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Urban Impressions: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis Opens Fall 2022

An international selection of artists, including Tiffany Chung, Julie Mehretu, Rick Lowe, Seher Shah, and Liu Wei, among others, addresses the complexities of urban life. A season of public programming and the Leslie and Brad Bucher Artist-in-Residence Robin Rhode will activate the new exhibition.



Michael Wolf, Back Door 2, copyright Michael Wolf, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and Bruce Silverstein Gallery, New York.

HOUSTON [June 16, 2022]--The Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University announces their fall 2022 exhibition [*Urban Impressions: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis*](#), on view from September 16 – December 17, 2022. Featuring an international selection of artists representing Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Germany Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, the United States, and South Africa, the exhibition focuses on shared aspects of urban life, emphasizing how art and artists deepen our understanding of the modern metropole.

“The city remains a topic that equally fascinates and disturbs us. *Urban Impressions* mines this expansive topic from an experiential perspective and considers the complexities of life in urban centers,” said Frauke V. Josenhans, curator for the Moody Center for the Arts. “Specifically, the works in this exhibition pose the question, ‘what makes the contemporary metropolis?’, and illustrate the underlying histories that inform a city’s infrastructure and influence the social interactions of the people who live there.”

Featured artists include Rana Begum, Mary Flanagan, Katsumi Hayakawa, Kahlil Irving, Lucia Koch, Julie Mehretu, Sohei Nishino, Emeka Ogboh, Robin Rhode, Seher Shah, Liu Wei, and Michael Wolf, as well as Houston-based artists Charis Ammon, Tiffany Chung, and Rick Lowe. Collectively, the works in the exhibition build on the long-standing artistic tradition of depicting urban life—notably by nineteenth-century Impressionists, early twentieth-century Expressionists, midcentury Situationists, and street artists of the 1980s—in ways that shape our collective perception of the city as an architectural and experiential phenomenon.

In addition to presenting a wide range of media—from sculpture and painting to video and installation—the Moody is collaborating with Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh and Astral Brewing to commission an original beer that encapsulates the various tastes and cultures of Houston. The Moody is also commissioning a new installation by Houston-based new media artist Mary Flanagan featuring Artificial Intelligence that will highlight the ways our perceptions of the city are framed by technology. London-based, Bangladeshi artist Rana Begum will make a new, site-specific sculptural installation across two outdoor locations on campus, creating dispersed points of connection between the visitor, art, nature, and the built environment. Other artworks reference Houston itself, specifically its structure as a decentred, sprawling metropolitan area.

Urban Impressions, with its decentralized and multisensorial presentation, highlights alternate modes of perception and encourages inclusive discourse about how artists experience and record the world. In turn, this broad survey of creative responses helps us articulate and process complex urban realities.

The exhibition, organized by Frauke V. Josenhans, Curator, is made possible by the Moody Center for the Arts Founders Circle and the Elizabeth Lee Moody Excellence Fund for the Arts.

Promotional images, a checklist, and interview requests can be directed to Erin Rolfs, erin.rolfs@rice.edu.



Robin Rhode, *Principle of Hope* (detail), 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, and London

Special Events + Programs

September 16, 6 - 8 p.m., Opening Reception for [*Urban Impressions: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis*](#)

October 14 - 15, *Reading the City: Perspectives on the Contemporary Global Metropolis* Symposium

Organized by the Rice School of Architecture and the Moody Center for the Arts this symposium brings together artists and scholars of visual culture, architecture, and literature, to expand on issues of urban life that are illustrated in the exhibition such as urban expansion, affordable housing, social inequities, and traffic congestion. The keynote lecture will be delivered by the literary and visual culture theorist Walter Benn Michaels on October 14, at 6 p.m. at the Rice School of Architecture, and the

symposium will be hosted at the Moody Center for the Arts on the following day, October 15, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

November 5, 6-9 p.m., Urban Nights: A Communal Art Experience

A multisensory and multi-site celebration of how art enriches city life, Urban Nights is a progressive art experience—punctuated by music, dance, poetry readings, and art installations—ending with a food pop-up and beer tasting. Featuring performances and artworks that showcase the community of Rice University, greater Houston, and a selection of international artists, this unique Moody program spotlights the diversity and transnational exchange that defines the city’s visual, performing, and culinary arts scene.

Throughout the evening, a series of successive events will lead visitors to different experiences and art installations on campus. In addition to the exhibition within the Moody galleries, new temporary public artworks located in close proximity will be featured including installations by Rana Begum and the new public art commissions by local artists Royal Sumikat, Hedwige Jacobs, and Robert Hodge.

The evening will culminate with a flavor-filled event staged in front of the Moody Center for the Arts that celebrates the flourishing food culture in Houston. The commissioned beer, conceived by Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh, will be featured as well as local food vendors.

Fall 2022 Leslie and Brad Bucher Artists-in-Residence

Robin Rhode the fall 2022 [artist-in-residence](#), has a multi-faceted practice that creates visual narratives through poignant visuals that often incorporate quotidian materials such as soap, charcoal, chalk, and paint and engages with urban structures. Rhode grew up in post-apartheid South Africa and the continuing impact of colonialism on today’s society has inspired his work and practice. Two of his works are on view in the exhibition *Urban Impressions* this fall.

While in residence at Rice, Rhode will engage with students, faculty, and visitors through both formal and informal programs.

September 29, 6-7 pm, Artists-in-Dialogue: Robin Rhode

The fall 2022 artist-in-residence Robin Rhode (b. 1976, Cape Town, South Africa) will discuss his multidisciplinary practice as a part of Moody’s signature programming series. This event will give attendees an opportunity to be a part of the conversation as we explore how Rhode’s work examines and responds to urban culture as informed by socioeconomic inequality and the legacy of colonialism.

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