



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UPCOMING MSU BROAD ART MUSEUM EXHIBITION WILL EXAMINE
FOOD SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

“Farmland” explores crucial questions of food knowledge, production scarcity, and consumption

East Lansing, MI – What do you know about the food you eat? In 2025, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) will present an exhibition prompting questions around the origins and effects of food security and justice in the US. *Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty* will combine a selection of archival objects and materials from Michigan State University’s history with artworks from the museum’s collection in dialogue with artists engaging these topics today. In mid-Michigan, farms and food production are especially relevant—MSU has a 170-year history in agriculture as the first land-grant college in the US.

“There is no better place for an exhibition like *Farmland* than on the campus of Michigan State University,” commented MSU Broad Art Museum Interim Director Steven L. Bridges. “Much of our community’s history is rooted in agriculture and food production. Since its inception, MSU has had an important role in being a ‘model farm’—promoting practical education in the agricultural arts for Michigan and the entire nation. Through the arts we are offered new and different ways of engaging these histories and examining where we are today, while exploring

the paths ahead as offered by a range of creative visions—working across disciplines, cultures, and lived experiences.”

Starting with the nucleus of agriculture—the farm and its changing relationship to the society it serves—the exhibition will provide different perspectives on key themes associated with equitable access to food: the urban-rural divide, issues of labor, race and immigration, as well as modes of consumption centered around the commodification of food infrastructure and access to food.

“Access to food is a human right,” said Teresa Fankhänel, Associate Curator at the MSU Broad Art Museum. “This doesn’t just refer to the quantity or quality of food but its connection to cultural heritage, and to physical and mental well-being as the basis for a fulfilling life. This exhibition invites a conversation about our current food systems in Michigan, food security, and ways to foster community through food.”

Farmland will tell a story of Indigenous knowledge, institutional research, farming, seeds, crops, and how food systems can be designed to nurture society. The exhibition will focus heavily on community engagement and collective learning with a widespread network of local stakeholders including agricultural students, farmers, activists, researchers, and historians.

“The exhibition planning process is deeply intertwined with discussions with the communities who are impacted by food justice and food insecurity issues—from MSU and Greater Lansing, to Michigan and the broader Midwest,” noted Dalina A. Perdomo Álvarez, Assistant Curator at the MSU Broad Art Museum. “Our ongoing conversations with students, faculty members, farmers, artists, and several organizations engaged with food justice inform the project as a whole to provide an avenue for everyone to think about their connections to the land that feeds us.”

The MSU Broad Art Museum is open Wednesday–Sunday from 10am–6pm. Admission is always free. Learn more at broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty (on view Jan. 18–Jul. 27, 2025) is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University and co-curated by Teresa Fankhänel, Associate Curator, and Dalina A. Perdomo Álvarez, Assistant Curator. Lead funding for this exhibition is provided by the Eli and Edythe Broad Endowed Exhibitions Fund.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) 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 Art Museum 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 for its creation.

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: Mathias Joseph Alten, *Michigan Pasture with Cows*, 1914. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, gift of the Alten and Gilleo Families, 99.16

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MSU Broad Art Museum representatives are available for interview.

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