



RICE

For Immediate Release

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**Moody Center for the Arts Unveils Site-Specific
Public Art Commission *Climate Parliament* by
Rafael Lozano-Hemmer at Opening Reception,
Tuesday, September 24, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

The latest addition to the Rice Public Art collection will be celebrated with the artist and a panel discussion on September 24 at the O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science



Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, *Climate Parliament*, rendering, copyright Antimodular.

September 12, 2024 [Houston, Texas] -- The Moody Center for the Arts will commemorate the opening of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's immersive audiovisual

installation *Climate Parliament* through [a public reception on September 24, from 5:30 – 7:30 \(CST\)](#). A reception will follow a presentation by the artist and a panel discussion with Rice University faculty cultural anthropologist Dominique Boyer and climate scientist Sylvia Dee.

Reflecting past and current research, both at Rice and around the world, *Climate Parliament* represents the first permanent installation by Lozano-Hemmer to directly address the climate crisis. The artwork consists of 481 pendant speaker-lights that react as people traverse the public path through the O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science. Each pendant plays back a unique recording of a leading scientist, scholar, activist or student as they share their research on, perceptions of, and resistance to, climate change. As many voices sound simultaneously, activating many frequencies at once, the piece creates complex aural patterns reminiscent of the sound of crashing waves on a seashore.

"We're honored to share this profound work of public art," said Alison Weaver, Executive Director, Moody Center for the Arts. "Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's creative approach to the urgent topic of climate change encourages us to engage our senses of sight and sound and to contribute our own voices towards collaborative action. Featuring *Climate Parliament* in the Rice Public Art collection reinforces the university's commitment to inspiring interdisciplinary research across the arts and sciences, and to addressing one of the most critical issues of our time."

Voices included in this installation range from Greta Thunberg and Margaret Mead to Rice University students and scholars like professors Jim Blackburn and Timothy Morton, as well as Houston-based researchers and activists including Jaime Gonzales, former Director of the Nature Conservancy, and environmental justice activist Reginald Moore.

"*Climate Parliament* is a performative representation of the voices that warn us of the dire consequences of man-made environmental decimation," said the artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. "The project is inspired by decades of artists and composers using multi-speaker arrays such as Edgar Varèse, Bernhard Leitner, Shilpa Gupta, Janet Cardiff, and George Bures Miller."

Commissioned specifically for the O'Connor Building for Engineering and Science, *Climate Parliament* is the culmination of Lozano-Hemmer's decades-long exploration of creating polyphonic, interactive light and sound installations that investigate the nature of human perception. Drawing from historical and contemporary research, at Rice and from around the world, *Climate Parliament* invites visitors to imagine the impact of our current actions on the future of people and the planet.

About the Artist



Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, portrait courtesy of Antimodular.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (b. 1967, Mexico City, Mexico) received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical chemistry from Concordia University in Montréal in 1989. Initially, he worked in a molecular recognition lab in Montréal and published his research in chemistry journals. Although he did not pursue a career in science, it has influenced his work in many ways. In 2003, he founded his studio Antimodular Research, where he collaborates with programmers, engineers, architects and designers in a laboratory-like environment to pose hypotheses and test potential solutions to both theoretical and practical problems.

The first artist to represent Mexico at the Venice Biennale (2007), Lozano-Hemmer has been featured in solo exhibitions at museums around the world, including the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC; AmorePacific Museum, Seoul; the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Mexico City; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. His work is held in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museo del Barrio, New York, Tate, London, Jumex and MUAC, Mexico City; and SFMOMA; among many others.

Lozano-Hemmer lives and works in Montréal.



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.

[Learn more about our mission.](#)

General 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 on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Events and programs are open to the public. For upcoming events, parking information, and registration as applicable, visit moody.rice.edu.

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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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