

RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

RUBY CITY CELEBRATES 2023 ACQUISITIONS

65 works by 26 artists including works by Tala Madani, Mona Hatoum, Nicole Eisenman, Anya Gallaccio, Celia Álvarez Muñoz, Paul Pfeiffer, Charles LeDray, Nate Cassie.



Tala Madani, *Shit Mom Animation 1*, (2021); single channel color, stop motion animation, 7:54 minutes. © Tala Madani

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (December 4, 2023) — Ruby City is pleased to announce the acquisition of 65 works by 26 artists in 2023. The new acquisitions, like the Linda Pace Foundation, Ruby City Collection as a whole, include works by internationally acclaimed artists as well as those with strong ties to San Antonio and the state of Texas.

“I’m deeply proud of the acquisitions we’ve made this year given their ability to speak to the personal and universal as well as the innovative artistic approaches and processes they employ. Each speaks to themes inherent to the Collection such as: feminism, the home, identity, process, and materiality. I can’t wait to share them with our audiences,” stated Director Elyse A. Gonzales.

Fifteen artists are new to the Collection among them Nicole Eisenman, Valie Export, Anya Gallaccio, Emily Jacir, Charles LeDray, Annette Lemieux, Constance Lowe, Celia Álvarez Muñoz, and Sue Williams. Others such as Nate Cassie, Mona Hatoum, Kim Jones, Tala Madani, Paul Pfeiffer, Juan Miguel Ramos, and Tim Rollins + KOS are already represented in the Collection

and these acquisitions give further context to their artistic practices, many of whom work in multiple mediums. By welcoming these works into the collection, the Foundation continues to manifest Pace’s vision to represent the communities it serves with contemporary art that aims to inform and illuminate the world in which we live today.

About the New Acquisitions

Tala Madani’s 8-minute animation *Shit Mom Animation 1* (2021) derives its title from the British slang expression for a bad mom. “Shit Mom” is just as described, always appearing as a smear of brown paint, who ruins everything, no matter how hard she tries. Comprised of thousands of hand-painted cells that are then photographed and digitally stitched together, *Shit Mom* follows the eponymous character through various beautifully appointed rooms in her home, but she leaves filth wherever she goes and on whatever she touches. Her attempts to clean up the smears just make it worse. Madani’s work taps into the common, but often unspoken fears mothers have about failing as a parent and the impossibility of living up to society’s unrealistic visions of motherhood. This video purchase complements a painting by the artist already in the Collection.



Celia Álvarez Muñoz; Chuck Ramirez, *Semejantes Personajes/Significant Personages* series, 2002; digital Holgas 14x 30 in.; © Celia Álvarez Muñoz. Courtesy Ruiz-Healy Gallery

Ruby City also purchased 18 prints from **Celia Álvarez Muñoz’s** digital photographic series from 2002, *Semejantes Personajes/Significant Personages* which documents Latinx artists practicing in San Antonio at the time. Muñoz encouraged her subjects to do whatever they wished while she photographed them. She then scanned the images, digitally manipulating them (when this

process was still very much in its infancy) to make them appear as though film strips. In so doing, she emphasizes the San Antonio Latinx art community as ever active and lively, even though some may have passed away. Consequently, the images underscore how Latinx art and artists remain an enduring force. This is the first work by Muñoz to enter the Collection.

Mona Hatoum’s *Mobile Home II* (2006) (see image below) presents an installation of furniture and household possessions that continually shift along horizontal wires strung between two metal police barriers. As the title implies, the installation is a condensed home that is in perpetual, barely perceptible, motion. *Mobile Home II*, taps into as the artist has put it, “precariousness” and the “basic human condition of exile,” as exemplified by the continuous movement inherent to the work.

Hatoum very graciously also gifted a print, *Untitled (fence, red)* (2018) to the Collection and, in conjunction with Carolyn Alexander of Alexander and Bonin Gallery, donated *Isolette*, (1999) a sculpture that appeared in her 1999 Artpace residency exhibition. These additions join others

by Hatoum in the Collection to fully represent her multifaceted practice which includes large-scale installation, sculpture, works on paper, and video.

These were not the only gifts received in 2023.

With the artist, BLUM Gallery, Los Angeles gifted 5 sculptures by **Anya Gallaccio** that mimic key minimalist sculptures of large-scale freestanding cubes or portions of cubes. They are made, however, from stones found in Texas such as limestone, granite and sandstone that have been sliced as though wood and fitted together. These stones embody, according to Gallaccio, geologic time given the inherent age of the rocks and the fossils often found within them. She poetically, and from a feminist perspective, reinterprets this Minimalist sculptural form, imbuing it with natural and geological forces. This gesture counters the severe forms—devoid of context or history—as well as the machine fabricated nature of works typically associated with Minimalism.



Anya Gallaccio; *I still can't remember when or how I lost my way*, 2014; limestone, sandstone; 4 ¾ x 45 ¾ x 45 ¾ in.



Charles LeDray; *Untitled (I Love NY)*, 1992; fabric, thread, buttons, wire; 28 x 10 ½ in. © Charles LeDray

Alice Kosmin remains a steadfast donor inspired by the Foundation/Ruby City's mission of providing access to contemporary art for all. In 2023 she gifted 28 works in her and her late husband's name, Marvin, including photography, painting, drawing, video, and sculpture. Many bolster the Foundation's holdings related to politically motivated or conceptually driven works, or those related to identity. Among the works she gifted are those by **Nicole Eisenman, Valie Export, Emily Jacir, Kim Jones, Sean Landers, Charles LeDray, Annette Lemieux, Paul Pfeiffer, Jon Pylypchuk, Tim Rollins + KOS, Allen Ruppersberg, Laurie Simmons and Allan McCollum, and Sue Williams.**

Eisenman is one of the most respected artists of our times, primarily known as a figurative painter who incorporates humor or perversity as a means of capturing contemporary experience, especially in relation to identity politics. Kosmin's gift included two of her double-sided drawings (see image below) as well as a sculptural work by **LeDray**. Revered for his small-scale hand-sewn clothing works, LeDray's creations invite close looking. *Untitled (I Love NY)*, (1992), with its array of clothing articles "collaged" or stitched together, suggests the multitudes of people, characters that collide and commune in the city of New York, where the artist is based.



Constance Lowe; *Green Eye*, 1998; suede, felt, buttons, grommet; 10 x 8 in. © Constance Lowe

Several works were also gifted by the Estates of Donald P. Walton Jr. and Frances Jean Colpitt (1952-2022), the latter being a respected art historian. Most of the artists in this gift are from Texas and represent Colpitt's deep investment in the state's artists and her scholarly interests, situating them within a larger art historical context through her exhibitions and writings. The gift is comprised of works by **Nate Cassie, Tommy Glassford, Nancy Haynes, Constance Lowe, Juan Miguel Ramos, Hills Snyder, and Annabelle & Robert Tiemann**. It includes paintings, sculptures, drawing, prints, as well as a photo-based portrait of Colpitt by Ramos. The Estate reached out to select institutions to represent Colpitt's collection and legacy in Texas and California where she was a critical force inspiring hundreds of students and supporting the careers of numerous artists.

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; reservations are recommended. Information and reservations are available at www.rubycity.org.

For further information please contact: communication@rubycity.org

Additional images: (attached document has full list of acquisitions)



Nicole Eisenman, *Untitled (Lemonade Stand)* (1993); double sided drawing, ink and watercolor on paper; 14 x 17 1/2 in.



Mona Hatoum, *Mobile Home II* (2006); furniture, household objects, suitcases, galvanized steel barriers, three electric motors and pulley system; 46 7/8 x 86 5/8 x 236 1/4 in. © Mona Hatoum.

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