



**THE MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENS TO THE PUBLIC WITH  
A DEDICATION CEREMONY, CUTTING-EDGE EXHIBITIONS,  
PREMIERE PERFORMANCES AND FREE PARTIES FOR HOUSTON  
AND THE RICE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**



*The Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, Houston, TX. Michael Maltzan Architecture. Photo: Nash Baker*

**HOUSTON, TX** — February 23, 2017 — Houston’s new, internationally-focused arts institution, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, built for creating collaborative works of all kinds and presenting innovative, transdisciplinary experiences, will open to the public on Friday, February 24, 2017, with five cutting-edge art exhibitions, one world-premiere dance performance developed on-site and four days of celebratory events for Rice University and local communities. Designed by renowned architect Michael Maltzan, the Moody offers a new meeting place of the arts, humanities and sciences, and of the public and the academic world, with exhibition spaces open and free to all.

**OPENING THE MOODY**

**Friday, February 24 - Ribbon-Cutting and Opening Reception, 4pm**

The weekend celebrations will begin at 4pm on Friday, February 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Alison Weaver, Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director of the Moody. Ross Moody, Trustee of The Moody Foundation, will be present to accept thanks for providing lead funding for the 50,000-square-

foot, \$30 million building. Also in attendance will be other Houston civic officials, university and cultural leaders, architect Michael Maltzan and internationally acclaimed photographer Thomas Struth, one of the artists featured in the Moody's inaugural exhibitions.

**Friday, February 24 – Free Public Opening Celebration, 7-10pm**

The festivities continue after the ribbon-cutting with a joyous opening party, free to all, from 7 to 10pm, featuring live music by The Tontons, food trucks and opportunities to view the exhibitions.

**Saturday, February 25 – First Full Day at the Moody, 10am-5pm**

\* **Galleries open free to the public, gallery guides on site**

\* **Thomas Struth discussion at the Moody, 2-3pm (ticketed)**

\* **Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre world premiere, Vespertine Awakenings, 6pm, James Turrell Twilight Epiphany Skyspace at the Suzanne Deal Booth Centennial Pavilion (ticketed)**

\* **Rice University student party at the Moody, 10pm-2am**

During the Moody's first full day in operation, Saturday, February 25, guides will be present from 10am to 5pm to discuss the artworks in the galleries. From 2 to 3pm, internationally renowned German photographer Thomas Struth will participate in a panel discussion with Douglas Terrier, NASA Chief Technologist, and James Tour, the T. T. and W. F. Chao Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Materials Science and NanoEngineering and of Computer Science at Rice University, both of whom design and work in the spaces Struth photographs. The conversation, in the Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater, will focus on the photographs in Struth's exhibition *Nature & Politics*, and will cover technology, research and art, and how our experience of visual landscapes shapes our perceptions of the world. At 6pm, at the nearby James Turrell *Twilight Epiphany Skyspace* at the Suzanne Deal Booth Centennial Pavilion, the Moody will host the world premiere of *Vespertine Awakenings*, a dance commissioned from Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre. Conceived on-site in response to Turrell's artwork, *Vespertine Awakenings* will be performed with an original musical score by composer Kurt Stallmann of Rice's Shepherd School of Music, and will enable visitors to experience the wonders of Turrell's light sequence at sunset, enhanced by dance and music. The Moody will then go into late-night mode with a student party (open exclusively to Rice University students) from 10pm to 2am.

**Sunday, February 26 – Monday, February 27 – Special programming, Moody galleries closed**

\* **Dušan Týnek Dance Theatre, Vespertine Awakenings, Sunset (6pm), Turrell Skyspace (ticketed)**

The four-day weekend's special events will conclude with two more performances of *Vespertine Awakenings*, held at sunset on Sunday and Monday evenings at 6pm in James Turrell's *Twilight Epiphany Skyspace*. Tickets to all of the above special programs are available via the [Moody's website](#).

Alison Weaver said, "We've planned the opening celebrations to introduce everyone to the extraordinary range of creative activity at Rice and the Moody. We look forward to seeing Michael Maltzan's magnificent building come to life, and for the Rice community, the Houston public and our visitors from around the world to join us in the excitement."

David Leebron, president of Rice University, said, "This is an exciting milestone for Rice as we continue to elevate the role of the arts on our campus. The Moody Center for the Arts will foster creativity and innovation in our faculty and students, build on our commitment to Houston's flourishing artistic life and further establish Houston and Rice as arts beacons to the world."

## THE INAUGURAL SEASON

### **Olafur Eliasson: *Green light – An artistic workshop* (through May 6)**

The Moody is inaugurating its central gallery with the project *Green light – An artistic workshop*, taking place for the first time in the United States. Initiated by the renowned Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson in March 2016 in collaboration with Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21) in Vienna, *Green light* is a response to the current geopolitical situation in which millions of refugees have been uprooted by war and violence, as well as to broader issues surrounding global migration. The project invites asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants to participate in an artistic workshop and learning platform surrounding the making of green lamp modules designed by Eliasson and made from recycled and sustainable materials. The workshop includes language courses, seminars, artist's interventions, film screenings and other initiatives that respond to the needs of the participating refugees and migrants. University students and members of the public are invited to join in the workshop.

Proceeds from the sale of the lamps will be donated to the Moody's partner organization in the workshop, Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, to benefit refugees. Eliasson will be at the Moody on Monday, March 20, to join in the workshop and at 7pm hold a conversation with the public and the Rice community.

*Green light – An artistic workshop* will be hosted by the 57<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia as part of the exhibition *Viva Arte Viva*, beginning in May 2017.

### **Thomas Struth: *Nature & Politics* (through May 29)**

In its sky-lit Brown Foundation Gallery, the Moody will present *Nature & Politics*, featuring photographs by Thomas Struth of sites of scientific research and manufactured landscapes. The photographs bear witness to the specialized imaginations of experts whose ideas and designs make it possible to pursue space travel, conduct experiments in plasma physics or build industrial facilities such as offshore oil rigs and blast furnaces. The panel discussion with the artist on the opening weekend will inaugurate interdisciplinary conversations at the Moody about technology and research and how our experience of them shapes our perceptions of the world. This presentation of *Nature & Politics* is based on an exhibition that was co-organized by the Museum Folkwang in Essen, Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin and the High Museum in Atlanta.

### **Diana Thater: *The Starry Messenger* (through February 1, 2018)**

In the Moody's Reception Gallery, visitors will be greeted by an installation of *The Starry Messenger* (2014), a nine-monitor video wall by artist Diana Thater. This spectacular and encompassing work presents a changing vista of the Milky Way filmed in the Griffith Observatory Planetarium in Los Angeles, shot from below the massive Zeiss star projector. While exhibited in Houston, the home of NASA's Johnson Space Center, the work will be at the center of a series of cross-disciplinary discussions featuring scientists, poets, artists and astronauts, in partnership with the Rice Space Institute. Diana Thater will participate in a discussion about the work on April 21, 2017.

### **teamLab: *Flowers and People, Cannot be Controlled but Live Together – A Whole Year per Hour* (through August 13)**

In the Moody's Media Arts Gallery, visitors will encounter a large-scale installation by the Tokyo art collective teamLab, *Flowers and People, Cannot be Controlled but Live Together – A Whole Year per Hour* (2015). This immersive and hypnotic installation consists of computer graphic visuals that change in response to the visitor's presence, releasing constantly evolving images of natural forms. Through its

interplay of digital imagery and the human body, the work raises questions about relationships between art, technology and nature, and the human capacity to mediate between them.

### **Google - Tilt Brush**

In the Moody's second Media Arts Gallery, the Beth Herlin '13 Studio, visitors will be invited to experiment with a new 3-D paintbrush developed by Google. Using the gallery as a canvas, the Tilt Brush enables visitors to "paint" in three dimensions using virtual reality and to explore their own creative capacity in the spirit of the hands-on learning that defines the Moody.

### ***An Iliad (March 30 – April 2)***

This spring the Moody also will host performances in the Lois Chiles Studio Theater of Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare's *An Iliad*—a reimagining of Homer's classic for the modern world—with the lead role played by Leon Ingulsrud and original music composed and performed by students from the Shepherd School of Music (March 30 – April 2, 2017). As The Poet, Ingulsrud is an ageless wanderer who is doomed to retell the story of Achilles' rage and his confrontation with Hector again and again, until the world finally understands. The play wrestles with the horrors — and the seductive appeal — of war in a way that is both timeless and current.

### **LESLIE AND BRAD BUCHER ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

The Moody is proud that its first artist-in-residence will be Mona Hatoum, the internationally acclaimed Beirut-born Palestinian artist whose work in sculpture, performance, video and installation was recently the subject of a major survey exhibition at Tate Modern in London. Underscoring the Moody's collaborative goals within Houston's rich cultural scene, Hatoum will be housed during her residency on the campus of the Menil Collection, which will present a major exhibition of her works later in the year (Oct. 6, 2017 – Feb. 25, 2018). During her residency from March through April 2017, Hatoum will appear at Rice, together with scholars from diverse fields, in a panel discussion about her work and will participate in a sculpture class at Rice's Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts.

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES FOR RICE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

Rounding out the schedule of activities housed in the Moody will be seven new interdisciplinary courses developed for Rice students. Information on these evolving courses, developed under the rubric of "art plus," is available at [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu).

### **THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE MOODY**

Michael Maltzan's striking contemporary design, with its bold geometric shapes, inviting transparency and signature "lantern" structures supported by iconic "Starburst" columns, makes the Moody's building a beacon on Rice's campus while affirming the mission to foster connections across disciplines.

Maltzan, founder and principal of Michael Maltzan Architecture, Inc., says of the building, "The interior of the Moody is designed to foster a sense of openness and possibility. The double-height creative open studio at its heart can be imagined as an interior quad, echoing the other quads found throughout the Rice campus. This interior landscape brings the most diverse programmatic functions into contact with one another, while opening views out to the campus. This emphasis on transparency extends to the building's exterior, whose brick-clad upper story seems to float over an entry level encased in floor-to-ceiling glass. With pedestrian paths cutting across the site's open lawn and into the building, a set of stairs on the north façade turning back to form an interior amphitheater, and the cantilevered mass of the second story

creating covered walkways below, the Moody will be one of the most active social spaces on the Rice campus and a welcoming facility for all.”

## FUNDING

Development of the Moody is made possible by a lead gift from the Texas-based Moody Foundation, a charitable organization with an emphasis on education, social services, children’s needs and community development, with additional generous support from The Brown Foundation, The Elkins Foundation, the Gilder Foundation, Nancy and Clint Carlson, and other donors. Additional support for programs and operations are supported by major contributions from Suzanne Deal Booth, Leslie and Brad Bucher and many others.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

*Website:* [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu)  
*Social Media:* @theMoodyArts | #atTheMoody  
*Phone:* +1 713.348.ARTS  
*Address:* The 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:*

Beginning February 25, 2017, the exhibition spaces and café at the Moody will be open to the public and free of charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and closed Sunday, Monday and holidays. Events and programs at the Moody are open to the public through a ticketed, advance-reservation system. For schedule, tickets and pricing, the public may visit [moody.rice.edu](http://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. Campus maps are available at [www.rice.edu/maps](http://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, designed by Michael Maltzan and opening in February 2017, 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.

[rice.edu](http://rice.edu)

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