

**THE MENIL COLLECTION TO HOST COMMUNITY CELEBRATION TO OPEN THE
MENIL DRAWING INSTITUTE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

Advance Press Preview of Building Thursday, November 1 at 10 a.m.



HOUSTON, TEXAS, October 29, 2018 – The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the much-anticipated Menil Drawing Institute at the Menil Collection on Saturday, November 3. The building—dedicated to the acquisition, exhibition, study, conservation, and storage of modern and contemporary drawings—is the fifth museum space at the Menil situated among new green spaces and outdoor sculpture for the public to enjoy.

The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with remarks by Mayor Sylvester Turner, Menil Director Rebecca Rabinow, and architects Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony, live musical performances, art and architecture tours, food trucks, and more. Inside the Menil Drawing Institute, visitors will be among the first to see the inaugural exhibition, *The Condition of Being Here: Drawings by Jasper Johns*. Shown exclusively at the Menil, the exhibition will trace both the chronology of the artist's career and his method of working in motifs, rather than in series. The show includes 41 drawings made in graphite, ink, charcoal, watercolor, colored pencil, acrylic, water-soluble encaustic, pastel, powdered graphite, gouache, and oil stick, on surfaces

ranging from paper to plastic. As always, admission to the Menil and all programs is free of charge.

Said Menil Collection Director Rebecca Rabinow, “When Dominique de Menil cut the ribbon on the Menil Collection’s first building, she famously declared, ‘Houston, this is your museum.’ Now, in the same spirit, we invite the public to join in inaugurating this breathtaking new building, stunning exhibition of works by Jasper Johns, and beautifully expanded greenspaces. We are grateful to our many supporters who came together to provide us with these wonderful gifts, knowing that they will be shared freely with Houston and the world.”

Community Celebration Schedule of Events

10 a.m. Remarks and ribbon cutting

11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Short introduction to Michael Heizer’s sculptures *Rift* and *Dissipate*

11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Short introduction to the Menil Drawing Institute building

11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Short introduction to Ellsworth Kelly’s *Menil Curve*

12 p.m. Da Camera of Houston Woody Witt Jazz Trio performance

1 p.m. FERRARA jazz performance

2:45 p.m. Wild Moccasins performance

Participating Food Trucks

Moon Rooster Tacos & Hot Dogs

SMOOSH - Custom Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches

Soul Cat Cuisine

SweetRide! Houston

For a full list of events, please [visit our website](#).

About the Menil Drawing Institute

The Menil Drawing Institute has been a program of the Menil since 2008, organizing major traveling exhibitions and undertaking scholarly projects including the catalogue raisonné of the drawings of Jasper Johns, to be published in November 2018. The new 30,000 square foot home for the Menil Drawing Institute was designed by the Los Angeles-based firm of Johnston Marklee with the collaboration of landscape architects Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates.

Outdoor Sculpture at the Menil

Outdoor sculpture has been an integral part of the Menil Collection’s neighborhood of art since the museum was inaugurated in 1987. As part of the opening of the Menil Drawing Institute, visitors will discover a new sculpture—Ellsworth Kelly’s *Menil Curve*, 2015—commissioned by the Menil to recognize the most extraordinary financial gifts to *The Campaign for the Menil*. Sited at the building’s entrance, *Menil Curve* was completed just before the artist’s death and complements the Menil’s significant holdings of his works on paper. Additionally, the museum has worked closely with the artist Michael Heizer to relocate two of his sculptures—*Rift*, 1968/1982 and *Dissipate*, 1968/1970 which have been moved to a new location east of the Menil Drawing Institute

on West Main Street. They were formerly located in the front lawn of the main museum building.

The Campaign for the Menil

Development of the \$40-million Menil Drawing Institute and new greenspaces was funded through the institution-wide *Campaign for the Menil*, which raised over \$121 million. The *Campaign* also has supported construction of a new Energy House, updates and repairs to the main museum building, and improvement and refurbishment of infrastructure, as well as an increase in the endowment, enabling the Menil Collection to always remain free of charge.

About the Menil Collection

Houston philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to foster greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main building opened to the public. Today, some thirty years later, the Menil Collection consists of a group of five art buildings and green spaces located within a historic residential neighborhood. The Menil embodies the ideals and values of its founders, in particular that art is vital to human life and should be readily accessible to all persons.

Parking

Parking for the community celebration is limited. We strongly encourage visitors to use public transit, taxis, or ride sharing services. The Menil is located along Metro Bus Route 25 – Richmond. For taxi and ride share, please use 1500 Branard Street, Houston, Texas 77006, as a drop off and pickup point. If you must drive, please park in the main museum parking lot on West Alabama Street. Streets in the neighborhood may be blocked off for this event, so please be mindful of signage. A bike share station is located at the corner of West Alabama and Mulberry Streets. Bike racks are located near the West Alabama parking lot behind the Menil Bookstore.

Schedule of events subject to change.

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Image: South elevation of the Menil Drawing Institute. Photo: Richard Barnes

Press Contact and Press Preview RSVP:

Menil Press Office

Tommy Napier

713 535 3170

tnapier@menil.org

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