

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RiNo Art District Opens *The Spaces Between* Nov. 6 with Free Reception Featuring Chef Michael Diaz de Leon and DJ KDO, as part of the 20th Annual Denver Arts Week

Curated by artist Johnny Draco, group exhibition explores how childhood environments shape identity; on view through Jan. 8, 2027

DENVER — Oct. 26, 2026 — RiNo Art District (RAD) presents [*The Spaces Between*](#), a group exhibition curated by artist Johnny Draco, opening with a free public reception on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the RiNo ArtPark Gallery & Welcome Center (1900 35th St.). The evening features food for purchase outdoors on the RiNo ArtPark Plaza by Chef Michael Diaz de Leon of Molino Chido, music by DJ KDO, and complimentary refreshments. The events and the exhibition are part of the 20th annual Denver Arts Week, running November 6 - 18 across the city.

The Spaces Between explores how childhood environments shape memory, identity, imagination, and creative development. Featuring work by Jazz Holmes, Rob Hill, Tyree Jones-Evans, Olive Moya, A.L. Grime, Shadae Hunt, and Johnny Draco, the exhibition runs through Jan. 8, 2027.

The show is part of a new series of artist-curated exhibitions at the Gallery, presented by RAD—the nonprofit arts organization that stewards RiNo ArtPark at Arkins Park. By intentionally inviting local artists to curate, RAD is activating the space as a platform for new concepts while cultivating regional artistic leadership. Each exhibition provides direct funding for every participating creative, from the exhibiting artists to the chef and DJ.

“We are inviting artists to step in as curators because they bring ideas and communities that institutions can often miss,” said Daisy Fodness-McGowan, Executive and Artistic Director of RiNo Art District. “Johnny has taken that invitation beyond the walls, building an opening event where a chef, a DJ, and seven artists meet the public together. Supporting every one of those creatives is how we cultivate the next generation of artistic leadership in Denver.”

About the Exhibition

Before we fully understand ourselves or the world, we learn through play. *The Spaces Between* considers the contrast between indoor spaces—defined by comfort, imagination, and structure—and outdoor spaces, shaped by freedom, discovery, and play. Rather than treating them as opposites, the exhibition examines the fluid movement between them: between imagination and discovery, familiarity and exploration, and who we were versus who we continue to become.

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Together, the seven Denver-based artists span figurative oil portraiture, geometric abstraction, layered works on paper, monochromatic mark-making, Afrofuturist painting, and drawings rooted in Creole foodways and Black American culture.

For Draco, the exhibition extends beyond traditional gallery walls. His decision to invite Chef Michael Diaz de Leon to the opening stems from a Fourth of July cookout in 2025, where the chef served his entire neighborhood from a hot dog cart.

“What stayed with me was not only the delicious food, but how it brought everyone together,” said Draco. “I consider that experience an important part of how I began building my own community. When someone dedicates themselves to a craft, that craft becomes its own form of creative expression. Bringing food and visual art together allows those forms to speak to one another. As both an artist and curator, I see my role as more than selecting what hangs on the walls. I am curating the entire experience people have when they enter the space—from the artwork they encounter and the food they taste, to the people they meet.”

Chef Michael Diaz de Leon is a first-generation Mexican American born on the U.S.–Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. Growing up in a border town, living in two cultures simultaneously, he developed an early affinity for community, connection, and storytelling through food. In 2023, he was named a James Beard Award finalist for Best Chef: Mountain, and earned both a Michelin Star and Michelin Green Star for his leadership at Bruto in Denver. Today, he leads Molino Chido at Stanley Marketplace.

Denver-based producer and open-format DJ K-Do brings a rhythm-driven approach to the evening’s soundscapes. Originally from Dallas, K-Do began his musical journey as a classically trained percussionist before blending southern hip-hop and R&B with house and disco to craft groove-driven electronic music. Inspired by artists like Oden & Fatzo and Silva Bumpa, K-Do brings a deeply creative, immersive energy to his live sets.

Gallery Hours & Location

The Gallery is open to the public during RiNo Art District Welcome Center hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (open until 4 p.m. on Fridays), and by appointment.

Holiday Closures: Thanksgiving week (Nov. 23–29) and Dec. 21, 2026, through Jan. 4, 2027. The gallery reopens Jan. 5 for the exhibition’s final days.

Address: RiNo ArtPark Gallery & Welcome Center, 1900 35th St., Denver, CO 80216.

Event Summary

- **What:** [The Spaces Between group exhibition](#) and [opening reception](#)
- **Exhibition Dates:** November 6, 2026 – January 8, 2027

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- **Opening Reception:** Friday, November 6, 5–9 p.m. (food served outdoors)
- **Gallery Hours:** Tuesday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (Fridays until 4 p.m.), and by appointment
- **Closures:** Nov. 23–29 (Thanksgiving week); Dec. 21, 2026 – Jan. 4, 2027
- **Where:** RiNo ArtPark Gallery & Welcome Center, 1900 35th St., Denver, CO 80216
- **Cost:** Free and open to the public; food available for purchase at opening reception
- **Artists:** Jazz Holmes, Rob Hill, Tyree Jones-Evans, Olive Moya, A.L. Grime, Shadae Hunt, Johnny Draco (curator)
- **RSVPs requested for opening reception:**
<https://rinoartdistrict.multipass.com/first-friday-november>

Press kit containing photos, promotional graphics and social content:

 **'The Spaces Between' Press Kit**

About RiNo Art District

[RiNo Art District](#) (RAD) is a Denver-based nonprofit arts organization and one of Colorado's first state-certified Creative Districts, nationally ranked [#6 Best Arts District by USA Today](#) in 2026. Founded in 2005, RAD champions artists, creatives, and local businesses through programming, advocacy, and creative placemaking across the historic north Denver neighborhoods of Five Points, Cole, Globeville, and Elyria-Swansea. RAD works to keep diverse creative voices at the heart of the district's identity and future, cultivating a vibrant, inclusive, and enduring creative ecosystem where artists and communities thrive, with roots in north Denver, leadership across Colorado, and serving as a national model for artist-centered places.

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