



Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston
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Soledad Salam | Camouflage
October 17, 2025—March 7, 2026

Public Opening Reception | October 17, 4pm-7pm at the Blaffer Art Museum

HOUSTON, TX | October 2, 2025

The University of Houston's Blaffer Art Museum is proud to present new work by Chilean-American artist Soledad Salam in her first solo museum exhibition. *Soledad Salamé: Camouflage* opens on Friday, October 17, 2025, with a reception from 4pm – 7 pm. The exhibition will be on view through March 7, 2026.

For *Camouflage*, Soledad Salam locates moments in which nature's resilience meets human resourcefulness. In a newly commissioned body of work, Salam centers the environmental impact of discarded clothing, sent from the U.S. to be discarded in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. There, millions of pounds of disposable textiles, often called "fast fashion," are dumped and piled – creating uncanny mountainous topographies. In video, mixed media work, and prints, Salam translates aerial photos of the Atacama into dizzying camouflage fields where she elaborates weighty details with needle and thread. The visual abstraction of the clothing piles subtly underscores the resourcefulness of migrant communities that have gathered and organized around them; Salam's research bridges the environmental and human impact of fast fashion's waste. Three sculptural garments, made from handmade paper, bioplastics and algae, and pineapple husks,

respectively, propose alternative forms of making clothing from natural materials. Each of these garments is dedicated to an ecosystem: *Desert*, *Ocean*, and *Rainforest*.

In this exhibition, Salam's newest body of work is contextualized by previous bodies of work that similarly explore topographies (re)shaped by acts of humanity. In particular, her 12-part mixed-media installation, *Gulf Distortions* (2011) studies the disastrous BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Well blowout and its impact upon the landscapes of the Gulf Coast. The exhibition underscores Salam's radical rethinking of printmaking and materiality. Salam made *Gulf Distortions*, for example, by running photographs (made in collaboration with photographer Michael Koryta) through a fax machine before silkscreening, handpainting, and cutting the images on Mylar. The result is an image field that is simultaneously contemporary and timeless, which draws on Salam's training as a master printer while underscoring her lifelong dedication to formal experimentation.

About Soledad Salam :

Soledad Salam (b. Chile) is a Baltimore-based artist whose research-driven work studies the connections between art, science, nature, and technology. From 1973-1983, Salam lived in Venezuela, where she studied Industrial and Graphic Design, eventually completing an MA at Centro de Enseñanza Gráfica (Cegra), CONAC, in Caracas. In 1983, she moved to Washington, DC before relocating to Baltimore, where she established her studio. Since then, her work has moved between print, painting, and new media, always drawing from extensive research and material experimentation. Salam's work is represented in numerous private and public collections, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC; The Baltimore Museum of Art in Baltimore, MD; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the University of Essex, UK; among others. Her work was first presented in Houston at the Transart Foundation by Surpik Angelini.

Event Details:

What Opening Reception *Soledad Salamé: Camouflage*,

When: Friday, October 17, 2025 at 4pm-7pm

Where: Blaffer Art Museum

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country, UH is a federally designated Hispanic- and Asian-American-Serving institution with enrollment of more than 47,000 students.

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-renowned 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.

About the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston

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.

www.blafferartmuseum.org

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Museum Hours

Tues-Sat, 12:00pm-5:00pm

Sun & Mon, Closed