

## ***A Luthier's Tale: The Craft of Stringed Instruments***

**On view: July 2nd - September 19th, 2021**

**Public opening: Friday, July 2, 2021, 6-9 PM**

**Contact:**

Jen Boyd Martin, Exhibition Director, 108|Contemporary

[jen@108contemporary.org](mailto:jen@108contemporary.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Tulsa, OK- 108|Contemporary is excited to present *A Luthier's Tale: The Craft of Stringed Instruments*. Guest curator Benjamin Liggett brings together local and regional makers in an exhibition dedicated to the art, craft, and design of stringed instruments. Following his training at the Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery in Phoenix, Arizona, Liggett became a full-time luthier at Bishline Banjos where he worked for 8 years. He currently works full time at Liggett Guitars. Liggett conveys his passion for creating instruments in this exhibition, which is a survey of stringed instruments from a variety of luthiers that represent the culture and craftsmanship of our region. With a documentary of the making process, a wide range of educational programs, and a multitude of performances, this show shines a light on this incredible craft. In addition to the display of the instruments themselves, the exhibition will be enhanced by various activities to enrich the perspectives and engage the community of Greater Tulsa while emphasizing the city's important contributions to the music world.

**July 2, 2021, 6-9 pm** | The public is invited to join us for the opening of our exhibition at 108|Contemporary from 6-9 pm on July 2, 2021. We will be open in conjunction with the First Friday Art Crawl that highlights organizations in the Tulsa Arts District.

**July 22, 2021 at 7 pm** | Join us for a hybrid lecture with Rob Katz as he discusses the history and African origins of the American banjo. This event will be in-person in the gallery as well as over Zoom and will occur on July 22, 2021 at 7 pm.

**July 24, 2021 & August 21, 2021 at 7pm** | We will be partnering with ahha Tulsa to hold two outside concerts in their courtyard. The first of these events will be on July 24th, 2021 at 7 pm with a performance by Dane Arnold and The Soup. The second of the Saturday concerts is on August 21st, 2021 with Grazzhopper.

**September 10, 2021 at 7 pm** | The Tulsa Playboys will play a concert on Guthrie Green on September 10, 2021 starting at 7 pm. The Tulsa Playboys are Western Swing epitomized from the first note to the last. Drawing on the tradition of Bob, Johnnie Lee, and the Cain's Ballroom; the band is as authentic a sound that takes you back to the 40s. The band features fiddles, horns, piano, steel

and standard guitars. Many of the band members have worked with the Texas Playboys, Johnnie Lee Wills, Leon McAuliffe, Hank Thompson, and John T. Wills. Their debut album "Swing with the Tulsa Playboys" features guest artists: Vince Gill, Roy Clark, Riders In The Sky, Wanda Jackson, Red Stegall, Billy Parker, Leroy Van Dyke, David Frizzell, Jody Nix, Jody Miller, Billy Parker, and including the immortal Bob Wills and Johnnie Lee Wills. As their theme song says, "grab your boots, get your hat, swing with the Tulsa Playboys!"

**September 16, 2021 at 7 pm** | Our final event to go along with this exhibition is a concert by a student chamber group from The University of Tulsa who will perform on September 16 at 7 pm at 108|Contemporary.

*This exhibition and all of its programming is funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The program is also made possible by Kinder Morgan Foundation, Flint Family Foundation, Cecil & Virgie Burton Foundation, Burt Holmes and Jean Ann Fausser.*

*108|Contemporary is a non-profit community arts organization that supports Oklahoma's contemporary fine craft artists by connecting them to audiences and opportunities through education, recognition, and exhibition programs. We envision a community where world-class craft and design exhibitions inspire and educate audiences of all ages.*

###

[www.108contemporary.org](http://www.108contemporary.org)

108 East Reconciliation Way

Tulsa OK 74013