

RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

RUBY CITY TO PRESENT *WATER WAYS* OPENING SEPTEMBER 7

This new reinstallation of the collection galleries will include works by Carlos Almaraz, Ricky Armendariz, Jim Hodges, Catherine Opie and Do Ho Suh, among others, and feature new acquisitions by Mona Hatoum and Jenny Holzer

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (August 10, 2023) — Ruby City will present the exhibition *Water Ways* on view September 7, 2023 through July 28, 2024. A free public reception with refreshments and music will celebrate the opening of the exhibition on Saturday, September 9, 2023: 3-5pm, following a walkthrough featuring Director Elyse A. Gonzales and artist Mona Hatoum at 2pm.

The exhibition will reinstall the permanent collection galleries and feature approximately 50 works including those by Carlos Almaraz, Ricky Armendariz, Rosa Barba, Jennifer Bartlett, Louisa Chase, Anne Chu, Joey Fauerso, Teresita Fernández, Adam Fuss, Mona Hatoum, Jim Hodges, Jenny Holzer, Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler, Isaac Julien, Surasi Kusolwong, Donald Moffett, Rivane Neuenschwander, Robyn O’Neil, Chris Ofili, Catherine Opie, Sherry Owens, Linda Pace, Raymond Pettibon, Lari Pittman, Lordy Rodriguez, Peter Rostovsky, Luz María Sánchez, Penelope Speier, Robert Stackhouse, Do Ho Suh, James Surls, Luc Tuymans and Robert Yarber, among others.

The group exhibition *Water Ways* is comprised of drawings, installations, paintings, photographs, prints and sculpture, all of which underscore water’s many forms and associations. Included works make direct reference to water and art that uses water metaphorically. Here, artists picture swimmers, capture moonlit lakes, re-create a pool of water, map seas or depict mythic tales rooted in oceans or rivers. These works are balanced by others that suggest the aquatic, like bridges, borders, depth, movement, reflection, source, transformation and the unconscious. Unceasing motion, dreams, psychological implications and mirrored surfaces, among other aspects, play a role in these artists’ works.

Curated by Elyse A. Gonzales, Director of Ruby City, the exhibition was inspired by the forthcoming opening of the newest phase of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. This acclaimed linear park managed by the San Antonio River Authority integrates Ruby City as a key anchor in its conception. “This incredible public park and the fact that the design of Ruby City is incorporated into its layout is significant. I wanted to honor this symbiotic relationship with the River Authority, which is built on a mutual appreciation of art, our natural setting, and the history of San Pedro Creek. This prompted me to begin

thinking about other area water ways, like the San Antonio River, all of which have contributed to the life and continued vitality of this place for hundreds of years. As I thought more about it, I noted how ubiquitous water is in our lives, how it shapes so much of what we do on an individual and societal level and how ideas, metaphors associated with water can just as easily be found everywhere.”

Many works picture water in some form or fashion. For example, **Surasi Kusolwong’s** work *Small is Beautiful (Gold Floating Market)*, captures an image of Thai floating markets that are part of everyday life in that country. On the front of the image hangs plastic replicas of vegetables and fruits commonly purchased there.

Two large-scale woodblock prints by **Ricky Armendariz**, on the other hand, represent vignettes from indigenous origin stories that use the sea as a backdrop and setting. They are, as the artist recounts “...a product of me researching stories that I already knew and stories that I didn’t know and then trying to make an original story that would fill in the dots between the two....”

Metaphors commonly associated with water, like its constant motion are also represented in many of the works on display. **Jenny Holzer’s** and **Mona Hatoum’s** works, both new acquisitions, incorporate movement. Holzer’s *Survival Series* consists of phrases written by the artist which relay the dangers of power and describe the economically and socially unstable lived experiences of many individuals in contemporary society. Divorced from an identifiable speaker or writer, the continuously looping phrases read anywhere between stark and declarative to questioning and meditative. The sentiments conveyed are also often discomfiting: “Don’t shoot civilians;” “Men Don’t Protect You Anymore;” and “If you are considered useless no one will feed you anymore.” Holzer’s hope is to get people thinking about our society and how power and control are often unfairly wielded. **Mona Hatoum’s** *Mobile Home II*, which incorporates furnishings and objects of a home along others which reference travel, are hanging or attached to laundry lines that slowly move back and forth. For Hatoum, this work references the “precariousness” and the “basic human condition of exile.”

Ultimate Joy, by **Jim Hodges**, on the other hand, is comprised of mundane materials—here light bulbs and panels—that are transformed into a poetic rumination on love and longing. In this vivid sculptural work, mostly blue bulbs form the basis of each panel, but in the center just where the tips of the panels meet, variously colored bulbs extend from and appear to reach out and across, bridging any gap. One can view these as two individuals or communities reaching across a divide and intertwining and in so doing expressing companionship, comfort, perhaps even the ultimate joy, love.

The works on view are almost entirely drawn from the Linda Pace Foundation/Ruby City Collection and reveal yet another lens by which its holdings can be interpreted.

Related Programs

Ruby City will celebrate the exhibition with a free public opening reception on **Saturday, September 9, 2023: 3-5pm, following a walkthrough featuring**

Gonzales and Mona Hatoum at 2pm. Other programs include an artist talk and workshop with Ricky Armendariz on **October 21: 2-3:30pm** and a Family Day on **November 11**. *Water Ways* will remain on view through **June 28, 2024**.

About Ruby City:

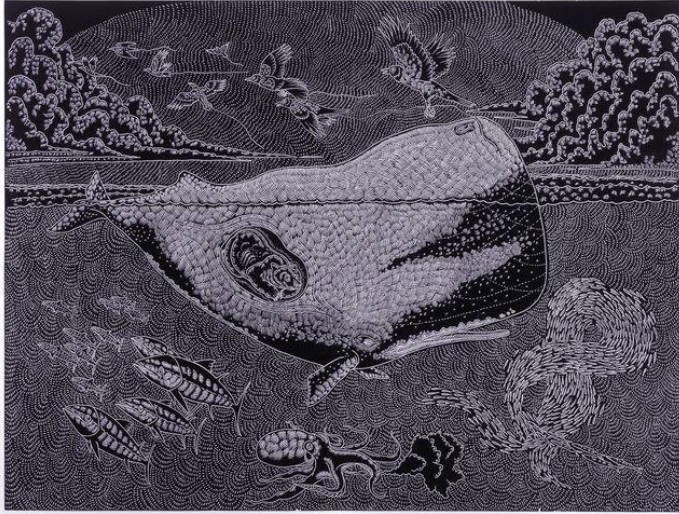
[Ruby City](#) is a [contemporary art center](#) in San Antonio, TX, dedicated to providing a space for the city's thriving creative community to experience works by both local and internationally-acclaimed artists. Envisioned in 2007 by the late collector, philanthropist and [artist Linda Pace](#), Ruby City presents works from the Linda Pace Foundation Collection of more than 1400 paintings, sculptures, installations and video works. The building which opened in 2019 is designed by Adjaye Associates and is part of a campus, which also includes a sculpture garden, [Chris Park](#), a one-acre public green space named in memory of Pace's son, and Studio, an auxiliary exhibition space which presents curated shows and [programming](#) throughout the year.

Ruby City is open Thursday through Sunday, 10am to 6pm. Admission is free; advance reservations are recommended. Information and reservations are available at www.rubycity.org.

Representative Images: 5 (more available upon request)



Surasi Kusolwong, *Small is Beautiful (Gold Floating Market)*, 2002, Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas. © Surasi Kusolwong



Ricky Armendariz, *How Bear Escaped Whale (remix)*, 2014, Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas, Gift of Hare & Hound Press, © Ricky Armendariz, courtesy Ruiz-Healy Art, San Antonio, Texas.



Mona Hatoum, *Mobile Home II*, 2006, Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas, © Mona Hatoum.



Jenny Holzer, *Survival Series*, c. 1985, electronic LED sign, green diodes, ed. 3/4. Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas. © Jenny Holzer



Jim Hodges, *Ultimate Joy*, 2001, Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas, © Jim Hodges, courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels.

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