performance program has brought musicians and composers such as Keiji Haino (Japan), Elysia Crampton (U.S.), Larry B (UK/Ghana), Yoshi Wada (Japan), Ellen Fullman (U.S.), and Onyx Ashanti (U.S.).

All of Yale Union's exhibitions and events, along with auxiliary educational programs such as performances, lectures, screenings, and workshops, are free and open to the public in an attempt to grant access to the greatest number of people.

Central to Yale Union's vision has been the preservation of its home, the Yale Union laundry building. Built in 1908 as a steam-powered industrial laundry, the Yale Union building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its ability to convey information about industry in early 20th century America, the women's labor movement, and the rise of the postwar middle class. Most recently, Yale Union's preservation efforts have included the complete restoration of all 30 arched windows in the building's exhibition hall.

## FLINT JAMISON

Flint Jamison is an artist who co-founded Yale Union in 2009 and is the President of the Board of Directors. He also co-founded the artist center Department of Safety and is the Editor of Veneer Magazine. Jamison is an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Washington where he currently serves as Chair of the Photo/Media Program and sits on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee. Jamison is represented by Miguel Abreu Gallery, Air de Paris, and Galerie Max Mayer. He was born in Billings, MT.