

Blaffer Art Museum
713-743-9521
blafferartmuseum.org
infoblaffer@uh.edu

Blaffer Art Museum Upcoming 2022-2023 Exhibitions

HOUSTON, TX | MARCH 15, 2022 ---

Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston is pleased to present its upcoming exhibition program, which will continue to explore, animate, and celebrate contemporary art in all its many forms. We will continue to do what the Blaffer does best, presenting the first major American shows by burgeoning international artists, as well as survey the careers of American artists that can no longer be unheralded. These exhibitions span a broad spectrum of voices and disciplines and reflect the inspiring diversity of both the UH campus and the city of Houston as a whole. The Blaffer will also showcase the work of our next generation of artists, as well as a breadth of performative practices that come alive via community collaboration.

44th MFA Thesis Exhibition | March 26–April 10, 2022

Each spring Blaffer Art Museum proudly presents the University of Houston School of Art Annual MFA Thesis Exhibition—celebrating the work of Masters of Fine Arts degree candidates from the school’s five studio programs: Graphic Design, Interdisciplinary Practice and Emerging Forms, Painting, Photography/Digital Media, and Sculpture. The exhibition showcases highly developed bodies of work produced in a studio intensive environment over a three-year degree program.

University of Houston School of Art 44th Masters of Fine Arts Candidates: Haoua Amadou, Jen Bootwala, Marcelese Cooper, Miriam A. Donis, Noelle Dunahoe, Liz Gates, María Jacinta Majithia, Tiffany Angel Nesbit, Sydney Parks, Brent Reaney, Ashita Sawhney, Douglas Welsh, Isabelle Zimmerman

Pam Francis: Photographs | April 19–April 26, 2022

Blaffer Art Museum is proud to present a special exhibition of distinguished Houston-born artist and photographer Pam Francis (1954-2020). The exhibition will be presented in the Joanne Guest Wilson Gallery of the Museum. Francis's portraits have been on the covers of Texas Monthly, Time, Business Week, XXL, Source, and Sports Illustrated, and this exhibition will span 30 years of her art practice from 1987-2020, assembling over 100 photographs and collecting artifacts that include the artist's camera, selected slides, contact sheets, CDs, films, and ephemera.

This exhibition is guest curated by Christine Starkman, Independent Curator.

UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition | May 7–May 22, 2022

The Annual Student Exhibition introduces the University of Houston campus and Houston audiences to the work of School of Art first year and second-year graduate students and undergraduate seniors. The show features works selected by School of Art faculty in consultation with student artists. More than 100 artists will present works during this exhibition, which has long served as an important bridge between the campus community and the larger art world, locally and nationally.

Hugh Hayden: Boogey Men | June 10–August 21, 2022

Hugh Hayden: Boogey Men features a suite of monumental new works created for this exhibition. In his innovative work across mediums, Hayden (b. 1983) creates anthropomorphic forms that explore our relationship with the natural world. Formally trained as an architect, Hayden deploys laborious processes—selecting, carving, fabricating—that result in dynamic, surreal, and critical responses to personal experience and social and cultural issues. Renowned for his use of wood—taking disparate natural species and manipulating them to reveal complex histories and meanings—Hayden crafts intricate metaphors and meditations on experience and memory that question social dynamics and the ever-shifting ecosystem.

This exhibition is organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami and curated by Alex Gartenfeld, Artistic Director. The exhibition in Houston is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator.

Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin | July 15–October 9, 2022

The Blaffer Art Museum is proud to present the first solo museum exhibition in Texas of artistic and life partners Nick Vaughan and Jake Margolin (working collaboratively as “Nick & Jake”), whose poignant interdisciplinary practice marries art, theatre, performance, archival research, and spoken word. As part of this select survey that spans multiple years of activity, the Blaffer will commission a precedent-setting number of new works by Nick & Jake that include two monumental drawings, intimate cartographic mappings of pioneering community members, and a pair of new performative lectures. The artists will also orchestrate a new performance-based “cloud” painting that will be presented at a campus-based location outside the museum, and a newly assembled compilation of their seminal video works will be displayed at the UH Student Center and Blaffer Art Museum social media channels. Within this multi-faceted and multi-site celebration, this constellation of new works will be integrated with a handful of past works to carefully trace the evolution and achievement of Nick & Jake’s practice.

This exhibition is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director & Chief Curator.

Maria A. Guzmán Capron | July 15–September 18, 2022

The Blaffer Art Museum presents the first solo museum exhibition of the Oakland-based artist Maria A. Guzmán Capron (b. 1981). Capron creates fantastical hybrid figures that explore converging forms of identity, culture, desire, and social exchange. Her self-described “beyond-human characters” are made from vivid, often recycled fabrics and paint, which are stitched together to fashion sinuous bodies in various states of motion and repose. A 2004 graduate of the University of Houston School of Art, Capron was born in Italy to Peruvian and Colombian parents, before relocating with her family to Texas as a teenager. Capron’s multiple, simultaneous, and sometimes conflicting identities (and geographical locales) inform the artist’s life and process. The layered textiles seen in Capron’s exuberant assemblages also speak to her interest in the ways clothing can signify one’s history, class, gender, and/or cultural identity. Her characters are meant to be seen as Brown bodies that reference her family and friends, as well as her immigrant, Latinx community. As such, the figures can be seen as actors in a quest for understanding and self-acceptance; Capron recently said, “I am a new thing and I want to signal with my textiles to other in-between people that they belong.”

This exhibition is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator.

Monira Al Qadiri | September 10, 2022–January 8, 2023

In partnership with the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at the University of Houston, the Blaffer will present the first solo museum exhibition in the United States of the work of Berlin-based artist Monira Al Qadiri (b. 1983). Considered one of the most important artists to emerge from the Persian Gulf region in recent years, Al Qadiri came of age during the rapid transformation of her childhood home nation of Kuwait—from its status as one of the world’s oldest civilizations, through its dominance of the oil industry, to its current role as a battleground in geopolitics. Al Qadiri’s work examines petrocultures, and her practice broadly serves as a seismograph for this world, examining the corruption and flux caused by competing ideas of prosperity, religion, and globalization. The exhibition will include newly-commissioned works by the artist.

This exhibition is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Tyler Blackwell, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator.

Paul Anthony Smith: Standing In | October 2022—March 2023

We have come to expect perspective in photography—revealing and capturing the respective subject/s for our visual pleasure and apprehension. Jamaica-born, New York-based artist Paul Anthony Smith makes photo-based works that push back against these colonizing assumptions while simultaneously introducing a network of added layers to navigate. Smith does so by employing his previous training in ceramics to disturb and modify the pictorial surface, using a series of sharp, hand-crafted tools to re-sculpt the image and thicken its meaning. This process of “picotage” is performed upon otherwise unassuming photos of people and places Smith has encountered upon his travels through the Caribbean – mixing vibrant scenes of Carnivale with casual views of friends gathering. In so doing, creating migratory constellations of ethereal veils via hundreds of picked edges, Smith evokes armor and embellishment at once. More recent work sees the artist painting the dark contours of chain link fence upon sun-tinted photos of tropical vistas, thereby raising questions of access and inclusion for those who live within the diaspora. In the process, Smith finds reflections of himself as the macro economy of image sharing collides with very personal (and tactile) sculptural interruption.

This exhibition is co-organized with the Kemper Art Museum in St. Louis, offering a select midcareer survey of Smith’s powerful transdisciplinary work accompanied by a catalogue. *Paul Anthony Smith: Standing In* is curated for the Blaffer Art Museum by Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director & Chief Curator.

Cared For (Healing Arts Symposium Exhibition) | Fall 2022

As part of the *Innovations in Arts and Health* symposium being organized by the University of Houston (Sept.29–Oct.1, 2022), the Blaffer Art Museum will present the work of three artists who propose meditations on the politics and complexities that infuse medicine and the healing process. Shana Hoehn, Virginia Lee Montgomery, and Sarah Sudhoff have all spent significant time living and working in Texas, and each will share work that reformulates our visual and conceptual models of remedy, care, and therapy. Hoehn draws upon archival documents and images to interrogate how the diagnosis of psychosis has been applied and weaponized against women across time. Sudhoff marries autobiography, performance, and ongoing research to confront the devices that examine and penetrate female bodies within the medical enterprise. Montgomery expands further upon this perspective, orchestrating surreal video collages and lush sculptures that consider forms of spiritual healing for both the body and the larger planet. As a whole, at a time when the autonomy and well-being of bodies have become increasingly politicized and contested in the public forum, this exhibition offers a space for a recalibration of care and how it is practiced.

This exhibition is organized for the Blaffer Art Museum by Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director & Chief Curator.

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.

Major funding is provided by Leslie & Brad Bucher, the Stolbun Family Foundation, and the John P. McGovern Foundation. Generous support is provided by Ingrid Arneberg, Andrew & Robin Schirrmeister, and Blaffer Art Museum Advisory Board members. The following donors sustain Blaffer Art Museum in perpetuity by giving through endowments: Cecil Amelia Blaffer von Furstenberg Endowment for Exhibitions and Programs, Jane Dale Owen Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Jo and Jim Furr Exhibition Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Sarah C. Morian Endowment, and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation Blaffer Gallery Endowment. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The Blaffer Art Museum is funded in part by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

Visitor Information

120 Fine Arts Building
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204

Museum Hours:
Tues–Fri, 10–5pm
Sat–Sun, 12–5pm

Admission is always free.

About Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

The University of Houston's Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts is a premier institution for education, scholarship, and innovation in the arts, where every day we are cultivating the next generation of creative professionals and unlocking the potential of the arts to impact society and change the world. Our students are forging new frontiers and advancing the arts through academic excellence, innovative programming, and— together with our world renown faculty—ascending to the highest level of contemporary professional practice. Houston is a first choice for the arts. Houston is a city of culture and diversity, a quintessential arts destination, and a gateway to the international arts community. Steeped in the richness of diverse cultures, Houston and its engaging community network provide a citywide laboratory for research, education, and practice in the performing and visual arts.