

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2020

Blaffer Art Museum Presents 'Stephanie Syjuco: The Visible Invisible'
On View October 17, 2020 - January 9, 2021

HOUSTON, Oct. 15, 2020— Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston is pleased to present ***Stephanie Syjuco: The Visible Invisible***, a new exhibition of works by the Philippines-born, San Francisco-based artist. It will be on view from **October 17, 2020 through January 9, 2021**.

Stephanie Syjuco's work confronts the media-driven ways in which models of citizenry, immigration, and identity are dramatically evolving in the United States. The artist's insights will all be all the more relevant in 2020, in the lead-up to what promises to be one of the most intense and existential elections of our time. In today's heightened socio-political environment where one's ethnicity is taken to presume their allegiance, people are too easily captioned by assumed cultural tropes we regard as "natural." As color becomes an increasingly fallible, if no less politicized measure of assigning identity there within, this exhibition will focus on Syjuco's examination of supposedly "neutral" colors and patterns. Looking to supposedly benign applications of gray, white, black, and green, she mines the abuses and projections that color provides within the escalating negotiation of being/belonging. The physical and conceptual nexus of the exhibition is Syjuco's 2019 installation *Dodge and Burn (Visible Storage)*: a room-sized "still life" which interrogates color calibration charts (used to check for "correct" color) as a coded narrative of empire.

The Blaffer will also present installations and participatory works by Syjuco across the University, bringing a series of flags representing invented shadow nations to the M.D. Anderson Library and a curtain installation questioning the legibility of citizenship to the atrium of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. The exhibition showcases the new participatory artwork entitled *Public_Public_Address*. This continually evolving and expanding project by artists Stephanie Syjuco, Jason Lazarus, and Siebren Versteeg creates a platform for public protest during the pandemic. It features an endless stream of virtual "marching" protesters collaged from photographic and video submissions of supporters from across the country. Any and all viewers are invited to participate by sending a short video of themselves protesting that will be stitched into a moving collage and included in the live stream.

Stephanie Syjuco: The Visible Invisible is organized by Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director and Chief Curator at Blaffer Art Museum.

This exhibition is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Generous support is also provided by Seth Ammerman, Wanda Kownacki, Janet Mohle-Boetani, Tom Schiff, Megan & Paul Segre, and Carlie Wilmans. Special thanks go to Catherine Clark Gallery, San Francisco and Ryan Lee Gallery, New York for their extensive assistance and support of this exhibition.

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For more information or high-resolution images, please contact infoblaffer@uh.edu.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Open Wed-Sun, 12-5pm
Admissions is always free.

For the safety and well-being of you, the visitor, and our staff and community, please follow [protocols and procedures](#) as recommended by the University of Houston, the CDC, and government officials. Due to an increasing number of visitors, we encourage you to make a reservation to guarantee your desired time slot. Additionally, please review the University of Houston's [campus protocols](#) prior to visiting the Blaffer. / [Learn more](#)

ABOUT BLAFFER ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1973, the Blaffer Art Museum endeavors to further the understanding of contemporary art through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. As the gateway between the University of Houston's Central campus and the City of Houston, Blaffer Art Museum is a catalyst for creative innovation, experimentation, and scholarship. Its exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public, create community through dialogue and participation, and inspire an appreciation for the visual arts as a vital force in shaping contemporary culture.