

MEDIA ALERT

RICE PUBLIC ART PRESENTS SECOND ITERATION OF
"OFF THE WALL" SERIES
FEATURING WORK BY ARTIST SONDRA PERRY



Artist Sondra Perry

WHAT:

The "Off the Wall" series is a collaboration between Rice Public Art and the Core Residency Program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Glassell School of Art to commission a site-specific installation by a recent alumnus or alumna of the Core program. Each installation remains on view for one year on the south wall of the Raymond and Susan Brochstein Pavilion, a modern structure designed by Thomas Phifer and Partners that houses a popular campus café.

Following the inaugural installation, Harold Mendez's *Field (Encounter)* (2019), the second artist in the series will be **Sondra Perry** (b.1986, Perth Amboy, New Jersey). Perry's work addresses concepts of Blackness, productivity, and labor, often combining her personal experiences as an

African American with fictional narratives about how digital technologies help shape identity. For the 2020–21 iteration of “Off the Wall” Perry created *Ocean Modifier* (2020), a large-scale installation that creates an immersive, dynamic experience for viewers.

The title of the work references computer software that digitally simulates the color and appearance of water. The artist used this program to create a monumental image of a murky seascape, installed as wallpaper. She then intersperses the rippling brown waves with an altered, lenticular image of J. M. W. Turner’s renowned 1840 painting *Slave Ship (Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and Dying, Typhoon Coming On)*. Turner’s image, depicting an incident in which the captain of the British ship Zong killed over one hundred thirty African slaves in 1781 to claim insurance money, highlights the legacy of brutality that Western cultures have historically inflicted upon Black bodies. Ruminating on the repetition of history, Perry exposes existential threats such as climate change and uncertain prospects for the future.

Off the Wall: Sondra Perry is organized by Ylinka Barotto, Associate Curator, Moody Center for the Arts.

This program is made possible by Raymond and Susan Brochstein, Deborah Brochstein and Steven Hecht.

WHEN: September 26, 2020 – August 1, 2021

WHERE: The Raymond and Susan Brochstein

About the Artist

Sondra Perry (b.1986, Perth Amboy, New Jersey) received a BFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 2012 and an MFA from Columbia University in 2015. Perry attended the Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in 2015–2017.

Perry has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio (2019); Serpentine Gallery, London (2018); Seattle Art Museum, Seattle (2017–18); and the Kitchen, New York (2016). Her work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions including *Manual Override*, The Shed, New York (2019–20); *New Order: Art and Technology in the Twenty-First Century*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2019); *Art in the Age of the Internet 1989 to Today*, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston, Massachusetts (2018); *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon*, New Museum, New York (2017–18); and *Greater New York*, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, New York (2015), among others.

Perry’s work was exhibited in the 10th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art, and the Biennial of Contemporary Art, Rennes, France (both 2018). Perry was the recipient of the 2018 Nam June Paik Award. She lives and works in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

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 | #MoodyHTX
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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 currently closed due to COVID-19. During normal operating times, the Moody is 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 and No. 2 for happiest students 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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