

RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

RUBY CITY CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Photo by Dror Baldinger

When: Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 4PM -9PM

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

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (September 30, 2024) -- San Antonio's Ruby City, operated by the Linda Pace Foundation, is celebrating its fifth anniversary with a series of events, culminating in a unique séance hosted by contemporary artist Jeffrey Vallance. The celebration honors the vision of Linda Pace, the late founder and philanthropist who believed in the vital role of contemporary art in society.

The October 12th anniversary celebration will encapsulate Pace's passion for art and community. A dream interpretation workshop led by local creativity coach Leigh Baldwin and a séance featuring Vallance and mediums channeling artists Niki de Saint Phalle, Joan Mitchell and founder Linda Pace, will be highlights. Vallance, known for his boundary-pushing art and unique approach to séances which function more like artists panels with the aim of exploring the perspectives of these artists regarding creativity from beyond will be the culminating event of the evening.



Jeffrey Vallance, *Spirit Photo: Jeffrey Vallance*; 2012; archival digital photographic print on cotton rag paper; 10 x 7.5 in. © Jeffrey Vallance

Born in 1955 in Redondo Beach, CA, Vallance has a history of blending various disciplines within his art, drawing on themes from anthropology, folklore, and popular culture. His work has gained international recognition, and he has hosted séances that engage with historical figures, such as a famous performance at the Frieze art fair in London in which he communicated via mediums with artists Leonardo de Vinci, Marcel Duchamp, Frida Kahlo, Jackson Pollock and Vincent van Gogh.

Vallance's fascination with the paranormal stems from his family's background in clairvoyance. Although he maintains a neutral stance on the existence of the paranormal, his curiosity about unseen aspects of life informs his artistic practice.

As Vallance reflects on the significance of participating in Ruby City's celebration, he expresses a keen interest in how Linda Pace would perceive art and creativity from the afterlife, given her fascination with dreams. St. Phalle and Mitchell are both represented in the Collection. These works were purchased by Pace and are two female artists, who she greatly admired and, like herself, made significant contributions to the visual arts. Vallance anticipates a dynamic and interactive séance experience, where spirits will engage not only with each other but also with the audience.

The anniversary festivities will also include a cake artfully baked and designed by local micro-bakery, Geranium Club, champagne toast, remarks from officials, and a performance by Mariachis Damas de Jalisco, making the event accessible to all.

Since opening in 2019, Ruby City has welcomed over 53,000 visitors, numerous public programs and eleven exhibitions showcasing the Linda Pace Foundation Collection, which comprises over 1,400 artworks, including paintings, sculptures, installations, and video works. The center piece of the Center's opening was the Ruby City building designed by Adjaye Associates. The Ruby City campus however comprises Chris Park, Studio, another exhibition venue and once Pace's studio, as well as a sculpture garden. Collectively, Ruby City serves as a hub for the local creative community, facilitating exposure to both local and internationally renowned artists.

The journey, however, has not been without challenges. Shortly after its opening, Ruby City faced the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a temporary shutdown. Director Elyse A. Gonzales, appointed in February of 2019 just before the pandemic, creatively navigated these challenges by keeping all staff, including front-line part-time workers employed and engaged by redirecting their efforts to create virtual tours, online art projects, a digital collections archive, interviews with artists and events like Bubblefest at Home, now offered as Family Day, which promoted DIY family activities.

Over the past five years, Ruby City has provided diverse programming, including artist lectures, workshops, a health and wellness series, musical performances, and exhibitions—all free and open to the public. With Gonzales serving as curator, Ruby City has hosted eleven exhibitions featuring Linda Pace's personal collection alongside new acquisitions that reflect her dedication to feminism, social justice, beauty, and spirituality. Ruby City also played host to the Texas Biennial in 2021.

It was also during this time that the city's San Pedro Creek Park Phase 2 opened to the public connecting Ruby City to the linear park in cooperation with the San Antonio River Authority. With this opening the Ruby City campus was completed in accordance with the design of Adjaye Associates.

Partnerships have played a significant role in Ruby City's outreach. Participation in Culture and Arts United for San Antonio (CAUSA), a collective made up of San Antonio's arts and cultural organizations whose mission is to connect the value of arts and culture for San Antonio's economic and cultural vibrancy and its people led to strong partnerships. Collaborations with organizations like the Contemporary at Blue Star, and The Carver Community Cultural Center, enabled the creation of online video art screenings and artist

conversations, the "Taller Talk" lecture series, which continued post-reopening in June 2021. This series featured discussions with notable artists, enhancing the center's connection to the artistic community and was further augmented by a public in person conversation hosted by the Carver between Gonzales and Houston-based artist Rick Lowe. Additionally, long standing partnerships with Trinity University's independent radio station, KRTU, continued annual programming like Music in the Park.

In summary, Ruby City's five-year anniversary celebrates its contributions to the contemporary art landscape, community engagement, and the enduring legacy of Linda Pace, all while exploring the intriguing intersection of art and the supernatural. For more details and full event schedule visit www.rubycity.org.

[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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