

RUBY CITY

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RUBY CITY
TRACEY ROSE
GALLERY
WALKTHROUGH
& RECEPTION
SAT 6.06.26
2-5PM 150 CAMP
STREET FREE &
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC



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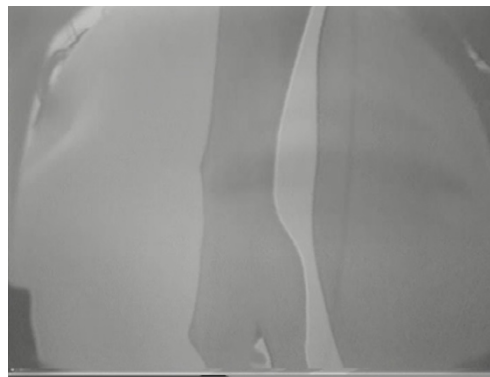
DIVINATION, MARK MAKING, BOXING & DRAWING: TRACEY ROSE AT RUBY CITY

Experience the power, performance, and mark making of artist Tracey Rose at Ruby City.

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (May 19, 2026) -- Ruby City invites audiences to experience the compelling work of internationally acclaimed South African artist Tracey Rose in *Tracey Rose*, opening **Saturday, June 6, 2026, and on view through May 9, 2027.**

Featuring the visceral video performance *TKO* (2000) alongside a rarely seen suite of 62 drawings shown together for the first time, the exhibition offers an intimate look into Rose's groundbreaking multidisciplinary practice. Created during her residency at Artpace, these works explore endurance, identity, creativity, and transformation through physical performance, intuitive drawing, and moments of humor and vulnerability.

From the raw intensity of *TKO* to the expressive energy of her drawings, the exhibition invites visitors to reflect on the body, mark making, and the emotional landscapes that shape human experience. Working in the years following apartheid in South Africa, Rose emerged as a powerful voice examining systems of race, gender, power, and representation. Her work continues to resonate with contemporary audiences through its exploration of bodily autonomy, emotional endurance, surveillance, social pressure, and resilience. In *TKO*, Rose repeatedly strikes a heavy bag fitted with cameras, creating a layered meditation on violence, visibility, exhaustion, and resistance that feels especially relevant in today's social and political climate.



(L) Tracey Rose; *Untitled*; 2000; ink on paper; 5 1/2 x 8 1/8 in; Linda Pace Foundation Collection, Ruby City, San Antonio, Texas; 2007.1.45 (R) Film still of *TKO*; 2000; video installation, artist's proof, 6 minutes, 19 seconds; Courtesy of the artist.

Developed after two years of boxing training in Johannesburg, *TKO* transforms physical impact into a form of mark making, with each strike registering traces of the body through paint, sound, and motion. Across both video and drawings, Rose pushes repetition, endurance, and gesture to their limits, treating the body and image alike as sites of testing, collapse, and transformation.

The drawings, created during Rose's residency at Artpace in 2000, reveal another deeply personal dimension of her practice. Produced compulsively and intuitively during a turbulent moment in her life, Rose has described the works as attempts to decode or anticipate future events. "Those drawings were predictions," Rose recalled. "I was trying to come up with a code that would either present what they predicted or control the outcome." Through dense marks, fragmented figures, symbols, and repeated forms, the drawings operate less as illustrations than as fields of intuition and become works that hover between psychological mapping, emotional release and divination.

Presented together, the drawings and video performance reveal the breadth of Rose's artistic language—balancing physical intensity with vulnerability and introspection. The exhibition creates space for reflection, dialogue, and connection across cultures and lived experiences while illuminating Rose's ongoing investigation into how images, gestures, and the body itself can hold memory, anxiety, resistance, and the unknowable possibilities of the future.

On opening day, visitors are invited to join Director of Ruby City Elyse A. Gonzales for a gallery walkthrough of the exhibition from 2–3 PM. Following the walkthrough, guests are invited to celebrate at a public reception featuring music by Strawberry Jams, light bites by Sweet Yams, and complimentary drinks.

MOVE Texas will also be onsite offering voter registration and civic engagement resources, inviting visitors to participate in the civic processes that shape arts and cultural spaces in their communities.

Tracey Rose will be on view at Ruby City June 6, 2026 through May 9, 2027.

Ruby City is a contemporary art center dedicated to creating free and meaningful access to contemporary art for all. Through exhibitions like *Tracey Rose*, Ruby City connects San Antonio audiences to globally significant contemporary artists and ideas while fostering curiosity, reflection, and conversation.

Admission to Ruby City is always free.

About the Artist

Tracey Rose (b. 1974, South Africa) is best known for her evolutionary performative practice, which often translates to and is accompanied by photography, video, installation, and digital prints. Often described as absurd, anarchic, and carnivalesque, Rose's work explores themes around post-coloniality, gender and sexuality, race, and repatriation.

Rose was born in Durban, South Africa. In 1990, she joined the Johannesburg Art Foundation before obtaining a B.A. in Fine Art from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in 1996. In 2004, Rose attended The South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance and later obtained her Master of Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK, in 2007. She currently lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa. Rose has taken part in several residencies, including the Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire, UK (2014); DAAD, Berlin, Germany (2012/13); Darb 1718, Cairo, Egypt (2012); Cruzes, Montevideo, Uruguay (2011); Khoj International Artists Workshop, Vasind, India (2005); Africa 2005 Residency, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK (2004); Hollywood Hills House, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2001); Fresh, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (2001); and OK Centrum, Linz, Austria (2000).

She has exhibited widely internationally, most notably in *May You Live in Interesting Times*, South African National Pavilion, 58th La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2016); *Body Talk – Feminism, Sexuality & Body*, 49 Nord 6 Estrac Lorraine, Metz, France (2016); *False Flag*, Art Parcours, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2016); *Toro Salvaje*, Museum of Modern Art, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2016); (x), Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid, Spain (2014); *Waiting for God*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden (2011); *Rose O'Grady* (with Lorraine O'Grady), Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa (2011); *Performa 17*, New York, USA (2017); *Documenta 14*, Athens, Greece, and Kassel, Germany (2017); 11th Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France (2011); *Afro Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK (2010); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2008); *Africa Remix*, The Hayward Gallery, London, UK, and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (2005); and *Africaine*, The Studio Museum, New York, USA (2002), to name a few.

Her major traveling retrospective, *Shooting Down Babylon*, has been presented at

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town (2022); Queens Museum, New York (2023); and Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland (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 always free; Information is available at www.rubycity.org.

For further information please contact: communications@rubycity.org

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