



Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston  
713-743-9521  
blafferartmuseum.org  
[infoblaffer@uh.edu](mailto:infoblaffer@uh.edu)

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Media Contact Blaffer Art Museum:  
Tony Evans | [acevans5@central.uh.edu](mailto:acevans5@central.uh.edu) | +1 713-743-9635

***Saif Azzuz: Keet Hegehlpa' (the water is rising)***

June 7—December 21, 2025

**Public Opening reception June 7, 2025, 11am-5pm at the Blaffer Art Museum**

HOUSTON, TX | May 5, 2025

The Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston is proud to present [\*Saif Azzuz: Keet Hegehlpa' \(the water is rising\)\*](#), a solo exhibition and series of public programs that interrogate the privatization of land, water, and natural resources within settler-colonial systems. Across a range of mediums, Saif Azzuz (b. 1987, Pacifica, California) references the myths, origin stories, and fabricated tales animating the land we now call Houston. For the artist's first museum exhibition, Azzuz draws upon historicized fictions in archives and material histories. Through close examination, the artist locates seemingly unrelated historical processes that contribute to the loss of agency or autonomy in the land and body, which points to commonalities, contradictions and shared precariousness across communities. Azzuz's work offers strategies of subversion against continued attempts to control or displace Indigenous communities; in so doing, the artist centers the unyielding and interconnected force of life in all beings—human and more-than-human alike.

## About the artist

**Saif Azzuz** (b. 1987, lives and works in Pacifica, CA) received a bachelor's degree in Painting and Drawing from the California College of the Arts in 2013. Azzuz has exhibited at Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA; Galerie Julien Cadet, Paris, FR; ICA San Francisco, CA; Pt.2 Gallery, Oakland, CA; Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY; and K Art, Buffalo, NY. Azzuz is a 2022 SFMOMA SECA Award finalist and has participated in the Clarion Alley Mural Project and the Facebook Artist in Residence program. His work is represented in numerous public collections, including Rennie Museum, de Young Museum - Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Gochman Family Collection, Facebook, North Carolina Museum of Art, University of St. Thomas, Stanford Health Care Art Collection and UBS Art Collection.

*Saif Azzuz: Keet Hegehlpa' (the water is rising)* is organized by Cynthia Woods Mitchell Associate Curator Erika Mei Chua Holum. Major funding for the exhibition is provided by Martha Meier, the John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation, the John P. McGovern Foundation, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. Generous support is provided by the Blaffer Art Museum Advisory Board members and production and program support from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at the University of Houston. Additional support for the publication produced in conjunction with *Saif Azzuz: Keet Hegehlpa' (the water is rising)* is provided by Anthony Meier and Nicelle Beauchene.