

MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES ITS SPRING 2018 SEASON, FEATURING JOSIAH MCELHENY, WORKS OF GROUNDBREAKING MUSIC AND DANCE, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE CORNELIA PARKER, AND ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATION



Josiah McElheny, *Island Universe*, 2008. Photo by Todd-White Art Photography, London

HOUSTON, TX [November 28, 2017] — Alison Weaver, the Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director of the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, today announced the Moody's spring 2018 program. In keeping with its mission to foster interdisciplinary collaboration through the arts, the Moody will mount three exhibitions: a solo presentation of work by Josiah McElheny, a new work by Leo Villareal, and a three-person show titled *Pile the Wood High!*, featuring three generations of artists, all opening February 2. Acclaimed British artist Cornelia Parker will be the Moody's spring 2018 artist-in-residence.

As an experimental laboratory for music and dance, the Moody is proud to co-produce *DADA GERT*, an immersive dance theater performance created by Annie Arnoult that will transport audiences to Weimar-era Berlin. The eco-acoustic compositions of Matthew Burtner and the collective EcoSono will bring selections from the first climate-change opera to Rice. The German composer Hans Tutschku will premiere a new work in Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater and perform a light and sound composition created especially for the

James Turrell *Twilight Epiphany* Skyspace. The Moody will celebrate its first birthday on Saturday, February 24, with performances and a free public dance party.

EXHIBITION

Josiah McElheny: *Island Universe*

February 2-June 2, 2018

Brown Foundation Gallery, Moody Center for the Arts

Island Universe is a monumental installation of five hanging sculptures inspired by the multiverse scenario of eternal inflation, an extension of the big bang theory. Made of chromed metal, transparent handblown glass, and light, the structures are modeled on an iconic midcentury design object: the chandeliers of the Metropolitan Opera in New York made by J. & L. Lobmeyr in Vienna in 1965. Each sculpture pictures a different potential universe where their spheres represent clusters of galaxies and their lights evoke quasars—the brightest objects in the universe—all carefully placed according to measurements marking the history of time.

McElheny's related film, *Conceptual drawings for a chandelier, 1965*, will be shown together with the exhibition.

Island Universe is organized in coordination with Rice University's School of Humanities, which has invited McElheny to deliver the prestigious Campbell Lecture Series. On March 20, 21, and 22, McElheny will deliver a three-night lecture/performance that is free and open to the public.



Anna Helm, Lisa Lapinski, Hirsch Perlman, installation view. © Midway Contemporary Art. Photo: Caylon Hackwith

EXHIBITION

Pile the Wood High!

February 2-May 19, 2018

Central Gallery, Moody Center for the Arts

Pile the Wood High!, a new exhibition of sculpture, drawing, and collage organized by Rice Professor Lisa Lapinski, celebrates generational influences and enduring connections among art students and teachers who are also working artists. Three generations of artists are represented, including noted California sculptor Hirsch Perlman, chair of UCLA's Department of Art; Lapinski, who was a graduate student of Perlman's at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena in the 1990s; and Anna Helm, Lapinski's student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

The droll title, *Pile the Wood High!*, points to the exhibition's playful tone as well as the material—finished hardwoods used by each artist. Perlman's abstract wooden figures, *Humanitas Equanimitas* (2016), suggest a ritualistic gathering of couples, while Lapinski's *Little My #3 (Shaker board)* (2017) wraps around the exhibition space just above the viewer's head. Helm's *Unhushuwule Picnic Table* (2017) displays humorous play on words beneath its intricately painted gingham cloth covering.

EXHIBITION

Leo Villareal: *Particle Chamber*

February 2-December 31, 2018

Media Arts Gallery

Particle Chamber (2017) is an immersive new installation by Leo Villareal. Utilizing the latest projection technology to create dynamic points of light across a hemisphere of screens, Villareal enables visitors to

encounter an ethereal chamber of ever-moving pixels algorithmically programmed to form infinitely new patterns.

Particle Chamber complements Villareal's existing work in Rice's public art collection, *Radiant Pathway*. Commissioned for Rice's BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC) building in 2010, *Radiant Pathway* features 92 light tubes that morph in an endlessly changing display of color and light. Both works highlight Villareal's creative engagement with light, space, technology, and sensory perception.

Villareal will visit the Moody on April 6 as part of its signature Artist-in-Dialogue series in the spring.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Cornelia Parker

March-April 2018

The Moody's spring 2018 artist-in-residence will be the acclaimed British artist Cornelia Parker. Best known for her innovative installation and sculptural work, Parker often collaborates across disciplines and explores topics ranging from psychoanalysis to scientific theory and gun violence.

In 2016-17 Parker was the first female artist commissioned to create a new work on the roof garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, was named Apollo magazine's artist of the year, and served as the U.K.'s official election artist. Her work can be found in numerous public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the Tate Gallery (London) and the De Young Museum (San Francisco).

While in residence, Parker will engage with both Rice students and the Houston community while making new work in the Moody's Pitman Studio for artists.

SPECIAL EVENT

MOODY CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

Friday, February 23, 2018 | 7:00-10:00 pm

The Moody is celebrating its first birthday with a party, and you're invited! The award-winning building, designed by renowned Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan, is dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration through the arts. To mark its first anniversary, the Moody will celebrate with performances, music and, of course, cake. Like the Moody's exhibition program, the party will be free and open to the public.

MUSIC

virtual bodies: an evening with Hans Tutschku

Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 7:00 pm

Lois Chiles Studio Theater, Moody Center for the Arts

While visiting Rice, German composer Hans Tutschku will present an evening of electroacoustic music in the Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater. A master in the practice of audio diffusion, Tutschku uses the theater space itself as his instrument while directing sounds from above, in front of, and behind the audience through a 16-channel sound system. Tutschku will also perform two works for piano and electronics, including the world premiere of *virtual bodies*. This performance is co-presented by REMLABS and the Moody Center for the Arts.

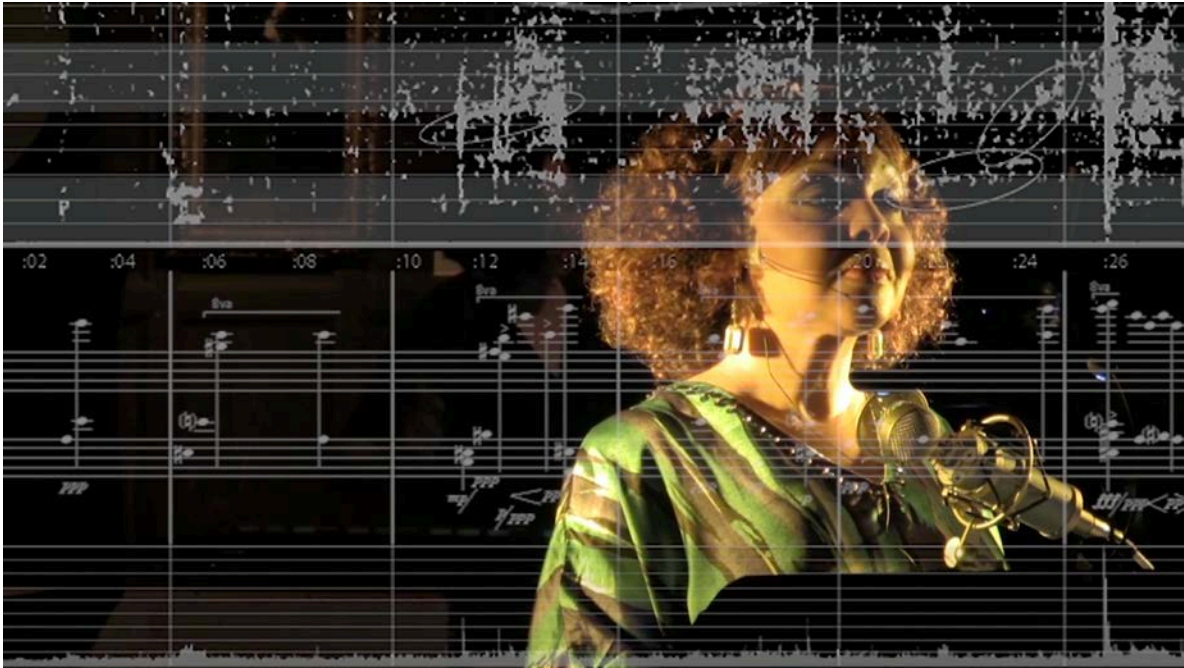
RICE PUBLIC ART

Hans Tutschku: *nighttime songs from afar*

Saturday, April 7, 2018 | 7:00 pm

James Turrell *Twilight Epiphany* Skyspace

Visiting German composer Hans Tutschku has composed a new work specifically for Rice's James Turrell *Twilight Epiphany* Skyspace. The new work, *nighttime songs from afar*, will create an imaginary voyage by weaving voices from around the world into a complex, diverse, and harmonious whole through an immersive sound and light installation. The composition combines the breathtaking light of the Skyspace with sounds of folk songs, prayers, and lullabies from around the globe to form a ritualistic sensory event not to be missed. Tutschku performs at the premiere March 31. The work will then be replayed each evening after the sunset light sequence through April 16, 2018.



Lisa Edwards-Burrs performs "Auksalaq", score excerpt by Matthew Burtner. Photo by Joe Adkins

MUSIC

EcoSono: Matthew Burtner

April 13 and 14, 2018

Lois Chiles Studio Theater, Moody Center for the Arts

The Moody will present a selection of musical works by musician and composer Matthew Burtner and the collective EcoSono as part of the 2018 Rice University Cultures of Energy Symposium. This innovative multimedia performance addresses climate change and the role the arts can play in shaping conversations around the future of the planet.

Founded and directed by Burtner, EcoSono is a nonprofit environmental arts organization that comprises environmentalists, musicians, and artists working for environmental sustainability and human creativity in collaboration with nature. They will perform together with Loop38, a local collective of passionate musicians bringing new music to Houston.



Open Dance Project's DADA GERT. Choreography by Annie Arnoult. Photo by Lynn Lane.

DANCE

DADA GERT

May 11, 12, 18 and 19, 2018

Lois Chiles Studio Theater, Moody Center for the Arts

DADA GERT is an immersive work of dance theater conceived, choreographed, and performed by Annie Arnoult and Open Dance Project. The show is inspired by Valeska Gert (1892-1978), a pioneering Jewish dancer/performance artist/film star in Weimar-era Berlin. Audiences will be integrated into the performance space by walking throughout the site-specific, multimedia set designed specifically for the Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater. Original projections designed by Ryan McGettigan, together with music, dance, and costumes, collectively inspired by Gert's life and performance career will transport audiences to early 1920s Germany.

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, noncollecting 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 | #atTheMoody

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:

The exhibition spaces are 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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