

# GAVLAK

GAVLAK is pleased to announce

## **The Crocker Art Museum's acquisition of *Spiraling* by Alex Anderson**



Alex Anderson, *Spiraling*, 2020. Earthenware, glaze, and gold luster, 22 x 17 x 2 in. ( 55.9 x 43.2 x 5.1 cm)

Gavlak is pleased to announce that the Crocker Art Museum acquired the ceramic piece *Spiraling* by Alex Anderson. Anderson brings social activism to exquisitely crafted works that are simultaneously lush and beautiful with a tinge of critique. *Spiraling* is currently being shown in a group exhibition *Belonging*, the 2022 NCECA National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts Annual Exhibition at the Crocker Art Museum. The show

will explore the coded ways in which we navigate inhospitable environments, push back against oppressive systems that deny belonging, and foster inclusion through the community.

Alex Anderson was the previous recipient of the 2021 John S. Knudsen Prize, established to support an emerging or mid-career California artist while also funding programs, exhibitions, acquisitions, and other endeavors related to the artist's work at the Museum. In addition to a \$25,000 cash award to the artist, the prize funds the Museum's purchase of Anderson's work *Spiraling* (2020), a work made during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic when, as Anderson explains, it "felt as though we were all spiraling toward our own undefined, yet certain end."

"The minstrel characters in the painting reflect the state of race relations in America at the time and serve as avatars of my own experience in the world as a Black person socially contextualized by the white Western paradigm.", added Anderson.



Side view of *From a Spiraling*, Alex Anderson

See Alex Anderson's work, *Spiraling*, in the exhibition, *Belonging* at the Crocker Museum through May 8, 2022.

Guest curator Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy explains the curatorial premise of the exhibition:

A sense of belonging implies an affinity or connectedness with a place, social or cultural group. Belonging is survival. It is a powerful feeling that shapes our identity. Belonging explores the intangible and tangible approaches we engage in developing and maintaining our sense of connectedness across time and space and also relates to ownership or possession, an interpretation that has caused much harm to humans, non-human species, and natural resources.

## ABOUT THE CROCKER

The Crocker brings people together and connects them in unexpected ways with art, ideas, each other, and the world around them. Founded as a public/private partnership in 1885, the Crocker features the world's foremost display of California art and is renowned for its holdings of master drawings and international ceramics, as well as European, Asian, African, and Oceanic art. The Crocker serves as the primary regional resource for the study and appreciation of fine art and offers a diverse spectrum of exhibitions, events, and programs to deepen visitors' understanding of art, including films, concerts, studio classes, lectures, and an array of activities for families and children. Find more information about exhibitions and programs at [crockerart.org](http://crockerart.org).

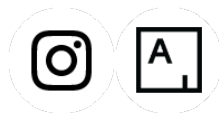


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