

THE MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS BRINGS THE DUTCH COLLECTIVE, WE MAKE CARPETS, FOR ITS FIRST EXHIBITION IN THE UNITED STATES



We Make Carpets, *Umbrella Carpet 2* (detail), 6000 paper cocktail umbrellas. Photo: Ewout Huibers

HOUSTON, TX [April 11, 2018] — The Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University is commissioning Dutch collective We Make Carpets to create a site-specific installation for its Central Gallery. This exhibition is the first time that Marcia Nolte, Stijn van der Vleuten, and Bob Waardenburg, the artists of We Make Carpets, will show their colorful and surprising work in the U.S. Eschewing a preconceived plan, the artists decide only the location, size, and material prior to the intuitive, labor-intensive marathon by which they create their artworks. They call these pieces “carpets” in light of the works’ rectangular shapes and frequently symmetrical and intricate designs.

We Make Carpets often celebrates local materials in its works. For their Moody installation, the artists were inspired to use vibrantly dyed crêpe paper after a visit to Houston and seeing the bright colors and handmade production of piñatas. *Crêpe Paper Carpet* will be constructed over a multi-week period in the Central Gallery where floor-to-ceiling windows will allow it to be seen by viewers both in and outside the building. The public is invited to the free opening celebration on Saturday, June 9 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, and the artists will give a gallery talk at 11:00 am.

The simplicity and accessibility of material that characterizes We Make Carpets' work began with the artists' first collaboration in 2009. For the Dutch Design Week exhibition, *Instant Nature*, they created *Forest Carpet* from collected pinecones and needles. Since then, they have continued to create works using unexpected materials including coffee stirrers, mussels, and cocktail umbrellas.

Moody curator Kimberly Davenport was introduced to the work of We Make Carpets by way of a 2016 *New York Times* article, "When 6,000 Cocktail Stirrers Become Art." "The group's choice of materials is intriguing as is the way in which the artists' mutual skill, intuition, and trust allow them to work together as a single entity," says Davenport.

We Make Carpets' *Crêpe Paper Carpet* will be on view June 9 – September 8, 2018. This project is supported by the generosity of the Moody's Founders Circle and other patrons, and a grant from the Netherland-America Foundation.

About We Make Carpets

The Dutch artist collective We Make Carpets is made up of Marcia Nolte, Stijn Van Der Vleuten, and Bob Waardenburg. They have exhibited in museums throughout the Netherlands including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; the De Fabriek, Eindhoven; and the Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg. They are currently representing the Netherlands in the NGV Triennial in Melbourne, Australia.

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, noncollecting 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
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(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 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 by the Princeton Review. Rice is also rated as a best value among private universities by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Read "[What they're saying about Rice.](#)"

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