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Four Exceptional Artists Win the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art's 2026 BRAVA Awards

Gabriel Zea, RYAN! Feddersen, Inge Bruggeman, and Priscilla Dobler Dzul receive this distinguished award

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA – Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) is excited to announce the 2026 BRAVA Award recipients: Gabriel Zea, RYAN! Feddersen, Inge Bruggeman, and Priscilla Dobler Dzul. These four outstanding artists were selected out of hundreds of applicants for their artistic excellence, technical skills, and contributions to the arts community.

The BRAVA (BIMA Recognizes Achievement in the Visual Arts) Awards are an annual award given by BIMA that honor four outstanding contemporary artists. Inspired by the vision of BIMA Founder Cynthia Sears, a long-time arts advocate, the BRAVA Awards are one of BIMA's initiatives for providing direct and significant support to working artists. Each winner receives an unrestricted award of \$15,000, recognition in BIMA media, participation in a live award ceremony, a video about the recipient, and an invitation to serve on the next review panel.

"The BRAVA Awards are about celebrating artists at the top of their game—and reminding our community just how lucky we are to have this caliber of talent in our own backyard," said Korum Bischoff, BIMA's Interim Executive Director. "These artists inspire us, challenge us, and make our region a more creative place. We're thrilled to give them the recognition they deserve."

Every year, the BRAVA (BIMA Recognizes Achievement in the Visual Arts) Awards are given across four categories to four different artists, selected by an independent panel made of artists, educators, and art sector leaders. This year, the Award categories were: Emerging Artist, Native American & First Nations Artist, Artists' Books Artist, and the 2026 Special Choice Award: Ceramics Artist. The 2026 class of awardees are:

Emerging Artist (Puget Sound Region): Gabriel Zea (Seattle, WA)

Born in Singapore to a Colombian family and raised in a multicultural community in Houston, TX, Gabriel Zea's desire to create artwork was born from a desire to find a calm interior despite an outside world that is frequently in flux. Zea received his BFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art and received a MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Upon finishing his MFA, he attended artist residencies in Spain,

Germany, Russia, and the U.S. Zea began working more independently as an artist in 2018, creating his own work, commissioned work, and occasionally working as assistant to other prominent painters in New York City. In 2023, he moved to Seattle and has continued exhibiting his paintings around the country. [Learn more and watch the video about Gabriel Zea here.](#)

Native American & First Nations Artist (Salish Sea Region): RYAN! Feddersen (Tacoma, WA)

RYAN! Elizabeth Feddersen specializes in creating 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 BFA at Cornish College of the Arts and is based in Tacoma, WA. 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. She investigates creative strategies to activate engagement through interactive materials, community sourced content, social practice, fun, and humor. Feddersen has created large-scale site-specific pieces and interactive installations and has a growing body of permanent artworks in the public realm. [Learn more and watch the video about RYAN! Feddersen here.](#)

Artists' Books Artist (National): Inge Bruggeman (Berkeley, CA)

Inge Bruggeman's work revolves around the idea of the book as object, artifact, and cultural icon. She is an artist's book maker who has exhibited internationally, a researcher, teacher, publisher, writer, and curator. Her career has included receiving an MFA in the Book Arts Program at the University of Alabama, a two-year residency at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, owning and running publishing companies, and being a lecturer and professor at institutions like the University of Nevada. Today, Bruggeman makes artist's books, fine press publications, prints, and other text-based art that investigate our personal and collective relationship to the shifting role of the book, print media, and text in our world today. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the CODEX Foundation and teaches a course in UC Berkeley's Special Collections Department. [Learn more and watch the video about Inge Bruggeman here.](#)

2026 Special Choice Award (Puget Sound Region): Ceramics Artist: Priscilla Dobler Dzul

Priscilla Dobler Dzul is an interdisciplinary artist; she grew up in the industrial redlined section of South Tacoma. Her inspiration comes from her passion and commitment to the preservation of land, oral stories, craft, and representation of her multi-Maya cultural heritage. Familial experiences of labor, love, and resilience helped Dzul understand the importance of community and how craft and folk art both shows our stories and our relationship to the ecosystems. Her research is driven by a commitment to narrative change through social justice, racial equity, and artistic mastery. She has exhibited domestically and internationally. Most recently she has shown at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de UChile, Santiago, Chile; Frye Art Museum, Seattle; 32nd Biennial de

Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain; ARCOmadrid Art Fair, Madrid, Spain and Material Art Fair, Mexico City. She received her MFA in Sculpture from the State University of New York at New Paltz. [Learn more and watch the video about Priscilla Dobler Dzul here.](#)

BIMA made the BRAVA Awards an annual program starting in 2026 after running biennially for the first two awards. Previous winners of the BRAVA Award include Sarah Bryant, Dan Friday, Yolanda Galery, and Nikki McClure in 2025, and Kamari Bright, Julie Chen, Julie Paschkis, and Betty Pasco in 2023.

For more information on this year's BRAVA Award winners, please visit:
www.biartmuseum.org/brava-awards-winners-2026.

Press photos of the winners and their work can be found at:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nfy2nwKRMvvnuMMK8>.

About Bainbridge Island Museum of Art:

[Bainbridge Island Museum of Art](#) (BIMA) creates a welcoming space and inspiring platform for lively public engagement and appreciation of the contemporary art and craft of the Puget Sound region and its international collection of Artists' Books. The art museum exhibits, interprets, preserves, collects, and promotes works of proven cultural value as well as new works by emerging artists and craftspeople.

The art museum is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. Free admission. BIMA is located in beautiful downtown Bainbridge Island, at the corner of Hwy 305 and Winslow Way, just steps away from the ferry terminal, and with easy access via public transportation or by car from the Kitsap Peninsula. <https://www.biartmuseum.org/>

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