

The Moody Center for the Arts Announces New Collaborative, Community-Based Series, Moody Project Wall

Houston-Based Artists Gerardo Rosales and Reginald Adams Initiate Moody Project Wall Series



Rice University Students Painting *Displaced Mundo!* inside the Moody Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy of the Moody Center for the Arts.

[Houston, TX—October 14, 2021] This month, the Moody Center for the Arts launches a new collaborative series, the Moody Project Wall, in support of its mission to encourage creative thinking and promote cross-campus and community collaboration through transformative encounters with the arts. Expanding the creative use of its award-winning architecture, the Moody will partner with a Houston-based artist to conceive a new work for a prominent wall space inside the building. The artist will then work closely with Rice University students and community volunteers to develop and execute an original design that will be on view for one season.

"We are delighted to inaugurate the Moody Project Wall and to celebrate community collaboration through the arts," said Alison Weaver, the Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director. "In the wake of the isolation caused by the pandemic, it is inspiring to come together around thought-provoking, creative projects with the potential to broaden perspectives and generate new ideas."

For the inaugural installation, Venezuelan-born artist Gerardo Rosales developed a visual program exploring folklore in South American culture and its relationship to sociopolitical factors. Working with students and community volunteers over several weeks this fall, the artist will create an original mural centered on the Venezuelan folk legend of María Lionza, titled *¡Displaced Mundo!*.

"In my work, I often highlight issues of immigration and call into question power dynamics. For this project I wanted to open up a window to discuss those issues and explore these topics from an artistic point of view," Rosales said. "In thinking about my home country of Venezuela, and the Latin American diaspora, the difficulty of being displaced from your home is a complex problem. By drawing on Venezuelan folklore and myths, the students can work through the hierarchies present in society while connecting history and heritage to a current issue. The elements in the painting--nature, bugs, animals-- are beautifying, but they also represent the pain that comes with the harsh conditions of immigration and displacement."

To realize the project, Rosales worked with community volunteers and Rice University students. According to Ana M. Saucedo, Co-President of the Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice (HACER), several of whose student members contributed to the project, "Through this collaboration with Gerardo Rosales, we aim to highlight Hispanic/Latinx talent and leave a mark on campus. We are using our voice through art and celebrating our Hispanic heritage, with all of its complexities."

¡Displaced Mundo! will open to the public on October 15th, 5 - 7 p.m. on the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, and will be activated through a celebration of Latinx culture, including Venezuelan music led by Miguel Silva and tacos from Moon Rooster. The work will be on view through January 21, 2022.

The Moody Project Wall: Gerardo Rosales *¡Displaced Mundo!* is organized by Frauke V. Josenhans, Curator at the Moody Center for the Arts. Rice University students Emily DeAnn Peña '25; Athenea Perez '24; Alejandra Jimenez '25; Javier Parada '24; Jennifer Penaloza '22; Laurel Chen '22; and Sophia DeLeon-Wilson '23 contributed to the wall painting.

The second iteration of the Moody Project Wall series, opening in March of 2022, will be led by Houston-based artist Reginald Adams. Through a series of performative workshops with students and members of the community, Adams will introduce therapeutic sound frequencies that are then technologically translated into visual wall graphics. Using crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, tingsha bells, and gongs, Adams will arrange and perform sound baths across campus. The performances will be recorded using an audio recorder and a spectrogram to capture a visual representation of the sonic experience, which will then be digitized and incorporated into the background imagery for a wall mural at the Moody.

Once on view, Adams will continue the conversation through public dialogues about social engagement, healing principles, and the role of art in an increasingly multi-faceted world. Rice University's Office of Multicultural Affairs' Student Diversity Facilitators program will partner with Adams to engage students and public audiences with this project.

"I'm honored to use my artwork and creativity to bring together Rice University students and community members to co-create works of art that raise consciousness and

awareness of the healing powers of sounds, frequencies, and creativity. This installation aligns my passions for art, spirituality, and community engagement."

The Moody Project Wall series is made possible by the Moody Center for the Arts' Founders Circle and Rice University's Arts Initiative Fund.

About the Artists

Gerardo Rosales

Born in Venezuela in 1967, Gerardo Rosales is a multidisciplinary artist and educator who has been working in Houston for 20 years. Starting out as a self-taught artist, Rosales attended Armando Reverón Art Institute in Caracas, Venezuela, and subsequently earned an M.A. from the Chelsea College of Art and Design, London. Rosales's art calls attention to issues of class, race, gender, and sexuality through stark images infused with humor while emphasizing drama. He has conceived various projects in and around Houston, notably at the Lawndale Art Center, Holocaust Museum Houston, and Galveston Arts Center.

Reginald Adams

Born in Cheyenne, WY in 1972, Reginald Adams is a self-taught artist whose practice focuses on murals, sculptures, and art installations located in historically underserved communities. He has most recently earned acclaim for his Juneteenth mural in Galveston and for mosaic monuments in Emancipation Park in Houston's Third Ward. Adams has worked closely with students and community volunteers throughout his career, including as the Artistic Director of the Sacred Sites Quest initiative, originally organized by Rice University's Boniuk Institute.

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

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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.

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