

Artist Matthew Ritchie presents an immersive new interactive project designed for the Moody Center for the Arts, opening September 21



Matthew Ritchie, *Relative Queen* (installation view), 2017. Oil and ink on canvas, on wallpaper. 50 x 55 inches, wallpaper dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist.

HOUSTON, TX, [August 1, 2018] — Alison Weaver, the Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director of the Moody Center for the Arts, announced today that the Moody will present an engaging new exhibition and public program by New York based artist Matthew Ritchie (b. 1964). *The Demon in the Diagram* is a multi-layered, site-specific installation that includes paintings, lightboxes, an interactive floor and audio work commissioned for the Moody, and a virtual reality component. The project highlights Ritchie's deep investigation into the history of the diagram as a means of mapping both human knowledge and lived experience. On view September 21 through December 22, 2018, the exhibition will be installed in the Moody's Central and Brown Foundation Galleries.

The Exhibition

The Demon in the Diagram explores the structures created to map the history of time in the same way Ritchie's earlier projects examined graphic diagrams of space. The exhibition includes elements from Ritchie's newest body of work, *Time Diagrams*, an ambitious one-hundred-part sequence of diagrammatic works that attempt to

chronicle structural features of human thought over the past 5,000 years. Audiences are invited to engage with two interactive elements commissioned for the Moody: a collaborative 3-D sculptural environment called 'the Screen Game' (in a playful nod to English science fiction novelist J.G. Ballard) that explores music and pedagogy through an interactive soundscape created with Ritchie's longtime collaborators, musicians Kelley Deal, lead guitarist of the Breeders, and noted composer and clarinetist Evan Ziporyn, and an immersive virtual reality (VR) work that inverts the familiar role of VR by open-casting any viewer as a performer, a ghostlike figure nestled inside the demon.

This project, Ritchie's most complex to date, has been designed specifically for the Moody's galleries as an open experiment in pedagogy. Both visitors and students will have the opportunity to participate in many aspects of the installation. For example, they can contribute to a durational musical work that will evolve over the fall months. The combination of elements will immerse the viewer in Ritchie's creative vision of human history as a debatable and reconfigurable space, while encouraging the hands-on exploration of multiple systems of meaning.

Weaver said, "*The Demon in the Diagram* will be an unconventional and memorable exhibition experience. We are delighted that Matthew will be in residence at the Moody, thereby allowing visitors and students to engage more fully with his work and his ideas. His transdisciplinary focus and collaborative spirit make him the perfect guide to take us on an exploratory journey, traversing systems of language and meaning, while allowing room for playful and chaotic elements to emerge."

The exhibition will open to the public on **Friday, September 21, with a reception with the artist from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

Artist-in-Residence

As the second Leslie and Brad Bucher Artist-in-Residence, Ritchie will work in the Moody galleries and workshop spaces from September through November 2018. During his residency, he will also interact with ten Rice University courses from diverse fields including literary theory, mathematics, experimental music composition, drawing, and video art.

As the featured artist in the Moody's signature Artist-in-Dialogue series, on **Thursday October 25 at 6:00 pm** Ritchie will speak with scholars from diverse fields who share his interests in creatively exploring the origin of language and the history of knowledge.

Public Performance: Dimensions Variable series

In October the project will culminate in a public performance, titled *Surrender to the Diagram* as part of the Moody's *Dimensions Variable* series. Kelley Deal and Evan Ziporyn will perform together while discussing the nature of the project. San Francisco-based choreographer Hope Mohr and members of her company, in residence for a week, will perform an original work, highlighting how bodily motion can physically extend the ideas inherent in the work. These innovative creators will perform in the exhibition galleries in response to Ritchie's installation, supporting the Moody's goal of generating creativity across and among diverse disciplines.

On **Saturday, October 27 at 7:00 pm** the Moody will host *Dimensions Variable*, an evening of free public programs featuring dance and music.

About the artist

Matthew Ritchie (b. 1964, London, England) lives and works in New York City. A graduate of the Camberwell School of Art (BFA, 1986), Ritchie is concerned with structures of knowledge and the systems humans devise to categorize and visualize meaning. Ritchie incorporates a wide range of media into his practice, including drawing, sculpture, laser-cut vinyl, lightboxes, computer programs, live performance, writing, and music.

Ritchie's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at numerous institutions, including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and the Dallas Museum of Art. His work has been featured in the Whitney Biennial, the Sydney Biennale, and the Bienal de Sao Paulo, and is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the MIT List Visual Arts Center, among others. Ritchie recently unveiled a four-story public artwork on the Cornell Tech campus in New York titled *Everything that Rises Must Converge* (2017). This year Ritchie completed a long-term collaboration with the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles that resulted in a book, edition, and installation titled, *The Temptation of the Diagram*.

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.

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Social Media: @theMoodyArts | #atTheMoody
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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 exhibition spaces are open to the public and free of charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. Events and programs are open to the public through an advance reservation system. For schedule, tickets and prices, 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 central Houston, Rice University is a comprehensive research university that is consistently ranked among the nation's top 20 universities by U.S. News & World Report. With 3,910 undergraduates and 2,809 graduate students, Rice is home to highly respected schools of Architecture, Business, Continuing Studies, Engineering, Humanities, Music, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences as well as the Baker Institute for Public Policy. The new Moody Center for the Arts celebrates Rice's commitment to creativity

and the arts as a key part of its educational mission and establishes a new arts district on Rice's campus, joining the distinguished Shepherd School of Music and the permanent James Turrell *Twilight Epiphany* Skyspace. For more information, visit www.rice.edu.

Media Contact

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