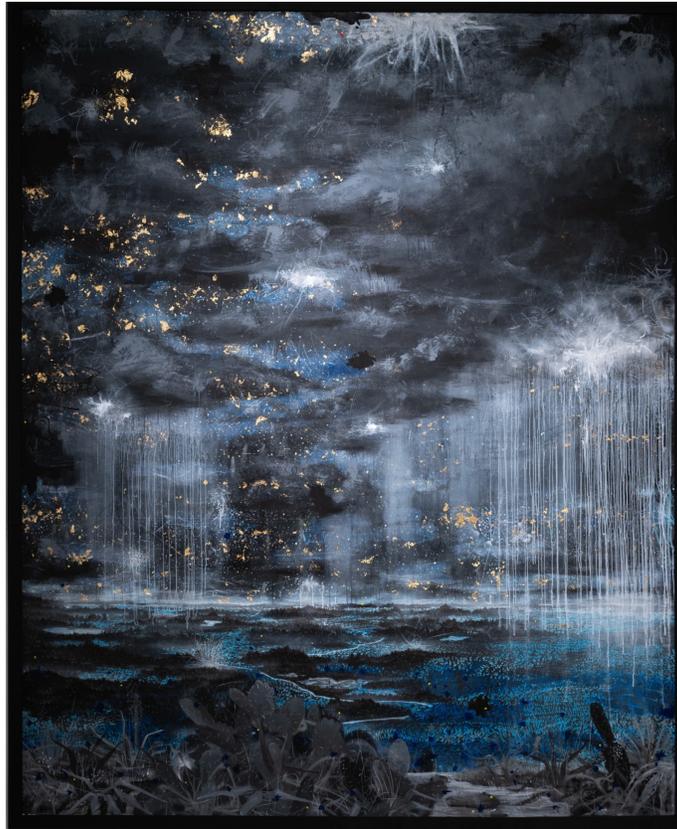


RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

RUBY CITY CELEBRATES 2024 ACQUISITIONS

The Linda Pace Foundation welcomes 14 new artists to the Collection including Michi Meko, Melissa Joseph, and Phoebe Washburn, among others.



Michi Meko; *Her Clear Path: A mothers prayer. A sons anxiety*, 2023; acrylic, oil pastel, aerosol, gouache, paint marker, white colored pencil, hologram glitter, gold leaf, and sequins on canvas; 50 x 120 in.; © Michi Meko. Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas.

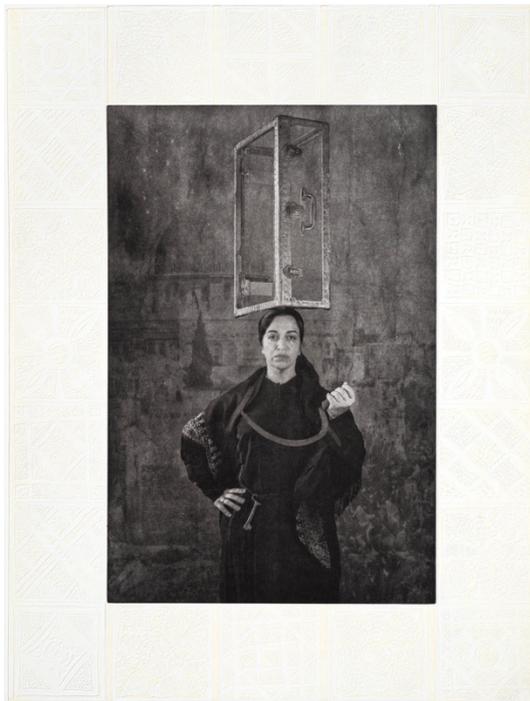
SAN ANTONIO, TX (December 20, 2024) -- Ruby City is pleased to announce the acquisition of 66 works by 26 artists in 2024 for the Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City. "This has been yet another incredible year of acquiring works of art for the collection, from sumptuous, touching portrayals of familial experiences and thoughtful representations of politically fraught situations to innovative formal expressions. I'm truly delighted to count these among our holdings and so proud to have these artists form part of our Foundation collection," stated Elyse Gonzales Director of Ruby City.

Acquisitions include works in assemblage, painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, and works on paper from internationally acclaimed artists as well as those with strong ties to San Antonio and the state of Texas. Together, these gifted works and purchases deepen the collection's ability to speak on the themes inherent to the Collection such as: feminism, the home, identity, process and materiality.

Fourteen artists are new to the Collection among them, Sama Alshaibi, Nao Bustamante, Janet Flohr, Emre Hünre, Melissa Joseph, Karen Kilimnik, Yuliya Lanina, Michi Meko, Kate Newby, William Pope L., Patrick Quarm, Daniel Rios Rodriguez, Alexandra Robinson, and Phoebe Washburn.

Others such as Nate Cassie, Isaac Julien, Alex de Leon, Antony Gormley, Sean Landers, Ruben Ortiz-Torres & Jim Mendiola, Linda Pace, Lordy Rodriguez, Penelope Speier, James Welling and Sue Williams are already represented in the Collection. These new acquisitions support the vision of the Linda Pace Foundation to represent the communities it serves with contemporary art that aims to inform and illuminate the world in which we live today.

Notably, generous gifts from both Janet Lennie Flohr and Alice Kosmin continue to enrich the Collection by upholding the mission of Ruby City to foster the presentation and understanding of innovative expression through contemporary art.



Sama Alshaibi, *Eternal Love Song*, 2019; photogravure with embossing on paper; Printer's proof 3 of 3; 24-7/8 x 20 in. (sheet); Gift of Janet Lennie Flohr and Hare & Hound Press

“These pivotal relationships and contributions to our Collection have been transformative for Ruby City and I am deeply appreciative of their ongoing support of our mission. Plus, these are just terrific works of art that only enhance our ability to develop exhibitions and programs that speak to contemporary expression,” stated Gonzales.

Hare & Hound Press, a collaborative fine art printmaking studio in San Antonio since 1993, and co-founded by Janet Lennie Flohr, donated 40 works on paper with 29 works by artists **Sama Alshaibi, Nao Bustamante, Emre Hünre, Kate Newby, and Alexandra Robinson**, who are new to the Collection. The gift also featured works by San Antonio artist, **Nate Cassie**. Artists in this gift are former Artpace artists who collaborated with Hare & Hound Press to produce work during their

residencies. This gift by Hare & Hound Press is a third large donation of works from the press since 2014 for the Hare & Hound Press works on paper collection. These works on paper illustrate Hare & Hound Press' sensitivity to various print processes including etching, photogravure, and embossing among others.

In addition to giving Ruby City art by some of the most important artists working today it also continues the tradition of adding works by residency artists. As a talented printmaker herself, the Hare and Hound archive at Ruby City is enhanced by examples of Flohr's own work, both titled *No Work Zone*, 2001. photogravure prints, one a cyanotype and the second platinum, depicting a freeway under construction but rendered in such a manner to appear as though an ancient Greco-roman site under excavation.

Alice Kosmin's gift of nine works represents the fourth group of objects Kosmin has gifted to Ruby City. She and her late husband Marvin began acquiring work in the early 1980s and since then assembled a progressive and visually rich collection which dovetails with many themes in the Ruby City Collection related to conceptual photography, identity and feminism. Alice Kosmin continued her steadfast support by gifting works by six artists, three who are new to the Collection: **Karen Kilimnik**, **William Pope L.** and **Phoebe Washburn**. Washburn's work, *Untitled*, c. 1996, is currently on view in *Irrationally Speaking: Collage & Assemblage in Contemporary Art*, at Ruby City through August 31, 2025. Additionally, Kosmin gifted works by **Sean Landers**, **James Welling**, and **Sue Williams** which enhance the Foundation's holdings by these artists.

Atlanta based artist **Michi Meko** (b. 1974, Florence, Alabama) joins the Collection with the acquisition of his work, *Her Clear Path: A mothers prayer, A sons anxiety* (2023), a large scale painting created during his 2023 Artpace residency which explores the powers of the unseen. In this work, the artist explores how his mother's prayers may have cleared his route from Georgia to Texas, an itinerary that should have taken him through severe storms but was instead unobstructed. Meko, a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant creates work that engages in contradictions and paradoxes that he uncovers through examining his personal history, African American folk traditions, and narratives that confront or circumvent established narratives.

Melissa Joseph's (b. 1980), *Indian Dirty Dancing* (2024), the most significant work by Joseph to date, stands at an impressive 9 x 12 feet. It portrays Josephs parents about to engage in a fantastic dancing moment and is derived from a family photograph recently obtained by the artist. *Indian Dirty Dancing*, represents a moment during her parent's rehearsal of an Indian dance, considered "racy" in a similar vein to the dance from the 1987 movie *Dirty Dancing*. As such her work is a fusion of associations including the artist's father's Indian heritage, the

iconic 1987 movie, and the setting of Pennsylvania, the home state of Joseph and her mother. The result is a deeply personal and emotional portrayal of her parents as a young couple. A child at the time, Joseph was not allowed to attend this party. She used a photo from that moment and day to recreate it with vibrancy, capturing the energy and spirit of the dance. The work was realized and exhibited during her 2024 Artpace International Artist-in-Residence. The work is currently exhibited in *The Poetics of Dimensions*, curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, at the Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco, San Francisco, California through March 2025.



Melissa Joseph; *Indian Dirty Dancing*, 2024; needle felted wool on industrial felt, 108 x144 in; © Melissa Joseph; Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas.

Gadsdenmex Flag, (2023) by artists **Jim Mendiola** (b. 1963, San Antonio, Texas) & **Rubén Ortiz-Torres** (b. 1964, Mexico City, Mexico) also joins the Collection. This collaborative work is a new iteration of the Gadsden Flag, a historical American flag with a yellow field depicting a timber rattlesnake coiled and ready to strike. Beneath the rattlesnake are the words “Don’t Tread on Me.” In Mendiola and Ortiz Torres’ version, the words “No Me Chinguen,” or “Don’t Fuck with Me” is written in a stylized font and sits beneath an image of a Mexican flag’s golden eagle sitting atop a cactus devouring the rattlesnake. This ironic send up of the flag used by 19th century Texas revolutionaries cleverly highlights the Mexican antecedents of the state that are frequently overlooked and present day anti-latino sentiments that continue to plague those here. Ortiz-Torres is widely regarded as one of today’s leading Latinx artists known for his critical, cosmopolitan, technically inventive and intellectually comical visual practice that explores the cultural paradoxes of the global art world through an informed convergence of popular and avant-garde art traditions. Mendiola, a filmmaker and fourth generation Mexican-American finds his duty in recovering and revising regional history and analyzing traditions from a Latino perspective.

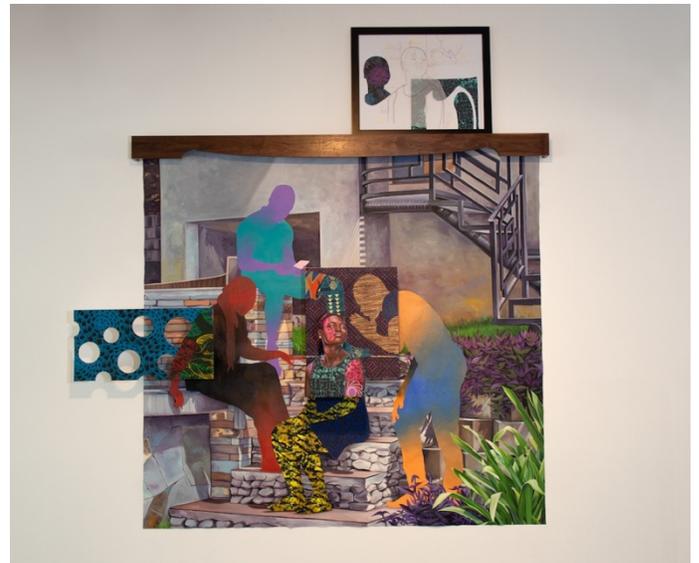


Alex de Leon; *Untitled*, 1996; copper on velvet; 34 x 40 ½ x 6 in.; ©Alex de Leon; Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas.

The late Texas artist **Alex de León** (b. 1959, Edinburg, Texas; d. 2012) was well known for his accessible “barrio style” which colorfully and humorously portrayed imagery from material of popular culture. Having been trained in printmaking, seriality and repetition characterized many of his works, even in his ceramics and works such as this one *Untitled* (1996) acquired by the Collection. This work includes a series of delicate hand cut copper skeletons on black velvet.

Patrick Quarm, (b. 1988, Ghana) a recent Artpace Resident (2024) alongside Joseph, is another artist who is new to the Collection. *Historical Gossip* (2024) was created during his residency and was part of his solo exhibition, *SILHOUETTES: Tracing Memory*. Quaram likens this painting to windows serving as portals into moments within his journey and experiences. They offer glimpses into spaces and places that exist in the artist’s mind and as memories, where hybrid identity takes center stage as its own protagonist.

Attached document has full list of acquisitions. For additional images, please contact pmorales@rubycity.org.



Patrick Quarm; *Historical Gossip*, 2024; acrylic and oil on African print fabric, wooden cornice; 102 x 86 x 12 in.; © Patrick Quarm; Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas. Commissioned and produced by Artpace San Antonio.

[Ruby City](http://www.rubycity.org) 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](http://www.lindapace.org), 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](http://www.adjayeassociates.com) and is part of a campus, which also includes a sculpture garden, [Chris Park](http://www.chrispark.org), 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](http://www.rubycity.org/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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