

MEDIA ALERT

Tomás Saraceno's *Crux Australis 68.00* opens with the Artist and Rice University President Reginald DesRoches
December 13, 5:00 pm

Rice University's Ralph S. O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science

Artist and DesRoches will dedicate a site-specific, permanent public artwork, commissioned by the Moody Center for the Arts



Tomás Saraceno, *Crux Australis 68.00*, in Rice University's O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science, artist rendering. Not available for reproduction. Please contact Erin Rolfs for installation images.

WHAT: Internationally renowned Argentinian artist Tomás Saraceno will be on-site to dedicate his newest installation *Crux Australis 68.00*, the first work by the acclaimed artist to be on permanent, public view in Houston, Texas. Rice University President Reginald DesRoches will also make remarks commemorating this ambitious addition to the [Rice Public Art collection](#).

The polyhedral sculpture—taking its name from the constellation with the highest concentration of bright stars—vertically spans multiple stories in Rice University's newly opened O'Connor building ([designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill](#)). Comprised of ten shapes arranged in three clusters of interconnected polyhedrons inspired by the *Weaire-Phelan* structure, this work reflects the

artist's decades-long research into the molecular, environmental, and metaphorical aspects of natural shapes like bubbles, clouds, spider webs, and honeycombs. Suspended in mid-air and covered with mirrored surfaces, the sculpture also reflects the surroundings of the O'Connor building—the ambient natural light, scholars engaged in research, and students deep in study. Emblematic of Rice University's bright future and cross-departmental, collaborative history, *Crux Australis* 68.00 signifies the multi-disciplinary conversations central to the University's pedagogy and critical to improving life on our planet.

WHEN: Opening reception with the artist, Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, with artist remarks at 5:30 pm.

WHERE: Ralph S. O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77005. [Parking is available in the Founder's Visitor Lot.](#) Validation for the press is available.

For interview and image requests contact Erin Rolfs, erin.rolfs@rice.edu

About the Moody Center for the Arts

Inaugurated in February 2017, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University is a state-of-the-art, non-collecting institution dedicated to transdisciplinary collaboration among the arts, sciences, and humanities. The 50,000-square-foot facility, designed by acclaimed Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan, serves as an experimental platform for creating and presenting works in all disciplines, a flexible teaching space to encourage new modes of making, and a forum for creative partnerships with visiting national and international artists. The Moody is free and open to the public year-round.

Website: moody.rice.edu

Social Media: @theMoodyArts

Phone: +1 713.348.ARTS

Address: Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University
6100 Main Street, MS-480, Houston, TX 77005
(University Entrance 8, at University Boulevard and Stockton Street)

Hours & Admission

The Moody is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Normal business hours will resume on September 18. Exhibition spaces are open to the public and free of charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Events and programs are open to the public. For schedule, tickets, and prices as applicable, visit moody.rice.edu.

Directions & Parking

The Moody Center for the Arts is located on the campus of Rice University and is best reached by using Campus Entrance 8 at the intersection of University Boulevard and Stockton Street. As you enter campus, the building is on the right, just past the Media Center. There is a dedicated parking lot adjacent to the building. Payment for the Moody Lot is by credit card only.

For campus maps, visit www.rice.edu/maps.

About Rice University

Located on a 300-acre forested campus in Houston, Rice University is consistently ranked among the nation's top 20 universities by U.S. News & World Report. Rice has highly respected schools of Architecture, Business, Continuing Studies, Engineering, Humanities, Music, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences and is home to the Baker Institute for Public Policy. With 3,879 undergraduates and 2,861 graduate students, Rice's undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio is 6-to-1. Its residential college system builds close-knit

communities and lifelong friendships, just one reason why Rice is ranked No. 1 for quality of life and for lots of race/class interaction and No. 2 for happiest students by the Princeton Review. Rice is also rated as the best value among private universities by Kiplinger's Personal Finance.

Press Contact

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