

MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES ITS FALL 2019 SEASON CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOON LANDING, FEATURING WORKS BY LAURIE ANDERSON, ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG, AND ANDY WARHOL



Robert Rauschenberg, *Local Means (Stoned Moon)*, 1970, Lithograph, 32 3/8 x 43 1/4 inches (82.2 x 110 cm)  
From an edition of 11, published by Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles ©Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and Gemini G.E.L.

HOUSTON, TX [July 16, 2019] — On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the Apollo 11 space flight, Alison Weaver, the Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director of the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, announced the Moody's fall exhibition, *Moon Shot*, featuring works responding to the moon landing by a selection of innovative artists active from 1969 to the present. Notable works include Robert Rauschenberg's *Stoned Moon* series of 34 lithographs, which will be shown together as a group for the first time since their creation in 1969-1970; Andy Warhol's *Moonwalk* (1987) which represents the moon landing as an iconic moment in television history; and Laurie Anderson's virtual reality work, *To the Moon* (2018), co-created with Hsin-Chien Huang, which allows visitors to take their own experimental journey through space. Notable works by Siah Armajani, Antony Gormley and Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan, Nancy Graves, Rachel Rose, Katy Schimert, and Michelle Stuart will also be featured.

Rice Stadium was the site of John F. Kennedy's famous "Moon Shot" speech in 1962, and Rice has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with space science through its physics department, the Rice Space Institute, the Baker Institute, and individual faculty and alumni who have worked closely with the space program. "Given this important anniversary as well as the interdisciplinary mission of the Moody, we're featuring innovative works that respond to both the poetic and technical aspects of space travel," Weaver said.

*Moon Shot* will be presented in the Moody's Central, Brown Foundation and Media Galleries, and will open on **Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** with a free public reception from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Moody's Dimensions Variable performance series featuring music, film and presentations on space science will take place on **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Additional programs featuring panel discussions between artists and astronauts, musical performances and film screenings will be scheduled throughout the season, concluding with the second annual Moody Movie Night, projected outdoors on the building's west wall, featuring *Interstellar* on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** and *Gravity* on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, both at 7:00 p.m.

This exhibition is made possible by the Moody Center for the Arts Founder's Circle with additional support from the Moody Foundation. Special thanks to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and Joni Weyl Felsen of Gemini G.E.L., Ronald Feldman Gallery and the Nancy Graves Foundation.

## EXHIBITION

### *Moon Shot*

September 20 – December 21, 2019

Central, Brown Foundation and Media Galleries

*Moon Shot* is anchored by the historic presentation of *Stoned Moon*, a significant series of lithographs by **Robert Rauschenberg** (1925 – 2008) that will be shown together for the first time at the Moody. As an artist-in-residence with NASA in 1969, Rauschenberg observed the Apollo 11 mission first hand. In response, he created a series of 34 prints at Gemini G.E.L. in Los Angeles between 1969 and 1970. At the time of its printing, *Sky Garden (Stoned Moon)* (1969) at a height of more than 7 feet was the largest lithograph ever made, requiring a technical innovation in printmaking concurrent with the historic advancements in space travel.

**Laurie Anderson** (b. 1947), like Rauschenberg, was an artist-in-residence with NASA from 2002 until 2004. The moon has continued to be a source of inspiration and creative inquiry for the artist, as evidenced by her recent work *To the Moon* (2018). Co-created with Taiwanese filmmaker Hsin-Chien Huang (b. 1966), the 15-minute virtual reality experience explores how art, technology, and the artist's poetic imagination can combine to create new universes.

A keen observer of popular culture, **Andy Warhol** (1928 – 1987) set out to create a series of works representing seminal moments in television history. The first of these works, *Moonwalk* (1987), acknowledges the importance not only of the moon landing as a technological leap forward, but as an indelible image in 20<sup>th</sup> century visual culture. Based on a photograph of Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin's first steps on the Moon taken by fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong, Warhol recognized the image's iconic status and subjected it to his own silkscreen technique, adding bright hues of yellow and pink to the original black and white photograph. Although the series was never completed due to Warhol's untimely death later that year, the two prints endure as symbols of the moon landing in our collective imagination.

500 million people around the world watched the moon landing on television. Iranian-born artist **Siah Armajani** (b. 1939), then living in Minneapolis, was no exception. In response, he created *Moon Landing* (1969). Having purchased a portable television for the occasion and turned it on for the first time as the mission began, the artist left it on continuously until the spacecraft returned safely to Earth eight days later. Armajani promptly disconnected the TV and locked the plug, thereby symbolically capturing mankind's first moon landing as a seminal moment in human history. Armanjani concurrently traced every word in the *New York Times*' special issue dedicated to the event, each page of which is displayed in the exhibition as a tribute to human creativity and ingenuity.

The youngest artist in the exhibition, **Rachel Rose** (b. 1986) did not witness the Apollo 11 mission first hand. Her fascination with space travel came through film. Inspired by the major motion pictures *Gravity* (2013) directed by Alfonso Cuarón and *Interstellar* (2014) directed by Christopher Nolan, Rose researched space travel, interviewed the astronaut David Wolf, and visited the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at the University of Maryland. Her resulting video installation, *Everything and More* (2015) explores the bodily dislocation and potential perceptual confusion offered by space travel and the concept of life outside the Earth's atmosphere.

**Antony Gormley** and **Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan's** first virtual reality collaboration, *Lunatick* (2019) uses data collected by NASA to map a real and interactive journey, leaving Earth to pass through the atmosphere, stratosphere, the asteroid belt, and into outer space. This immersive experience treats the body as a vessel, free from gravity, in order to bring the haptic experience of space alive.

Additional works by **Nancy Graves** (1939-1995), **Katy Schimert** (b. 1963), and **Michelle Stuart** (b. 1933) will also be featured.

*Moon Shot* is curated by Alison Weaver, Executive Director, in collaboration with the artist Matthew Ritchie.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS, ALL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

Friday, September 20, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Central, Brown Foundation and Media Galleries

### **DIMENSIONS VARIABLE: MOONLIGHT AT THE MOODY**

Saturday, October 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Activities throughout the Moody building

### **OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT**

*Interstellar* (2014), Director Christopher Nolan  
Friday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., West Lawn

*Gravity* (2013), Director Alfonso Cuarón  
Saturday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., West Lawn

### **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 | #MoodyHTX  
*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](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 a best value among private universities by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Read "[What they're saying about Rice.](#)"

**Press Contact**

Lisa Sursavage | +1 713-348-4115 | [lisa.sursavage@rice.edu](mailto:lisa.sursavage@rice.edu)