



Public Art Quarterly September 2025

In this issue: Checkpoint 1, Pop-Up Wall, Art Reception, Cosmic, Studio Visit: Matthew Szoz, Tours, Refract, Welcome Aboard, and Staying Connected

Checkpoint 1

Checkpoint 1 has transformed into a mini-museum moment, offering travelers an immersive art experience in unexpected places through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

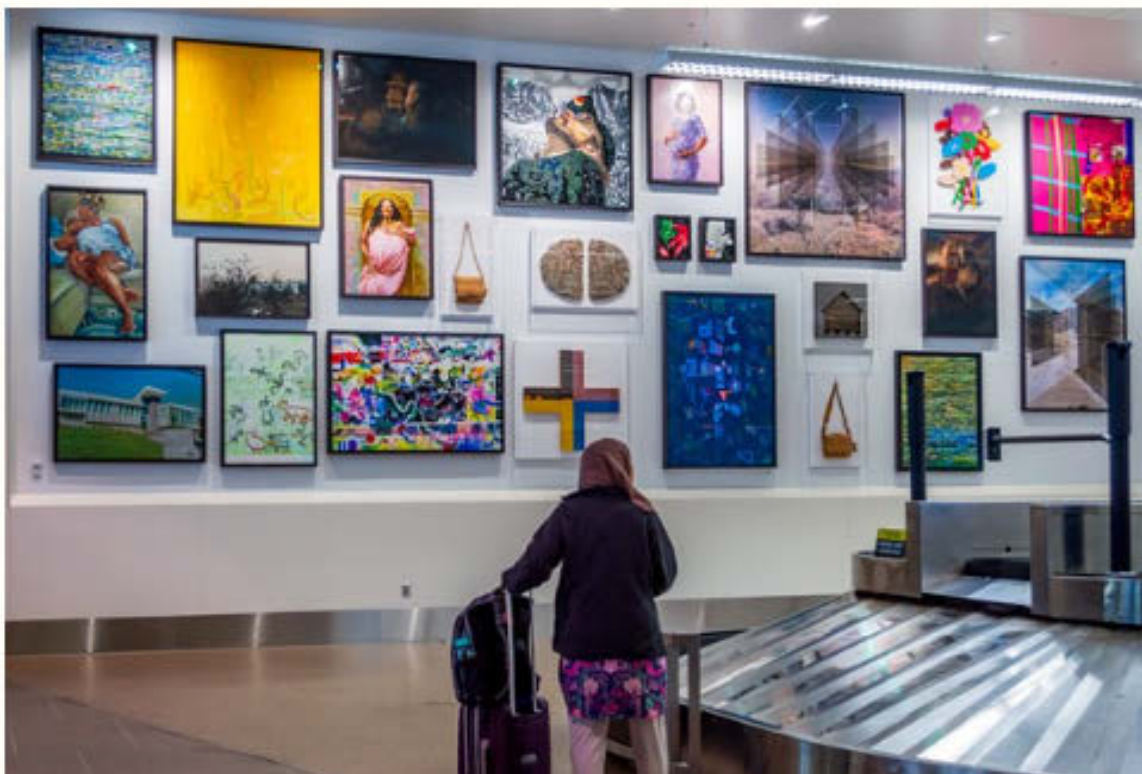
Cases



Checkpoint 1 cases

Returning readers may remember the sneak peek we gave of [Marita Dingus](#) and [Barbara Earl Thomas](#) when their work was still in route to installation. Now fully

unveiled, Dingus' *Buoy Boy*, crafted from reclaimed materials, sits proudly in the case as a sculptural personality of resilience and resourcefulness. Nearby resides Thomas' vase *Fly Home*, which houses shadowy silhouettes within Thomas's iconic paper cut shapes. They are now joined by [Emily Counts](#)' *Naturopath* and *The Magician*; tall ceramic figures layered with stained glass and wood. Nearby, [Iván Carmona's](#) *Campo Abierto* fills the case with bold color and abstract form. [Nancy Callan's](#) *Captain America II* tilts playfully in blown glass, its bright colors bringing the energy of comic books into the checkpoint. Together with other amazing artist such as [Brent Kee Young](#), [Dan Webb](#), and [Tyna Ontko](#), to list a few. The cases now stand as a gallery in motion, a place where art and travel intertwine. Whether you're a passenger or a port employee, you can view these pieces on the ticketing level. No matter if you are a traveler in line at TSA, an employee on your way to work or waiting for you loved one at Gina Marie Lindsey Hall, we are excited offer a microcosm of our local and national talents. Check-it out!



Checkpoint 1 wall

Just a hop and skip away from the cases facing Baggage Claim 2, the new salon-style wall stretches more than thirty feet, gathering artists into one sweeping display. Travelers will no doubt halt at the sight of [Andy Arkley's](#) *Sometimes When We're Together*, its burst of bold shape and color on cut wood is striking. Nearby, [Romson Regarde Bustillo's](#) *Gahapon (Yesterday)* layers collage, print, and paint into a work rooted in memory and history. Other artists add portraits, textiles, glass, and carved wood to the mix, from [Grace Athena Flott's](#) poetic portraits that challenge societal norms, to [Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga's](#) fabric landscapes, a nod to her cultural heritage, and [Humaira Abid's](#) carved wood bags which provide commentary on societal repression. Each artist's piece tells a story of humanity, migration and resilience; together, their voices create a wall that feels like a conversation, offering travelers a moment of calm amid the chaos of the Baggage Claim.

Pop-Up Wall



Raindrops on Roses

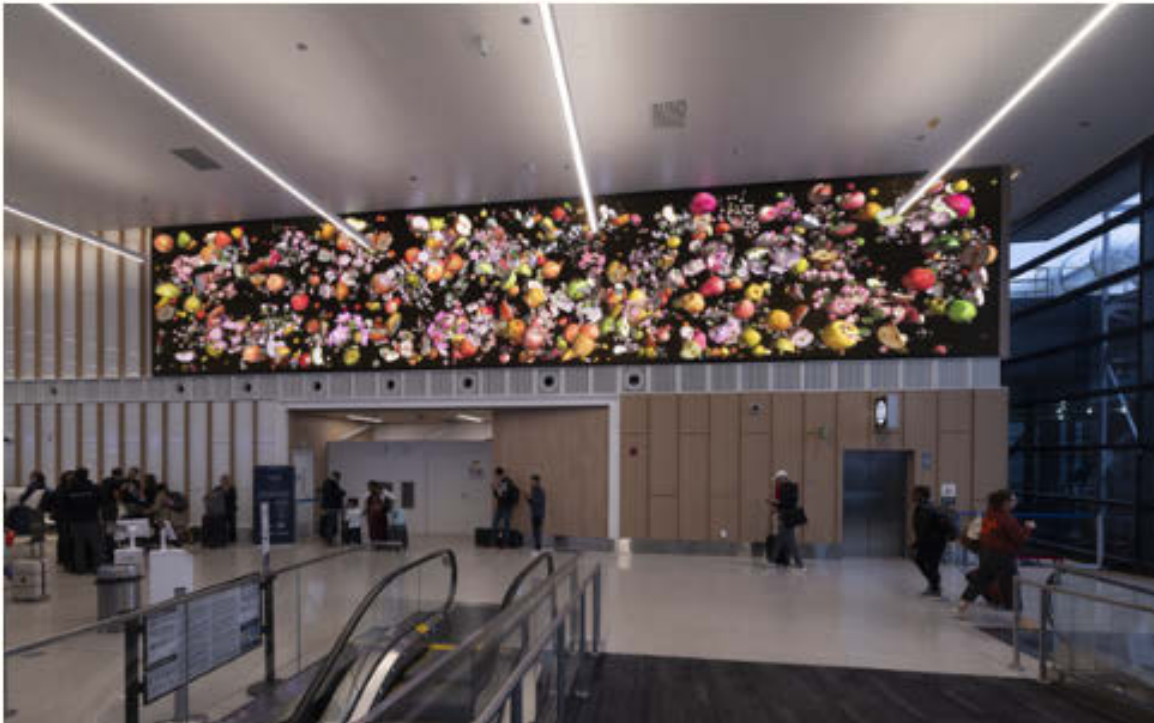
Travelers moving through Baggage Claim 13 are now greeted by a splash of color overhead. [Julie Alpert's](#) *Raindrops on Roses* stretches fifty feet across the wall, filling the space with playful shapes and bold hues. Alpert, a Seattle-based artist originally from Maryland, has long been known for immersive installations that feel both nostalgic and bold. She drew inspiration for this piece from "The Sound of

Music", naming it after the first line of "My Favorite Things". Her abstract shapes are reminiscent of colorful sticker collections. Installed over several late-night shifts, the work brings a sense of joy and intrigue to an unlikely setting. This is just the beginning: a second pop-up wall will arrive later this fall above Baggage Claim 16, book-ending the space with another burst of Alpert's color and pattern.



Julie Alpert

Cosmic



Jennifer Steinkamp's Cosmic

Above the flow of the North Main Terminal, a new digital orchard comes to life. [Jennifer Steinkamp's](#) *Cosmic* fills the airport's sixty-foot video wall with a cascade of blossoms and fruit, transforming the space into a moving garden that shifts and shimmers as travelers pass by. Steinkamp is known internationally for transforming architectural spaces with digital projections. Since the early 2000s, she has drawn on nature as her subject, creating twisting trees, blooming flowers, and fields that change with the seasons. At SEA, she brings that same vision to the heart of the terminal. The result is both familiar and otherworldly: apples tumble and bloom in a cycle of color, referencing growth, change, and the comforts of the natural world. Like her earlier projects in museums and public spaces worldwide, the work offers a moment of wonder in transit. Installed as part of the North Main Terminal Redevelopment, *Cosmic* parallels the motion of the terminal below. As you wait to check your bags, try counting how many different varieties of apples appear on screen!



Jen and Jermey



Jen, Jeremy and Maple enjoying the grand opening of the D1 restroom exhibit

SEA's freshly renovated D Concourse restrooms now greet travelers with art at every turn, thanks to artists [Jen Elek](#) and [Jeremy Bert](#). Elek is a Seattle-based contemporary glass artist, trained as a welder, who has assisted artists from Dale Chihuly to Kiki Smith. Bert is a Pacific Northwest neon artist who reclaims commercial waste and materials from the sign industry, transforming them into brightly intricate sculptures. Together, ***The Illuminated Palouse*** bridges glass, neon, and mixed media in the D1 installations that span the entry walls, pet relief area, and nursing suite, turning functional spaces into an unforeseen art gallery.



Two furry friends celebrating the new neon pieces

At the entry walls, circles of neon light feature glowing outlines of a quail, a jackrabbit, and other native animals of the Palouse. Set behind glass, these illuminated forms pay homage to the landscape and the concourse's theme, transforming the lobby's corners into inviting visual landmarks.

In the pet relief area, an archival media wiener dog chases its tail across the wall, bringing humor and charm to a practical stop. Beneath it, a bronze log inlaid with glass rondels adds a vibrant color for us and our furry companions.



Jen, Jeremy, Public Art Team, and friends

Inside the nursing suite, four tall cases hold an assortment of mixed-media objects: glass mushrooms, pinecones, blossoms, and playful geometric forms. Suspended against vivid colored backdrops, they feel like natural specimens preserved for the viewer, inviting curiosity while offering a moment of calm.



Illuminating the Palouse - Nursing Suite

Art Reception



Art Reception guests enjoying canapés and conversation

On July 23, artists, Port staff, artists, and partners gathered in the Airport Office Building Conference Center to celebrate SEA's growing public art collection. The evening opened with canapés and conversations, followed by remarks from Commissioner Calkins highlighting the Port's long commitment to art and community. Guests enjoyed a lively round of Kahoot, testing their knowledge of SEA's collection in a spirited quiz that brought excitement and friendly competition. Prizes went to the top players, but the real reward was the chance to share stories and connections across projects. As the evening wound down, attendees joined a mini tour of the newly installed Checkpoint 1 cases and salon wall. Seeing the artworks together, fresh from installation, made for a fitting close to a night devoted to creativity and collaboration.



Annabelle (Public Art Coordinator), Tilly (College Intern), Mohamed (Highschool Intern), and Gabriel (Highschool Intern) prepping for the Art Reception



Remarks from Commissioner Calkins



This October, SEA will once again take part in [Refract](#): The Seattle Glass Experience, a citywide festival celebrating the region's world-renowned studio glass community. Refract brings together artists, galleries, and institutions across the Puget Sound, with exhibitions, demonstrations, and tours that showcase glass as a vibrant contemporary art form. On [October 17, from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm](#), both Port employees and the traveling public are invited to join SEA for special tour of the airports glass collection. It's a chance to see familiar pieces in a new light and to learn more about the artists who created them. Organized by Visit Seattle, Chihuly Garden and Glass, and more than 50 regional partners, Refract has quickly become a signature event for the Pacific Northwest. From glowing installations to hands-on experiences, it's a reminder that Seattle's glass legacy is alive and thriving and that SEA is proud to be part of it.

Studio Visit

Matthew Szoz Studio Visit



Studio Visit

This fall, artist [Matthew Szoz](#) is preparing *Jonah*, a monumental new installation for SEA's North Main Terminal. While the full project will eventually include suspended sculptures, travelers will first encounter its walls, fifty-foot spans of steel and glass that enclose Skybridge 5. Inspired by the story of Jonah in the belly of the whale, the walls create an in-between space where light bends, colors shift, and reflections appear and dissolve as travelers pass through. The effect turns an ordinary walkway into a moment of pause and transformation, echoing the journey itself. The walls are slated for installation this November, with suspended elements to follow in early 2025.

Tours



ARTS-PACC King County Tour

With new exhibits premiering almost monthly, stay in the loop by booking a tour with the Public Art Program, just email [Annabelle Goavec](#) to schedule!

Welcome Aboard

Please give a warm welcome Kate Quamma, our new **Public Art Technician**. Kate has supported collections and installations at museums and galleries across Seattle, most recently at J. Rinehart Gallery and studio e. With a background in fine arts and art history, she brings both technical skill, curatorial insight, making her a jack of all trades! We're excited and honored to welcome her on our team!

Staying Connected

The Public Art Quarterly Newsletter Archive is your go-to resource for accessing all past editions of our internal newsletters. Each issue is available in PDF format, making it easy to revisit stories or exploring the growth of our public art exhibits, the archive is here to keep you connected. You can find the page on our [Port of Seattle](#) website or by clicking [here](#)!

Your Public Art Team is:

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Quarterly Newsletter written by Tilly Word

All photos above were taken by the Public Art team or sourced from artists' official websites,
unless otherwise noted

