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FLINT

Exploring environment, humanity at core of new art exhibition opening in Flint

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Installation view of "This Bitter Earth: Living in Harmony with Nature", curated by Stephanie James, at MW Gallery Sept. 12 to Jan, 24, 2026. (Photo provided by the Mott-Warsh Collection) (Photo provided by the Mott-Warsh Collection)

FLINT, MI — Connecting with nature is a means of finding or creating order in the world in many cultures.

Earth, air, fire and water are universally recognized as the four elements of nature that are essential for sustaining life.

These elements have also been the subjects of work by artists who have concerns about our stewardship of the environment and access to its resources by all people.

And now, it will be the topic of exploration through the newest art installation at MW Gallery in downtown Flint starting on Friday, Sept. 12.

"This Bitter Earth: Living in Harmony with Nature" is an exhibit of artworks from the Mott-Warsh Collection that reflect on humanity's complex relationship with our natural world, as well as with one another.

Featured artists include Ron Adams, Bisa Butler, Nanette Carter, Nick Cave, Emilio Cruz, Maren Hassinger, Pope.L, Howardena Pindell, Angelbert Metoyer and Bernard Williams.

Inside of the MW Black Box Gallery Feature, viewers will find "Zion" by Mohau Modisakeng on a single channel triptych video screen with a feature run time of 28 minutes and 55 seconds.

"Zion" is from a series of works by Modisakeng, a South African artist, that deals with the relationship between body and place. It addresses the idea that all people are meant to belong somewhere, yet there are millions of people that are unsettled, in search of refuge, migrating across borders and landscapes for various reasons.

The exhibit runs from Sept. 12 through Jan. 24, 2026, at the MW Gallery is located at 815 S. Saginaw St. in downtown Flint.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

On the second Friday of each month, the gallery will also be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for Flint ARTWALK.

MW Gallery is open to the general public and admission is always free.