

**THE MENIL COLLECTION
ADVANCE 2020 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE**



Think of Them as Spaces: Brice Marden's Drawings

February 21—June 14, 2020

The Menil Collection

Menil Drawing Institute

Think of Them as Spaces: Brice Marden's Drawings explores the artist's draftsmanship and the role the medium plays within his practice. In a 1979 written statement, Marden asked that his drawings be thought of "as spaces" – suggesting, for him, that these works reflect the spirit and experience of a place. As seen throughout his work, Marden's expansive vision explores how landscape, architecture, and objects found in nature shape one's way of understanding the world.

Comprised of 91 works, the exhibition presents six series of drawings that span nearly the entirety of the artist's ongoing career, highlighting the processes of invention and permutation that

occur as he works and thinks on paper. The *Post and Lintel* series—composed of ten works with dense layers of pigmentation—revisits geographies and methods crucial to his early work, namely the architectural forms of ancient Greece and the heavily worked and opaque surfaces made of wax and graphite that first brought the artist to prominence. Additionally, the exhibition maps how the artist's two watershed series, *The Seasons* and *Cold Mountain*, have reverberated within his practice and have evolved over decades. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Kelly Montana, Assistant Curator, Menil Drawing Institute and an interview with the artist by Josef Helfenstein, Director of the Kunstmuseum Basel.



Si Lewen: The Parade

April 24—August 23, 2020

The Menil Collection

Main Building

Si Lewen: The Parade presents sixty-three drawings that served as the maquette for a graphic novel documenting the horrors of war. Polish-born artist Si Lewen (1918–2016) an immigrant who lived and worked in New York and Pennsylvania, helped liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp in

1945 while serving as a Ritchie Boy in the United States Army. In 1957 he published *The Parade*, a cutting-edge book that directly responded to the horrors he witnessed.

The Parade begins with images of playful children attracted to a marching band, which turns out to be a military parade. Over the course of the wordless narrative, Lewen explores the destruction and despair that destroys communities as violence builds and lives are lost. This important and long-overlooked body of work debuted nearly seven decades ago and remains of great relevance to this very day.



Allora & Calzadilla: Specters of Noon

May 16—September 27, 2020

The Menil Collection

Main Building

In the spring of 2020, the Menil Collection will present an exhibition by Puerto Rico-based, collaborative artistic duo Allora & Calzadilla (Jennifer Allora, b. 1974, and Guillermo Calzadilla, b. 1971). Working at the museum over the course of several years, the artists

have identified the Menil's renowned holdings of Surrealist art and archives as a means to explore the relationship of Surrealism and the Caribbean.

The exhibition, consisting of seven newly created large-scale works, will address conflicting phenomena of light and darkness from the point of view of the Caribbean, a place of paradox rooted in the instability of environmental and colonial politics. Allora & Calzadilla's dreamlike environment will include light projections, live vocal performance, bat guano, ship engines, and coal. These contradictory materials, surprising sounds, and disconcerting sensations to reflect upon the social and economic inequities of our increasingly fragile world.

The relationship of Houston and Puerto Rico, through shared history of energy commerce in the Gulf of Mexico as well as recent climate-related catastrophes, provides a compelling and timely backdrop for this exhibition.

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 greenspaces located within a 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.

Admission

The Menil Collection's permanent collection galleries, special exhibitions, and public programs are free of charge to all visitors. The museum and bookstore are open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Menil is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Menil neighborhood greenspaces are open daily from dawn to dusk.

On view at the Menil

Mapa Wiya (Your Map's Not Needed) – on view through February 2, 2020

Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect – on view through January 5, 2020

Collection Close-Up: Of Heaven and Earth – on view through March 15, 2020

Photography and the Surreal Imagination – opening February 5, 2020

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Images

1. Brice Marden, *15 x 15 10*, 2015–17. Ink and colored ink on paper, 20 x 15 in. (50.8 x 38.1 cm). Collection of the artist. © Brice Marden / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Bill Jacobson
2. Si Lewen, untitled drawing for *The Parade*, ca. 1950. Charcoal, crayon, and tusche on gessoed board, Sheet: 12 x 18 inches (30.5 x 45.7 cm). Collection of the International Institute for Restorative Practices. © International Institute for Restorative Practices
3. Allora & Calzadilla, *Graft*, 2019. Dimensions variable, 17,500 Recycled Polyvinyl Castings. © Allora & Calzadilla, Courtesy of Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels. Photo: David Regen

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