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Contact: 505-986-9800, [info@turnercarrollgallery.com](mailto:info@turnercarrollgallery.com)

*Bound: Sam Lao and Jeremy Biggers*

April 19–May 12, 2024

### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTISTS SAM LAO AND JEREMY BIGGERS EXPLODE CREATIVE BOUNDARIES IN THEIR PREMIER NEW MEXICO EXHIBITION**

**SANTA FE, NM – [March 11, 2024]** Meet husband-and-wife artists Sam Lao and Jeremy Biggers as their unique and captivating artwork takes center stage in the upcoming Turner Carroll Gallery exhibition *Bound*.

In a linguistic *double-entendre*, *Bound* is a perfect title for Biggers' and Lao's first exhibition in New Mexico. Texas natives, both of these artists have run up against boundaries, yet they turn a word that could be construed as limiting into an invitation to shine. Rather than being bound *by*, the two artists declare themselves bound *to*. Bound to accomplish something major, bound to succeed, bound to explode the false narrative of being bound to a certain place or status, or bound by artificial limits. Instead, they bound forward, creating distinctively confident and accomplished artworks that forge new ground in both subject matter and materiality.

Sam Lao is pioneering new territory with her practice in fiber art. A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication, her journey is all about breaking free from conventional expectations and embracing the full spectrum of creative expression. In her artwork, Lao skillfully captures the dynamic nature of color and texture through the medium of fiber and tufting. Each artwork is an entity unto itself, influencing and competing with others for the spotlight. Sam says she "was the kid who always wanted to touch the art" and she's happy to invite people to do just that, with her own works. This interactivity in her tufted works serves as a poignant reminder of the vulnerability in the act of creation and the closeness of the artist's hand in the production of the work. Viewers of Lao's works are invited to engage physically with her creations and environments, transforming the visual experience into a sensory journey.

Jeremy Biggers' artistic journey began as a youth discovering painting, and then evolving into a passionate exploration that now embraces not only painting, but also photography, filmmaking, and graphic design. These diverse mediums became the focal points of his academic pursuits. Biggers' work draws inspiration from his personal experiences and explores themes of identity, particularly about his experience as a Black man in America. He employs his signature recurring dots that are symbolic of his mother and the enduring connection with ladybugs that graced him following her passing. These symbols carry profound personal significance, and add a nuanced layer of meaning to each piece offering both a barrier and an invitation to look closer. Through his art, Biggers seeks to connect with

the viewer, encouraging sincere conversation and facilitating the discovery of new perspectives.

Whether working on a canvas, a wall, or behind the camera, Biggers' passion for his craft and dedication to his community have made him one of today's most respected creators. His artistic vision and versatility have led to partnerships with some of the biggest brands in the world, including IBM, Nike, Adidas, Jordan Brand, McDonald's, Meta, Major League Baseball, Paramount Pictures, Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, and Fossil. These partnerships showcase his artistic prowess and attest to his ability to transcend conventional boundaries and resonate with diverse audiences. Biggers says of his work, " It's an act of defiance to just show up and be extra, when the world wants you to shrink." Biggers, Lao, their innovative works are just that: extra, bounding defiantly.

### **ABOUT TURNER CARROLL**

Turner Carroll Gallery + Art Advisors exhibits international contemporary art by established and emerging museum-track artists. Founded in 1991 by Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll, the gallery embodies extensive knowledge of the history of art and vast experience in all aspects of the art world. Turner Carroll authors artist monographs, serves on boards of art museums, foundations, manages artist estates, curates museum and art space exhibitions internationally, and advises private and corporate art collections. Turner Carroll Gallery artists are featured in top private and museum collections worldwide. Turner Carroll has curated museum and institutional exhibitions for artists from Eastern European countries, Mexico, Italy, Ireland, Argentina, and China.

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