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SUN VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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WHAT: BIG IDEA Project and Exhibition: *At the Table: Kitchen as Home*
WHO: The Sun Valley Center for the Arts
WHEN: Dec. 21, 2018–March 1, 2019
WHERE: The Center, Ketchum
Contact: Holly Bornemeier, Marketing Manager, 208.726.9491 x 116, hollyb@sunvalleycenter.org

Ketchum, Idaho — Nov. 26, 2018 — What role does the kitchen play in shaping our memories, our families, and our social lives? How does the making and sharing of food connect us to our past the provide comfort in the present? The Sun Valley Center for the Arts explores these questions and more in its next BIG IDEA project, *At the Table: Kitchen as Home*, opening Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, at The Center’s museum in Ketchum.



Joan Linder, *Blue Sink* (detail), 2012, marker and ink on paper, courtesy the artist

For many of us, the kitchen is an integral part of our earliest memories—memories that bring taste and smell together with our visual recollections of the spaces in which our families gathered. We often recreate our childhood memories of the kitchen as adults, cooking from the same recipes our parents used, buying the same brands of foods that lined our childhood shelves or serving food on dishes we inherited from grandparents.

We come together in the kitchen for conversation, for doing homework, for making art projects and for entertaining friends and family. Kitchens can be places of creativity and experimentation, but they also offer the security of repetition and the familiar—the pot of coffee prepared the same way every morning, or the simple meal thrown together by rote.

“We hope this BIG IDEA triggers talk about all that happens in the kitchen — the conversations that were and weren’t shared at the table, the food that was made and offered, the objects used in daily eating rituals,” said Kristin Poole, Artistic Director at the Sun Valley Center for Arts. “As we settle in for winter and holiday celebrations, we look forward to conversations about the funny, sweet, sometimes troubling things that have shaped our ideas of home while we simultaneously honor that there are some without access to a kitchen, whose experience of meals and home is altogether different.”

The Center’s visual arts exhibition features six contemporary artists whose work across a range of media examines the role of the kitchen, its contents, or the act of preparing and enjoying food in shaping our memories:

- **Abby Carter** spent several years volunteering in a soup kitchen in Connecticut. Over the course of her time there, she got to know its patrons and began making portraits of the many different people for whom the soup kitchen was a vital resource. The exhibition includes a selection of her portraits alongside recent works Carter has made of the interior of the soup kitchen itself.
- Illustrator **Ferris Cook** has made a series of drawings of individual kitchen objects: an espresso maker, a toaster, a spoon. Her simple, elegant pencil drawings function as portraits of the cherished objects we turn to when preparing our food and will be paired with an installation of kitchen objects on loan from residents of the Wood River Valley.
- Painter **Benny Fountain** has produced a series of paintings that marry the interior of his kitchen in a house he once owned in Portland, Oregon, with views through a kitchen window of the northern Idaho landscapes of his childhood. His paintings underline the connection between kitchens and our memories of childhood and of place.
- **Julie Green's** paintings address themes of food and the realm of the domestic. The Center commissioned Green to spend time in residence at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Hailey, creating work in response to the history of the house and its interior. The exhibition pairs these new works with Green's *An Embarrassment of Dishes*, a Noritake dinner service for 12 that she inherited from her grandmother and later painted with her own patterns and inscribed with stories from her youth. Julie Green's residency is generously sponsored by Jennifer Wilson.
- **MK Guth** has produced a number of sculptures that combine books, objects and written instructions for different kinds of events that involve the preparation of and sharing of food and drink. The exhibition includes two sculptures: *A Dinner to Remember* and *A Dinner to Plan a Revolution*. Her works invite viewers to consider the ways that shared meals can become transformative experiences.
- Following the birth of her first child, **Joan Linder** began making daily drawings of her kitchen sink "brimming with dishes, recently washed, or practically untouched." The drawings capture the detritus of life in the kitchen—the accumulation of plates and cups, cleaning supplies and cooking ingredients that result from meals prepared and enjoyed. Linder's drawings convey the passage of time in the kitchen, where labor repeats itself in a daily cycle.

The *At the Table: Kitchen as Home* exhibition also includes hands-on activities for learners of all ages in The Center's Maker Space.

To further illuminate this BIG IDEA, The Center will present a series of lectures, workshops, films and theatre productions to encourage community participation and discussion:

FREE Museum Exhibition Dec. 21–March 1

FREE Gallery Walk Dec. 28, 5–7 p.m.

FREE Evening Exhibition Tour Jan. 3, 5:30 p.m.

Lecture: "Cooking Shouldn't Kill" with Nancy Hughes and Taylor Rixon Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m.

FREE Artist Talk with MK Guth Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Film: *The Irish Pub* Jan. 10, 4:30 and 7 p.m.

FREE Family Day: “Art, Drink, and Be Merry!” Jan. 12, 3–5 p.m.

CREATIVE JUMP-IN: “Sketching Kitchen Memories” with Bob Dix Jan. 16, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Winter Warm-up Veillée with Music from Bon Débarras Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

Film: *Chef Flynn* Jan. 24, 4:30 and 7 p.m.

FREE Evening Exhibition Tour with Artist Abby Carter and The Hunger Coalition Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m.

Teen Workshop: Cookie Art! with Virginia McConnell of Canuck Cookies Jan. 26, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

FREE Public Storytelling Event with Idaho Basecamp Jan. 31, 6 p.m.

Company of Fools Theatre: *Dinner with Friends: Recipes for Storytelling* Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

FREE Evening Exhibition Tour Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m.

FREE Gallery Walk Feb. 15, 5–7 p.m.

Lecture: “Plates, Places, and Stories from My Family Kitchen” with Joanne Weir Feb. 23, 4 p.m.

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts is grateful to Ali Long for her generous support of the *At the Table: Kitchen as Home* BIG IDEA project.

The visual arts exhibition for *At the Table: Kitchen as Home* will be on view through March 1, 2019. Admission to The Center’s museum is always free, and the public is invited to visit the exhibition during The Center’s open hours, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and, in February, Saturdays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.sunvalleycenter.org or call 208.726.9491.

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VISUALS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

For more information on this program or upcoming programs, please contact the Sun Valley Center for the Arts at 208.726.9491, information@sunvalleycenter.org, or visit our website sunvalleycenter.org.

Sun Valley Center for the Arts is located at 191 Fifth Street East in Ketchum, Idaho, in Hailey at 314 South Second Avenue and at The Liberty Theatre at 110 North Main St, Hailey. Ketchum hours are 9am–5pm Monday through Friday year-round and 11am–5pm on Saturdays in February and March and July and August.

Established in 1971, the mission of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts is to enrich our community through transformative arts and education experiences. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Center’s year-round programming includes Company of Fools’ professionally produced theatre, visual arts exhibitions featuring regionally and nationally recognized artists, lectures, concerts, film, dance, classes in visual and performing arts, play readings and BIG IDEA multidisciplinary projects that explore a theme or idea through multiple events and disciplines. In addition, The Center works to enhance arts education in Blaine County schools by providing elementary school theater education, student exhibition tours, in-school artist residencies and performances, arts-based classroom enrichment projects, student and teacher scholarships and professional development programs for classroom teachers. More than 40,000 people attend these events annually. Our programs are supported through the Engl Trust, the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, private foundations, proceeds from the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Wine Auction, grants, donations and membership dues.