

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Blaffer Art Museum Reopens with New Exhibition
'Rodney McMillian: Historically Hostile' on View Sept. 1- Sept 20

HOUSTON, Aug. 15, 2020 – A new exhibition that confronts the social and economic histories of race-driven actions and oppression will mark the reopening of the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston on Tuesday, September 1. The video installation by Los Angeles-based artist Rodney McMillian entitled "[Rodney McMillian: Historically Hostile](#)" will be on view through Sunday, Sept. 20. Due to COVID-19, after Sept 1., the museum will be open to the public from noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday – Sunday until further notice. Admission is free.

Organized by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Curatorial Fellow, "Rodney McMillian: Historically Hostile" features six major video works created between 2005 and 2017. The works selected specially for the Blaffer Art Museum exhibition, "reconsider the contemporary ramifications of slavery, the civil rights movement, white supremacy and modern U.S. government policy embedded within our daily life," explained Blackwell.

Several of McMillian's works were filmed in South Carolina, where he grew up, as well as in Austin and Dockery Farms, the infamous Mississippi plantation where Delta blues music was born. He is currently Professor of Sculpture at University of California, Los Angeles.

"At its most effective, contemporary art creates a space where complex issues and thorny, but necessary conversations can happen between people, paradigms and that which lives beyond words," said Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director and Chief Curator, Blaffer Art Museum. "In the midst of such challenging, existential times as these, there is fertile opportunity to see things anew, take action and demand change for the better. The Blaffer aims to stoke these ambitions by presenting a poignant selection of work by McMillian upon its re-opening, where the artist acts and lives the places, histories and policies that need re-appraisal."

WHAT: "Rodney McMillian: Historically Hostile," an exhibition of six major video works by the renowned Los Angeles-based artist

WHEN: Tuesday, September 1 – Sunday, September 20

WHERE: University of Houston Blaffer Art Museum, 4173 Elgin St. [Click here](#) for map, directions and parking.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and until further notice, Blaffer Art Museum will be open to the public noon – 5 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday. Tuesday, September 1 will be an unofficial opening day, with no public events. The museum is otherwise closed Monday –Tuesday. The museum will follow proper sanitizing and social distancing protocols to ensure the safety of visitors. That includes a maximum of 12 visitors at a time, visit mandatory face masks, hand sanitizer stations and designating the front door for patrons entering and the back door for those exiting.

For more information, please contact Sara Tubbs at sstubbs2@uh.edu or 713.743.4248 or infoblaffer@uh.edu.

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