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The Moody Center for the Arts Presents *Bio Morphe*September 5 through December 20, 2025

Featuring Eva Fàbregas, Tishan Hsu, Lucy Kim, Berenice Olmedo, Sui Park, Christina Quarles, and Louise Bourgeois



Sui Park, Microcosm. Courtesy of Sapar Contemporary and the artist.

June 18, 2025 [Houston, Texas] -- The Moody Center for the Arts announces its fall 2025 exhibition *Bio Morphe*, featuring seven international artists who evoke forms and patterns inspired by nature, as well as employ biological materials, to explore constructs of society, science, and technology. On view from September 5 – December 20, 2025, the exhibition includes works from Tishan Hsu, Lucy Kim, Berenice Olmedo, Christina Quarles, and Louise Bourgeois, as well as site-specific sculptural installations by Eva Fàbregas and Sui Park.

"At the Moody our mission is to connect disparate disciplines through the arts, and in so doing illuminate critical questions shared by artists, scholars, and scientists," said Alison Weaver, Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director of the Moody Center for the Arts. "Bio Morphe is an exciting exploration of fields ranging from biology and bioengineering to cognitive neuroscience, and we're eager to invite our guests to be a part of these ever-evolving conversations."

Offering intersecting and diverging approaches to *biomorphism* as a formal and conceptual focal point, the exhibition explores how the representation of organic forms can add nuance to questions around gender, disability, mass consumption, and the ethics of technological innovation. For example, Berenice Olmedo's sculptures incorporate materials from the medical field meant to mimic human forms, such as prostheses and orthotics, to draw attention to the political dimensions of disability, illness, and care. Likewise, the commissioned work of Sui Park responds to the Moody's architecture by creating tension between the synthetic and the organic with specific media—mass-produced industrial materials constructed to evoke cellular structures—to allude to the parallels between natural social interactions and coded patterns in technology. The inclusion of *The Couple* by Louise Bourgeois similarly echoes a contrasting interplay between the engineered material, cast aluminum, and the earthly curvilinear form.

"The artists in *Bio Morphe* share a specific preoccupation with organic life, from Christina Quarles's paintings of fluid bodies to Eva Fàbregas's organ-like sculptural forms to Tishan Hsu's works that conflate the digital with the physiological," said Frauke V. Josenhans, curator of the exhibition, "Combined with a through line that brings attention to the manipulation of biological systems, as embodied by the works of Lucy Kim, the exhibition presents a timely reminder of the importance of scientific research and the various ways in which it fuels creativity and civic engagement."

To that end, the Moody will present a series of programs organized in conjunction with *Bio Morphe* including an interdisciplinary dialogue with Berenice Olmedo, presented in partnership with the Medical Humanities Program at Rice University and a dance commission by choreographer Gabrielle Lamb who works at the intersection of art and science to translate scientific phenomena into creative movement. Additional programming details are provided below.

At a time when scientific research is subject to increased public scrutiny, *Bio Morphe* foregrounds the ways in which artists can generate wide-ranging conversations about evolving relationships between the human body and the natural world by making visible findings that impact daily life.

The exhibition is curated by Frauke V. Josenhans. Graphic design is by Omnivore, Inc.: Alice Chung, Julie Cho, Karen Hsu.

Bio Morphe is made possible by the Libbie Rice Shearn Moody Fund for the Arts and the Thomas D. and Pamela Riley Smith Endowment for the Moody Center for the Arts. Major support is provided by the Elizabeth Lee Moody Excellence Fund, the Moody Center for the Arts Founders Circle, and the Institut Ramon Llull.

Access the Bio Morphe press kit
Request an interview with the artist and curator



Berenice Olmedo, Aithé. Courtesy of the artist and Jan Kaps Gallery, Cologne.

About the Artists

Eva Fàbregas (b. 1988, Barcelona, Spain; based in Barcelona) produces sculptures and installations made of soft or inflatable materials that evoke organic forms, organs, membranes, or bulbs. Through her objects, she investigates how the morphology and tactile condition of some materials affect human emotions and desires. Fàbregas studied Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona and Chelsea College of Arts and Design, London. For her work in *Bio Morphe*, the artist will be adapting and expanding her *Exudates* series of soft sculptures, recently on view at Matadero Madrid.

Tishan Hsu (b. 1951 in Boston, MA; based in New York, NY) examines the implications of the accelerated use of technology and artificial intelligence, and its impact on the body, human conditions, and environment. The artist's use of material is informed by his academic training as an architect and his further experiments in painting and sculpture

since the 1980s. He earned a BS in architecture and a Master's degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and studied film at Harvard.

Lucy Kim (b. 1978, Seoul, South Korea; based in Cambridge, MA) is an artist working across painting, sculpture, and biological media. In her hybrid works, she embraces distortion as a tool to critically question our conventional perception systems and to highlight how they are informed by socio-cultural systems and subjectivity. Kim is an Associate Professor of Art at Boston University. She holds a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and graduated from the Yale School of Art with an MFA in painting and printmaking.

Berenice Olmedo (b. 1987, Oaxaca, Mexico; based in Mexico City, Mexico) is known for her sculptures and kinetic objects, in which she often integrates prostheses and orthotics. Her fusions of body parts challenge the notion of human wholeness and draw attention to the political dimensions of disability, illness, and care. The artist engages with standardized expectations of our bodies and explores the extent to which external aids are essential to human existence. By reusing forms and materials from the medical field, she challenges the pursuit of efficiency and seamless perfection in favor of a more physical, political, and existential contemporary experience. After graduating from the Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, Olmedo participated in a study program at SOMA in Mexico City.

Sui Park (b. Seoul, South Korea; based in New York, NY) creates 3-dimensional organic forms and biomorphic ambience that are static yet dynamic, illusory, and mystical. Park's education includes an MDes in Interior Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design and a BFA in Environmental Design at Maryland Institute College of Art. Park also has an MFA and BFA in Fiber Arts from Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. Commissioned by the Moody for the *Bio Morphe* exhibition, Park will present new sculptures from her *Microcosms* series that will be sited in and outside of the building.

Christina Quarles (b. 1985, Chicago, IL; based in Los Angeles, CA) paints images that lay bare and dismantle assumptions and ingrained beliefs around the human body and identity. Having received an MFA from the Yale School of Art and a BA from Hampshire College, Quarles was the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Pérez Art Museum Miami Prize and in 2017, received the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant. In 2021, Quarles joined the board of trustees of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Louise Bourgeois (b. 1911, Paris, France – d. 2010, New York, NY) was a French-American artist whose personal and emotionally potent work has left a lasting impact on contemporary art. Drawing from her childhood experiences—particularly her complex relationship with her family—Bourgeois explored themes such as memory, trauma, sexuality, and the subconscious through a diverse range of materials and forms. Bourgeois studied art in both Paris and New York, at the Sorbonne, the École des Beaux-Arts, and at the Art Students League, among other notable institutions. In 1982, a landmark retrospective of her career was mounted at the Museum of Modern Art—the first MoMA retrospective dedicated to a female artist. Bourgeois continued to mentor other artists, hosting salons, into her nineties. *The Couple*, featured in the exhibition, was created during the last decade of her life.



Tishan Hsu, Interface Remix. Courtesy of the artist.

Special Programming

Friday, September 5, 6 – 8 pm Opening Reception for *Bio Morphe*

Saturday, September 6, 2 – 3:30 pm

Bio Morphe Artists Panel

Hear from exhibiting artists Eva Fàbregas, Lucy Kim, and Sui Park as they discuss how their work draws from nature and biology and engages with new technologies and material sciences. The panel will be moderated by *Bio Morphe* curator Frauke V. Josenhans.

Thursday, October 9, 6 – 8 pm

Dimensions Variable: Gabrielle Lamb / Pigeonwing Dance

Choreographer Gabrielle Lamb presents a site-specific intervention in response to artworks featured in *Bio Morphe*. This immersive performance is the culmination of a week-long residency at the Moody Center for the Arts and will investigate the relationships between the human body, nature, and science.

Saturday, November 1, 3 – 5 pm **New Art/New Music:** *Bio Morphe*

Enjoy a presentation of original scores inspired by *Bio Morphe* and composed by students from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. Organized by current Rice University students. Please join us for a reception following the performance.

Wednesday, November 12 | 6 – 7:30 pm

Artists-in-Dialogue: Berenice Olmedo + Medical Humanities

Join us for a multi-voice conversation with exhibiting artist Berenice Olmedo, Kirsten Ostherr, Director, Medical Humanities Research Institute at Rice University, and a speaker from the field of medicine. Presented in partnership with the Medical Humanities Program at Rice University, this interdisciplinary conversation will explore the crossover between the field of art and the field of medicine, touching on innovations in both disciplines.

About the Moody Center for the Arts

Inaugurated in February 2017, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University is a stateof-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 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.

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 closeknit 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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