



## AXIOS Portland

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# Everything to know about Portland's arts biennial



Meira Gebel

A monthslong contemporary arts exhibition opens at multiple sites across Portland next week.

**Driving the news:** [Converge 45](#), a local nonprofit with a mission to amplify the work of Pacific Northwest artists, launches its second art biennial, "Social Forms: Art as Global Citizenship," next Thursday.

- [Free exhibitions](#) at 17 sites around Portland will feature 50 regional and international artists who work in a range of media.

**Why it matters:** Organizers hope the free exhibits will attract visitors and bring an economic boost to many neighborhoods.

**What they're saying:** Derek Franklin, the artistic director of Converge 45, says it's a chance to help Portland move forward.

- "We're a very small cog in that, but I think people being out is helpful in many ways," he told Axios, such as spending money at local businesses and restaurants.
- Converge 45 expects a much larger turnout for this year's event, thanks to a big marketing push, more exhibitions and a robust selection of renowned artists. The last time Converge held a similar event, in 2018, it was "a much smaller production," according to Franklin.

**Details:** Curated by Chilean-American writer [Christian Viveros-Fauné](#), the biennial's concept is inspired by "what artists have done to activate ideas around political change," Franklin said.

- The biennial's main focus is to provide free access to works by internationally acclaimed artists, including many who are showing in Portland for the first time, he added.

**Here are some of the shows** taking place across the city:

- Irish photographer [Richard Mosse's](#) exhibition at [Lewis & Clark College's Hoffman Gallery](#) depicts the devastation of deforestation in the Amazon via an hourlong immersive video installation.
- [Tavares Strachan's](#) neon sculpture at [Oregon Contemporary](#) tells the story of Cuban revolutionary Camilo Cienfuegos, considered to be one of the heroes of the country's revolution in the 1950s.
- Los Angeles-based artist [Amanda Ross-Ho](#) reflects on her experience as a classically trained figure skater through [a performance](#) inspired by the Lloyd Center ice rink's connection to [Tonya Harding](#), the infamous Olympian who learned to skate there.
- Chilean Mapuche artist Seba Calfuqueo will screen a single-channel video of them performing rituals of masculinity in high heels around Santiago, Chile, at the [Portland Institute for Contemporary Art](#).

**What's next:** Shows open at [various times next weekend](#), and close on different schedules beginning in October.

- An additional 14 [current and coming exhibitions](#) are also affiliated with the biennial.