

MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER 2020 SEASON
FEATURING WINDOW COMMISSIONS BY ARTISTS
GANZEER AND ERIN CURTIS, AND
ORIGINAL MUSIC INSPIRED BY RICE PUBLIC ART



Ganzeer, *It Takes A Village* (rendering), 2020.

HOUSTON, TX [June 12, 2020] – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Moody Center for the Arts is offering a summer of art, music, film and dance that audiences can enjoy from home. Alison Weaver, the Suzanne Deal Booth Executive Director, announced today that the Moody will commission new work from visual artists, musicians and dancers that will be available online, and will launch a virtual film series featuring artists in the Rice Public Art Collection. According to Weaver, “Supporting local artists and celebrating Rice Public Art allows us to continue to pursue the Moody’s interdisciplinary mission while engaging diverse audiences during this critical time.”

The Moody’s summer window series will launch with a site-specific commission by **Ganzeer** (b. 1982, Giza, Egypt). Known for creating political street art in Cairo during the Arab Spring and subsequent years, Ganzeer has worked in various countries and relocated to Houston last year. His large-scale project for the Moody is designed specifically for the west wall of windows facing College Way, just off Entrance 8 at Stockton Drive. The original work, titled *It Takes a Village*, embraces the architecture of the Moody building while explicitly responding to the COVID-19 crisis and the human experience of supporting each other during a period of social isolation. Ganzeer’s

work will be activated by local poet Outspoken Bean, who will present an original poem before each of the wall panels. The performance will be presented on the Moody's [YouTube](#) channel in late June. The window commission will open on June 13, 2020 and be on view through July 25, 2020.

The second artist in the Moody's two-part window series, Austin-based **Erin Curtis** (b. 1977, Albany, NY), will create a site-specific work of intricate patterns and hues, on view from August 1 until September 12, 2020. Curtis's work will be activated by an original performance by Open Dance Project (ODP), to be presented on the Moody's YouTube channel in late August. Open Dance Project founder Annie Arnoult says, "The first project ODP will embrace once the dancers return from their summer hiatus is a creative response to Erin Curtis's original installation at the Moody. Our focus is on innovative ways to break down barriers between artists and audiences to make dance more accessible and meaningful. As a site-specific response to our current moment, this project is a positive start to our next season, and we're delighted it will be in collaboration with the Moody."

For its summer music series, the Moody has commissioned five composers from the Shepherd School of Music to create original works responding to individual objects in Rice's Public Art collection. Each composer will write a short solo or duet to be performed in front of the artwork. The five performances will be filmed and released on the Moody's YouTube channel on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. beginning on June 23, 2020. The first performance will be a response to Ursula von Rydingsvard's *Malutka II* (2018) by composer Daniel Zlatkin. It will be followed on subsequent Tuesdays at 12 p.m. by composer David Jones's response to Mark di Suvero's *Po-um (Lyric)* (2003), Jake Sandridge's composition for Jaume Plensa's *Mirror* (2011), Theo Chandler's composition for Sol LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #1115*, and Nicky Sohn's composition for Leo Villareal's *Radiant Pathway* (2010). These new works will be performed by a current student or recent graduate of Rice's Shepherd School of Music.

The Moody's summer film series will feature virtual screenings of documentaries about three artists in Rice's Public Art collection. The first in the series, the new film **URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD: INTO HER OWN** (2019), will be presented in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Beginning on June 17, at 10 a.m., it will be available for one week at mfah.org/virtualcinema. Created by filmmaker Daniel Traub, the film illuminates von Rydingsvard's personal journey, immigrating to the U.S. after five years in post-World War II displaced persons camps, her arrival in 1970s New York to become an artist, and the extraordinary body of work she has produced over a fifty-year career. On June 22 at 2 p.m., Alison Weaver and Alison de Lima Greene, Isabel Brown Wilson Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, will host a virtual Q&A, moderated by Marian Luntz, Curator of Film & Video at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, about the artist, the film and her work. The second film **Sol LeWitt: Four Decades** (2001) by Michael Blackwood was created on the occasion of the artist's last major retrospective, at Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago in 2000, offering a rare opportunity to hear directly from this seminal conceptual artist, who famously resisted being filmed and photographed, about his life and work. It will be virtually available to screen for one week through the Moody YouTube channel from July 22 through July 29, 2020. The third film in the series, **Impossible Light** (2014) follows the creation of Leo Villareal's critically acclaimed public art installation *The Bay Lights*, an ambitious project requiring the installation of 25,000 LED lights on the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. Directed by Jeremy Ambers, this film will be available to screen from August 19 through August 26 through the Moody's YouTube channel. On August 20 at 2 p.m., Ambers will host a Zoom Q&A regarding the film and the artist.

The summer window series is made possible by the Thomas D. and Pamela Riley Smith Endowment for the Moody Center for the Arts. Major support is provided by the Louis Sudler Endowment and the Brad and Leslie Bucher Artist Endowment. Additional support is provided by the Tamara de Kuffner Fund, the Kilgore Endowment Fund, the Sewall Endowment and the Houston Arts Alliance.



For more information about the Moody's programs, please check the Moody website: moody.rice.edu.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUMMER WINDOW SERIES

June 13 – July 25: Ganzeer

August 1 – September 12: Erin Curtis

RICE PUBLIC ART SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Tuesdays at 12 p.m.; June 23 – July 21, streamed live on the Moody's [YouTube](#) channel

June 23, 12 p.m.

Ursula von Rydingsvard, *Malutka II* (2018), composer Daniel Zlatkin, cellist Russell Houston

June 30, 12 p.m.

Mark di Suvero, *Po-um (Lyric)* (2003), composer David Jones, percussionist Aaron Smith

July 7, 12 p.m.

Jaume Plensa, *Mirror* (2011), composer Jake Sandridge, cellist Bree Ahern and clarinetist Roy Park

July 14, 12 p.m.

Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing #1115*, composer Theo Chandler, oboist Virginia McDowell

July 21, 12 p.m.

Leo Villareal, *Radiant Pathway* (2010), composer Nicky Sohn, cellist David Dietz

RICE PUBLIC ART FILM SERIES

June 17, 10 a.m.

URSULA VON RYDINGSVARD: INTO HER OWN (2019)

Virtual screening at mfah.org/virtualcinema

June 22, 2 p.m.

Ursula Von Rydingsvard: A Q&A with Alison Weaver, Moody Executive Director, and Alison de Lima Greene, Isabel Brown Wilson Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; moderated by Marian Luntz, Curator of Film & Video at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

July 22 – 29, 10 a.m.

Sol LeWitt: Four Decades (2001)

Screen the film from the Moody's [YouTube](#) channel

August 19 – 26, 10 a.m.

Impossible Light (2014)

Screen the film from the Moody's [YouTube](#) channel

August 20, 2 p.m.

Zoom Q&A with Ylinka Barotto, Associate Curator, and Jeremy Ambers, Director of *Impossible Light* (2014)

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

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.

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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