



RICE

For Immediate Release

Erin Rolfs

Director of Marketing and Communications

Moody Center for the Arts

erin.rolfs@rice.edu

713.348.4115

The Moody Center for the Arts Announces **Urban Nights: A Communal Art Experience**

A Celebration of City Life on Saturday, November 5, 6 – 10 p.m.

Headlined by Lil' Flip

Free and Open to the Public



Houston [September 7, 2022]—Continuing to push the boundaries of interdisciplinary art programming, the Moody Center for the Arts presents [Urban Nights: A Communal Art Experience Saturday, November 5, 6 – 10 p.m.](#) Free of charge, guests will enjoy an evening journey through this multi-site, outdoor presentation of food, dance, music, spoken word, and art installations.

Headlined by Houston's own Lil' Flip, featuring a food truck rally, [complimentary beer tasting of Japa](#), an art beer by Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh, a video installation by Sindhu Thirumalaisamy, and site-specific performances by the Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez, jazz musician Jalen Baker, and hip hop collective Breakfree Worldwide, this event spotlights the

diversity, inclusiveness, and international creative exchange that defines Houston.

"We're excited to present so many outstanding visual and performing artists in one evening." said Moody Center for the Arts curator, Frauke V. Josenhans. "Urban Nights brings the creative energy of city life to Rice's campus for everyone to enjoy."

Organized in conjunction with the exhibition, [*Urban Impressions: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis*](#), this free program celebrates urban life as experienced through visual and performing arts. Read on to learn more about the night's activities which offer free-form interactions with art on display and a progressive walk through activated outdoor public art.

Promotional images, a checklist, and interview requests can be directed to Lindsey Brown, lindsey@lindseybrownpr.com.



Lil' Flip, courtesy of the artist.

The Schedule

Saturday, November 5, 6 – 10 p.m.

\$5 parking will be available for guests.

As a multi-site and progressive art event, guests are invited to move throughout the Moody and the west side of campus. Pick your journey!

Transit Fare: Beer Tasting and Food Truck Rally

6 - 7 pm Astral Brewing *Japa* Beer Tasting

6 -10 pm International Food Truck Rally

The evening starts at 6 p.m. with a complimentary beer tasting, hosted by Astral Brewery, where guests will experience the craft stout, *Japa*. Commissioned by the Moody and conceived by Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh, the beer reflects the influence of the fast-growing Nigerian community in Houston through its bold flavors. The custom beer can be paired with any of the many dishes available from the food truck favorites on-site. JQ's Tex Mex BBQ, Salem, and Lemond Kitchen are some of the food offerings that will be available which exemplify the diversity of Houston's vast culinary community. The free beer tasting ends at 7, but drinks and food for purchase will be available through 10 p.m.

Scenic Routes: Dance, Jazz, and Spoken Word Art Walk

6:45 – 8:45 p.m.

Beginning at 6:45 p.m., guests can join a progressive, multi-site art walk to three activated locations on Rice's campus that will feature performances and visual art. These successive events include a BreakFree dance performance led by Moy Rivas; a jazz concert by Jalen Baker; and a spoken word performance by Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez. The outdoor sculpture, installations, and murals of artists Beverly Pepper, Rana Begum, Royal Sumikat, Hedwige Jacobs, and Robert Hodge will provide the vivid backdrop for these engaging performances. A second beer-tasting will be available along the route. Guests will return to the Moody for the 9 p.m. performance by Lil' Flip.

Detours: Open Exploration of Art on View at the Moody

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Throughout the evening guests can explore the Moody building on their own, taking time to walk through galleries and open spaces. The international showcase of artwork in *Urban Impressions* will be on view in the main galleries and media galleries; the video installation by Sindhu Thirumalaisamy, *Objects in The Mirror: Notes for a Houston Road Movie*, will be projected onto the north arcade of the building; and the community mural by poet Deb "D.E.E.P." Mouton will be on view in our flex space. Guests can take in these installations at their leisure, in between enjoying food, drink, and dominos on the terrace, with DOUBLEDUTCH spinning throughout the night.

Final Stop: Lil' Flip

9 – 10 p.m.

At 9 p.m. the terrace of the Moody Center for the Arts will be transformed into a music venue for the legendary rap artist Lil' Flip. Wesley Eric Weston, Jr., better known by his stage name, is not only an original member of the genre-creating Screwed Up Click, but he also counts two platinum records to his award-winning career. Lil' Flip's longstanding influence on hip-hop highlights the energy, creativity, and talent of Houston.



Moody Center for the Arts, photo by Allyson Huntsman.

The Performers

Jalen Baker

Jalen Baker, an HSPVA alumnus, is an awarded vibraphonist, percussionist, educator, and composer.

Website: <https://jalenbakermusic.com/about>

Lupe Mendez

Originally from Galveston, TX, Lupe Mendez is the 2022 Texas Poet Laureate and winner of the 2019 John A. Robertson Award for Best First Book of Poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters.

Website: <http://thepoetmendez.org/about>

BreakFree Worldwide

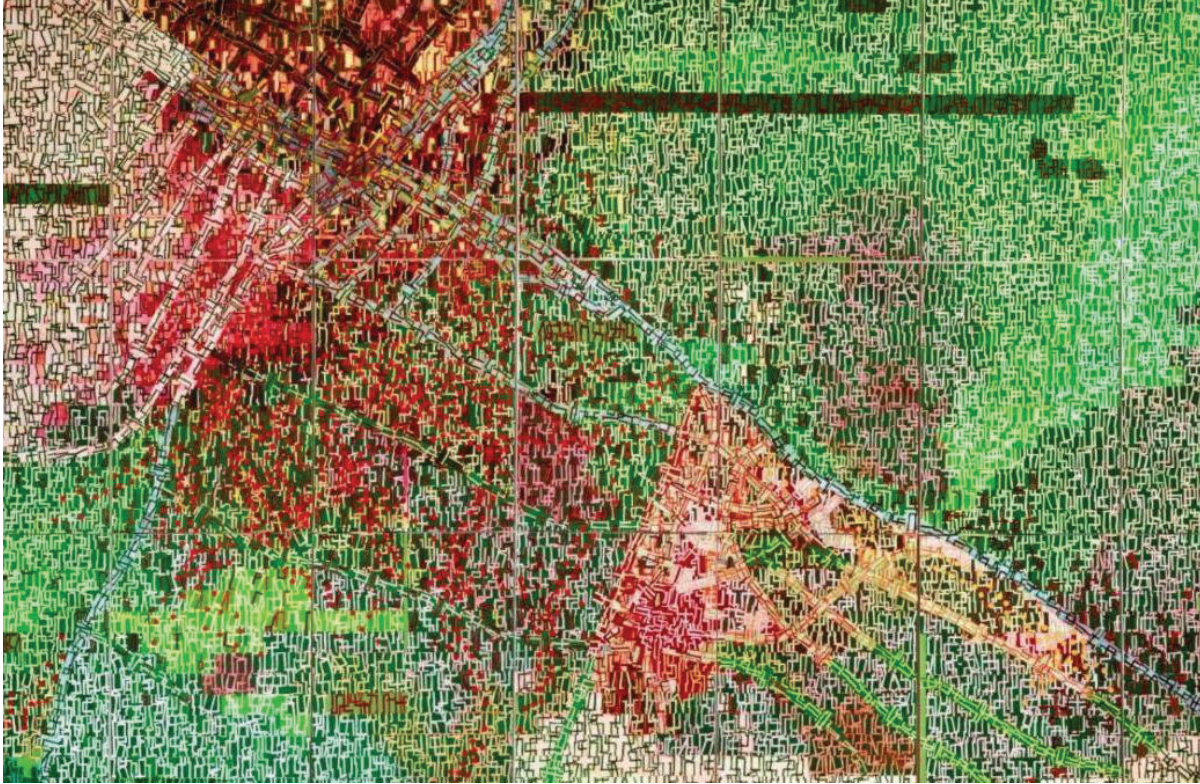
BreakFree Worldwide, founded by Moises “B-boy Moy” Rivas, is a Hip Hop education corporation focusing on Hip Hop career development and competition performance.

Website: <https://breakfreeworldwide.com/our-story/>

Lil' Flip

Wesley Eric Weston, Jr., better known by his stage name, Lil' Flip is a Houston-born rapper, rising to fame as a freestyler before landing a record deal with Suckafree Records in 1999. Not only is Lil' Flip an original member of the genre-creating Screwed Up Click, but he also counts two platinum records to his award-winning career.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lilflip713/?hl=en>



Rick Lowe, *Project Row Houses: Hindsight (detail)*, (c) the Rick Lowe. Courtesy of the artist and Gagosian. Photo by Thomas Dubrock.

The Exhibition

[Urban Impression: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis](#) focuses on the overarching and shared aspects of urban life through an international selection of artists whose works convey the rich sensorial phenomena of living in city spaces. From [Rana Begum's vivid, outdoor, site-specific sculptural installation](#) to [Mary Flanagan's AI-centered work](#) to [Emeka Ogboh's original craft beer](#), *Urban Impressions* demonstrates multiple ways in which artists interpret the landscape, built environment, technology, and cultural elements of a contemporary metropolis.

Featured artists also include Katsumi Hayakawa, Kahlil Irving, Lucia Koch, Julie Mehretu, Sohei Nishino, [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 longstanding artistic tradition of depicting urban life—notably in nineteenth-century Impressionists, early twentieth-century Expressionists, midcentury Situationists, and street artists of the 1980s—in ways that shape our perception of the city as an architectural and experiential phenomenon.

About the Moody Center for the Arts

Since its opening in 2017, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University has dedicated its resources to encouraging creative thinking and original expression, enriching curricular innovation, and promoting cross-campus and community collaboration through transformative encounters with the arts. A public-facing institution, the Moody serves as a connection between the arts at Rice and the greater Houston community.

The Moody mounts three exhibitions a year in its award-winning building, curates numerous temporary and permanent public art installations throughout Rice's campus, and hosts performances, conversations, classes, and hands-on workshops. By centering these public and open initiatives on generative partnerships with artists, scholars, and

students from various disciplines, the Moody presents unexpected and everchanging entry points into the arts which bridge communities and areas of interest.

Website: moody.rice.edu

Social Media: @theMoodyArts | #MoodyHTX

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:

Exhibition spaces are open to the public and free of charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are 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

Erin Rolfs | +1 713-348-4115 | erin.rolfs@rice.edu

