

MSU BROAD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2020



The MSU Broad Presents *Seeds of Resistance*

East Lansing, MI – The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad) is proud to present *Seeds of Resistance*, on view Jan. 15–July 18, 2021. This exhibition draws attention to the long history of plant and human interdependence by exploring the ways in which seeds encode and preserve not only genetic information, but also cultural heritage and knowledge.

The protection of biodiversity on our planet is one of the most pressing concerns facing human society today. Processes like seed banking of antique and heritage seeds can help us conserve genetic plant diversity when faced with climate change, crop collapse, habitat destruction, and other future environmental uncertainties. Seeds are themselves archives, on both genetic and cultural levels—the seeds we foster illuminate the things that are important to us. Thus, the loss of biodiversity also means the loss of human cultural information.

The title of the exhibition, *Seeds of Resistance*, points to both the literal and symbolic ways in which the international roster of artists in this exhibition focus their work. Many artists plant their own “seeds” in the form of ideas for alternative ways of existing that honor and respect the sacredness of all living things. In doing so, these artists seek to create opportunities for deeper consideration of our responsibilities to each other and to future generations.

Seeds of Resistance takes root in the soils of Michigan State University and the mid-Michigan region, serving to illuminate the incredible work being done by faculty, researchers, and students at the university around issues of ecological preservation. Further, *Seeds of Resistance* intentionally builds upon the legacy of one of MSU's most revered faculty members, Dr. William J. Beal (1833–1924), who initiated what is now the longest ongoing scientific experiment in modern history, entitled the Beal Seed Viability Experiment. The history of MSU as a botanical and forestry research center will be an important tie-in to the exhibition, and various collections around campus—both scientific and cultural—have holdings relevant to this exhibition's environmental focus. In these ways, *Seeds of Resistance* will connect issues of local relevance with broader perspectives from these artists, many of whom are educators in their own right, all working to the same end: through learning and the ability to imagine a better, more sustainable future, real change can take hold.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad) connects people with art through experiences that inspire curiosity and inquiry. Presenting exhibitions and programs that engage diverse communities around issues of local relevance and global significance, the MSU Broad advances the University values of quality, inclusion, and connectivity. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. In 2017, the MSU Broad was awarded \$1 million from MSU Federal Credit Union in support of the Art Lab, an expansion across Grand River Avenue that provides increased access to and research of the permanent collection.

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: Beatriz Cortez, *Generosity I*, 2019. Courtesy the artist and Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles

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