

RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

**RUBY CITY TO HOST AUSTIN-BASED CURATOR & SCHOLAR,
PHILLIP A. TOWNSEND, PHD, FOR GALLERY TALK: MOON LIT JOY**



Phillip A. Townsend, PhD

What: Moon Lit Joy: Phillip A. Townsend, PhD, Gallery Talk

When: Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 2-3pm

Where: Ruby City, 150 Camp Street, San Antonio, TX 78204

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (June 17, 2024) — Ruby City operated by the Linda Pace Foundation, will host Phillip A. Townsend, PhD, as he delves into *After the Dance*, 2006, a vibrant and evocative color screenprint by British artist Chris Ofili. Through an engaging exploration of themes such as water, joy, celebration, and cultural memory, viewers are invited on a journey of discovery, uncovering the rich layers of meaning embedded in Ofili's masterpiece. Townsend's presentation is part of programming surrounding Ruby City's large-scale, group exhibition *Water Ways* which will be on view through August 18.

Phillip Townsend, PhD, is the Curator of Art at [Art Galleries at Black Studies \(AGBS\)](#) at The University of Texas at Austin and specializes in modern and contemporary art of the African Diaspora with a focus on the politics of identity and representational strategies of BIPOC artists. He received his PhD in Art history from UT-Austin (2024), M.A., in Art History from UT-Austin (2016) and his B.A., in Art History from The University of South Florida (2014).

As a founding member of the Austin-based curatorial collective, Neon Queen Collective, Phillip co-curated *Notes on Sugar: The Work of María Magdalena Campos-Pons* (2018) at the Christian Green Gallery and *Like the Lonely Traveler: Video Works by María Magdalena Campos-Pons* (2018) at the Visual Arts Center. Phillip also co-curated *Charles White: Celebrating the Gordon Gift* (2019), an

exhibition presented by the Blanton Museum in partnership with African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) and the Art Galleries at Black Studies (AGBS) at The University of Texas at Austin. He contributed several essays for the exhibition catalog, *Charles White: Celebrating the Gordon Gift*. Mostly recently, Phillip curated *Adrian Armstrong: "with new eyes..."* (2021) an exhibition mounted at the Idea Lab, that explored the intersection of traditional portraiture and representations of Black people.

This gallery talk will take place at Ruby City and interested guests are encouraged to [RSVP](#) as space for this event is limited.

[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 always free; reservations are recommended. Information and reservations are available at www.rubycity.org.

For further information please contact: Patricia Morales, Head of Public Engagement & Communications, pmorales@rubycity.org

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