

# RYAN! Feddersen: Coyote Now



**Large Print Labels**

## Introduction

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### ***RYAN! Feddersen: Coyote Now***

RYAN! Feddersen creates installations and public artworks that invite people to actively participate while considering their relationship to the environment, technology, society, and culture. *Coyote Now* engages Plateau lore and storytelling to imagine the trickster, Coyote, as an actor in contemporary events. Before there were two-legged people (humans) on earth, Coyote was busy roaming the plateau, playing both Trickster and Hero, and preparing the world for change. Because Coyote's work was important, but his mischief would often backfire on him, Coyote was given the gift of immortal life. Following a disaster, if a piece of Coyote remained—even a single scrap of fur, a bone, or a whisker—Coyote could be revived to live on.

By casting Coyote's bones in crayon, Feddersen establishes creativity as the symbolic way of restoring Coyote so that his work can continue today. In her illustrated, modern-day epic, the artist's Coyote adventures become metaphors to help interpret our world and the impacts of our individual actions on society. Throughout the duration of the exhibition, the artwork's narrative transforms as people add their own colors.

RYAN! Feddersen is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, from the Okanogan and Arrow Lakes bands, and is of mixed European descent.

*Organized by the Boise Art Museum*

*Sponsored by the Steiner Family Foundation*

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# Sculpture Court

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RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Coyote Now***, 2024  
Pigment print on PhotoTex  
and hand-cast crayon



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Coyote Now: Bones***, 2016  
Ink on board paper and hand-cast crayons



Presented as a set of eight, colorful crayons, cast as realistic replicas of Coyote bones, the artwork combines the recognizable tools of creativity with Plateau lore. Sweatlodge gave

his cousin, the Fox, the ability to revive Coyote if even a shred of bone or fur remained. These hand-cast crayon bones symbolically become these remains, offering the opportunity to bring Coyote back to life through our creative labors.

Museum attendants will be available to provide crayons for participation during the following times:

Fridays & Saturdays | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

The artist's hand-made crayon sets are available for purchase in the BAM Store.

# ***Coyote Now***

## **How to Participate**

The hand-cast, Coyote-bone crayons are part of the artwork created by RYAN! Feddersen. Please use one crayon at a time to add your color to the artwork. Then return the crayon to the Museum attendant.

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## *Little Turns*

Inspiration is all around you. How would you reflect your environment?

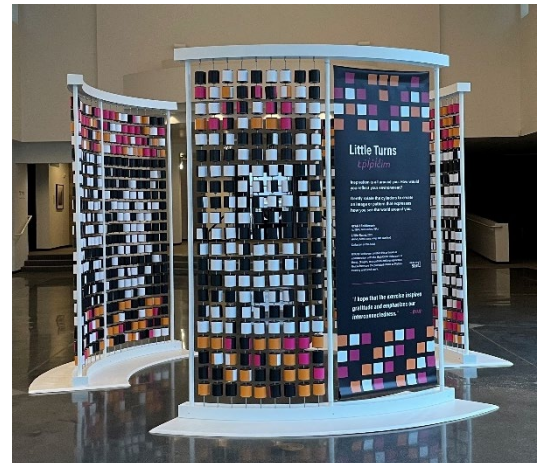
Gently rotate the cylinders to create an image or pattern that expresses how you see the world around you.

RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

*Little Turns*, 2023

Wood, paint, cans, vinyl,  
and steel rod

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen created this artwork in collaboration with the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, as a pattern-making apparatus that references the pixelated nature of Plateau twining and bead work.



“I hope that the exercise inspires gratitude and emphasizes our interconnectedness.”

– RYAN!

## Gallery 16

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### *Ryan Feddersen: Remains*

Part of the *Remains* series created during an artist residency at the Tacoma Museum of Glass, these glass vessels are based on traditional Plateau (Interior Salish) woven burden baskets. Burden baskets were historically used to transport items and store goods. They continue to be made and used today. Melded with imagery that can be seen across RYAN! Feddersen's artistic media, together the vessels create a vibrant vignette of elements that are repeated within her themes, including *Coyote Now*, *Disconnected Towers*, *Bison Stack*, and *Manifest Signs*. We see Coyote's spirit hovering over his bones, waiting to be restored. Disconnected towers loom over neighborhoods as beacons that predict gentrification. Cranes place the final bison skull on a heap, linking the slaughter of

the bison and removal of Indigenous communities from their lands with current, rapid redevelopment that continues to displace animals and people. While seemingly playful in their bright colors and iconographic imagery, the artworks reflect troubling stories that demand our attention and actions toward a more compassionate and connected world with the highest hopes for our shared humanity.

## About the Artist

(Rack Card)

**RYAN!** Elizabeth Feddersen specializes in creating compelling, site-specific installations and public artworks which invite people to consider our relationships to history, culture, the land, and our non-human-kin. She completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Cornish College of the Arts in



2009, and is now based in Tacoma, Washington. Feddersen grew up in Wenatchee and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, from the Okanogan and Arrow Lakes bands, and of mixed European descent. Her practice focuses on creative problem solving to address social issues through visual allegories that provide opportunities for exploration, introspection, and epiphany. She investigates creative strategies to activate engagement with interactive materials, community sourced content, social practice, fun and humor. These approaches enable her work to start conversations about a broad spectrum of subjects and promote collective learning. Feddersen has created large-scale, site-specific artworks and interactive installations throughout North America and has a growing body of permanent artworks in the public realm.

Glass vessels: clockwise, from front center

RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Ghost Coyote, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Coyote Bones, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Disconnected Towers, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Oh Shit\**, 2019**

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Bison Stack Crane*, 2019**

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Bison and Coyote*, 2019**

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Vibrant Bison, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Two Birds Both Dead, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist



RYAN! Feddersen  
(b. 1984, Wenatchee, WA)

***Crane, 2019***

Glass

Collection of the Artist

