

PLAINS ART MUSEUM

Plains Art Museum Exhibits R.J. Kern: *The Unchosen Ones*

**Press Release
For Immediate Release (November 2019)**

Critically acclaimed photographer R.J. Kern will be exhibiting works his series *The Unchosen Ones* at Plains Art Museum from December 5, 2019 – February 22, 2020 in the Xcel Energy Gallery, located on the Museum's 2nd floor.

The works from *The Unchosen Ones* series expose subtleties in the human condition and honor the effort of the animals (and their handlers) who came in last place at ten Minnesota county fairs in 2016. Kern's work captures his subjects – their determination and attitude – with dignity and respect, creating an empathetic stage for viewers. They also exhibit a mastery in the execution of lighting nuances and composition. *The Unchosen Ones: Photographs by R.J. Kern* presents ten works selected from the 65 final images from the series.

Plains Art Museum will host an Artist Talk with R.J. Kern on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6 pm. This event is free and we invite the public to join us for a conversation with photographer R.J. Kern about his photographic practice and his series *The Unchosen Ones*. The artist will also be facilitating a photo booth activity at the Kid Quest family program on Saturday, December 7 from 1 – 4 pm.

R.J. Kern is an American artist whose work explores ideas of home, ancestry, and a sense of place through the interaction of people, animals, and cultural landscapes. The series of portraits was supported by an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Kern's work has been presented in a number of exhibitions and publications, including a feature in National Geographic (November 2017) about his series *The Unchosen Ones* and *Out to Pasture*.

Plains Art Museum is the largest art museum in the Dakotas and Western Minnesota and is general admission free thanks to strong and growing support from over 800 households and businesses. The Museum manages a permanent collection of over 4,000 objects, organizes and presents dozens of annual exhibitions, facilitates public art projects, and leads over 200 educational programs and experiences for all ages each year. The Museum, and its Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity, is located at 704 First Avenue North in downtown Fargo. For more information about visiting or supporting your art museum, visit www.plainsart.org.

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R.J. Kern, *Natalie and unnamed sheep*, Mahnomon County Fair, Minnesota, 2016, Archival inkjet print.



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