



For Immediate Release

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## Moody Center for the Arts Announces *Clément Cogitore: Collective Memories*

Opening on May 30, two video works by the award-winning French artist will be shown in the Moody's Media Art Galleries through August 16, 2025



Clément Cogitore, *Les Indes galantes* (still), 2017.

**April 9, 2025 [Houston, Texas]** -- Opening May 30, 2025, the Moody Center for the Arts presents *Collective Memories*, an exhibition of renowned artist, director, and photographer Clément Cogitore (b. 1983, Colmar, France). Working at the intersection of cinema and visual art, Cogitore disrupts the flow of existing narrative streams, blurring the line between reality and fiction. The Moody's presentation will mark the first time the artist has been shown in Houston.

"We're honored to bring Clément's work to Houston," said Frauke V. Josenhans, Curator at the Moody Center for the Arts. "Through his powerful storytelling, centered on group dynamics, rituals, movement, and music, visitors can viscerally experience the interplay between the past and present through a bodily lens."

The exhibition is comprised of two video installations in adjacent galleries. The work *Les Indes galantes* (2017) is a contemporary staging of the Baroque opera ballet by the French composer Jean-Philippe Rameau from 1735. Rameau, inspired by dances performed in Paris in 1725 by Indigenous tribal chiefs from America, included their rhythms and movements in his composition. In Cogitore's video, young dancers from Belgium, France, and Germany offer a new version of the operatic ballet through krumping, a dance style popularized in South Central Los Angeles in the early 2000s and made of freestyle body movements.

In the second video, *Morgestraich* (2022), Cogitore pays tribute to the Carnival of Basel, an event held in the eponymous town in Switzerland since the Middle Ages. The Morgestraich marks the beginning of the carnival activities when the lights are turned off at exactly 4 am and groups of musicians parade through the streets with lanterns to the sound of pipes and drums. The piece features elaborately dressed carnival participants against a dark backdrop, walking continually toward an invisible crowd.

"With *Indes Galantes* and *Morgestraich*, I seek to reveal forms of historical, aesthetic, and geopolitical short circuits," said Clément Cogitore. "In both pieces, I explore how communities form around gesture and music—choreographic movement in *Indes Galantes* and ritual procession in *Morgestraich*. In both cases, a group of participants and performers gathers around music from a distant past and reactivates it in the present."

Through these video works, Cogitore emphasizes the collective energy that emanates from the respective performances and underscores the force of group dynamics in which the individual becomes part of a greater cause or higher belief system.

The exhibition is organized by Frauke V. Josenhans, Curator, and is made possible by the Moody Center for the Arts Founders Circle with support from Institut français.

The public is invited to an opening reception with the artist on Friday, May 30, 6 - 8 pm.

[Access promotional photos](#)

[Request an interview with the artist and curator](#)



Clément Cogitore, *Morgestraich* (still), 2022.

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## About the Artist



Clément Cogitore, portrait courtesy of the artist.

Clément Cogitore (b. 1983, Colmar, France) studied at the École des Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg and at Le Fresnoy, the French National Studio of Contemporary Art. Cogitore's work has notably been exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; MADRE, Naples, Italy; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, United Kingdom; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany; MACRO, Rome, Italy; MoMA, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; MNBA, Québec; SeMA Bunker, Seoul, Korea; Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China; Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, Switzerland; and biennials such as the Lyon Biennial, France, and the Berlin Biennial, Germany. His cinematographic works have been featured and were awarded prizes at various international festivals (Cannes, Locarno, Telluride, Los Angeles, San Sebastian). In 2011, Cogitore received the Grand Prize of Salon de Montrouge for contemporary art, and the following year he became resident of the Villa Medici, French Academy in Rome. In 2016, he won the Sciences Po Prize for Contemporary Art and the 18th Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Prize. In 2018, Cogitore was awarded the Marcel Duchamp Prize for Contemporary Art. Since 2018, he has been teaching at the École des Beaux-Arts de Paris.

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#### **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](http://moody.rice.edu)

**Social Media:** @theMoodyArts

**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 closed on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Events and programs are open to the public. For schedule, tickets, and prices as applicable, 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.

For campus maps, visit [www.rice.edu/maps](http://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**

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