September 1, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIM CROSS AND ROBERT HARDGRAVE
In Between: A Cross and a Hardgrave

AMcE Creative Arts | Capitol Hill, Seattle

DATES: October 10 – November 15, 2026
MEDIA PREVIEW: Saturday, October 10 2p – 4p
PUBLIC RECEPTION: Sunday, October 11, 2p – 4p

Robert Hardgrave, Like Water, 2026, concrete supplement and acrylic on panel, 20 x 16 in.

AMcE Creative Arts and Koplin Del Rio are pleased to co-present and co-curate two solo exhibitions by Seattle artists Tim Cross (Koplin Del Rio) and Robert Hardgrave (AMcE).

The concurrent exhibitions of Tim Cross and Robert Hardgrave offer a meaningful encounter within Seattle's contemporary art community. Both artists embrace an expansive, multimedia approach, moving fluidly among painting, drawing, transfer printing, collage, and unconventional material processes. Yet their visual languages and conceptual concerns occupy distinctly different territories.

Rather than seeking common ground, the two exhibitions highlight the artists' unique voices within their shared city, community, history, and generations of shared experience, as well as their deep mutual respect. Pairing these two artists offers an opportunity to see not only what connects them, but how their work fits into the distinctive visual movements and aesthetic conversations of the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.

Longtime colleagues and friends Eleana Del Rio of Koplin Del Rio and McLean Emenegger of AMcE Creative Arts co-curate the show. Eleana and McLean have a 20-year relationship spanning back to their days in the Los Angeles art scene. Their recent collaborations include the exhibitions *LAnd SEA* and Assembly Art Fair, where they shared space in the new Seattle-based invitational.

Tim Cross, *Red Garden*, 2026, gouache, acrylic transfer, polyester, wood, 50 ½ x 40 in.

About Tim Cross

Tim Cross is a Seattle-based multimedia artist, educator, and curator. He received a BA from The Evergreen State College in 1995 and an MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003. Cross brings together natural and organic forms with layers of painterly gesture, transferred imagery, drawing, and material experimentation. His longstanding fascination with nature, architecture, construction, growth, and decay continues to inform the work, but the new paintings feel particularly attentive to the psychology of place.

Cross's latest body of work is distinguished by bold, strong, and definitive light. Light becomes more than an atmospheric device: it clarifies, isolates, and intensifies elements within the compositions, allowing forms to emerge with an almost psychological force. The familiar landscape becomes something at once observed and imagined. "With my new body of work, I am playing with contradictions of structure and disorder, playfulness and solemnity, reason and the irrational."

Cross has exhibited throughout the Pacific Northwest and nationally, including the Kirkland Art Center, WA; Portland Art Center, OR; Tacoma Art Museum, WA; Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI. His work is held in numerous private and public collections, including the Microsoft Art Collection, City of Seattle Portable Works Collection, King County Public Art Collection, and Seattle Public Utilities.

About Robert Hardgrave

Fueled by experimentation and a drive to push his artistic boundaries, Hardgrave creates work that provides him with new techniques and alternative ways to reexamine his approach. His subject matter is most strongly influenced by Indigenous and primitive art, highlighting the art's commonalities while finding his own connection within their ideas to build new paths. He uses the nature of the materials and different tools to guide his processes. While touching on collective symbolism, the work remains very personal.

For his latest series of paintings and sculptures, Robert used an acrylic-based concrete patch as a surface coat, building it up to function as a relief within the paintings that he builds on with transparent coats of paint. For the show, he has also returned to painting on canvas after more than a decade of using photo transfer techniques. "I am currently working on simpler pieces while trying to maintain the same disorienting feeling that I explore in my more complex paintings. It has been a rewarding challenge to expand and reduce my focus at the same time." The show will also include two never seen crankies with Robert's iconic scroll transfers.

Born in Oxnard, California, over the past 30 years, Hardgrave has made a significant contribution to visual arts in the Pacific Northwest. He has been a finalist for the Cornish College of the Arts Neddy Award in Painting, and a nominee for the Portland Art Museum's Contemporary Northwest Arts Awards. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in galleries in Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, New York, and Madrid, Spain, as well as institutions such as the SF MoMA and the Museum of Northwest Art. His work is part of the permanent collections of Microsoft, Starbucks, King County, The Legion of Honor, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts in San Francisco, CA. He also created commissioned public artworks for the interior and exterior of the Seattle Convention Center's new Summit Building.

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