

Blaffer Art Museum
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Blaffer Art Museum Announces Departure of Curator Tyler Blackwell
Museum set to commence search for new curator

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The Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston announces the impending departure of Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator Tyler Blackwell, who will leave the Blaffer in July 2022 to begin a [new position as Curator of Contemporary Art](#) at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, KY. The Blaffer also announces a national search for a new curator, set to commence this summer.

“We are sad to see Tyler go, but we will remain grateful for all the brightness and dynamism he brought to the Blaffer over his four years with the organization,” said Jane Dale Owen Director and Chief Curator Steven Matijcio. “Tyler’s exhibitions were ambitious and daring, his writing and research well-considered, and he has the unique ability to win friends and supporters across Houston and the country,” he continues. Blackwell will remain involved in the near-term exhibitions he had planned for the Blaffer, including [Hugh Hayden](#) and [Maria A. Guzmán Capron](#) this summer, [Monira Al Qadiri](#) in the Fall, and [Leslie Martinez and Jacolby Satterwhite](#) in January 2023.

Since his arrival at the Blaffer Art Museum in 2018, Blackwell has worked in close collaboration with Matijcio to rethink and expand the institution’s diverse and multidisciplinary program of artist-centric exhibitions, publications, public programs, and community engagement. For the museum, he has organized or co-organized solo exhibitions with a range of emerging and established international artists, including many artists’ first museum presentations in the United States. These include major exhibitions of Molly Zuckerman-Hartung, Rodney McMillian, and Rebecca Morris, as well as focused shows of Jagdeep Raina, Jacqueline Nova, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, and Yoshua Okón. In 2021, Blackwell co-curated the acclaimed group exhibition *Carriers: The Body as a Site of Danger and Desire*, which featured the work of fifteen Houston-area artists addressing issues of identity, community health, and social inequality. He also organized the Houston presentation of the 2019 traveling survey exhibition of the work of Paul Mpagi Sepuya.

In August 2022, Blackwell will [begin his position as Curator of Contemporary Art](#) at the Speed Art

Museum. The Speed, in Louisville, Kentucky, is an independent, encyclopedic museum, and the oldest and largest art museum in the state. The Speed serves as a cultural hub where people can connect with each other and the work of artists from across the world in new and unexpected ways. Established in 1927 by philanthropist Hattie Bishop Speed, the Museum has undergone several renovations and expansions, now occupying over 200,000 square feet on the University of Louisville's campus.

Search for New Curator

Beginning in June 2022, the Blaffer Art Museum will conduct a national search for a new Assistant Curator. The position will work collaboratively with the museum's director and staff to organize and support exhibitions, public programs, and education efforts. The position listing will be posted on the museum and university's Opportunities websites in the coming weeks.

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

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.

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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.