

# RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release

## RUBY CITY TO PRESENT *TANGIBLE/NOTHING* BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8

The first reinstallation of the collection galleries since Ruby City opened will include works by Nina Katchadourian, Rick Lowe, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Katie Pell, Doris Salcedo, and Kate Ericson and Mel Ziegler, among others

**SAN ANTONIO, TX,** (May 2022) -- Ruby City will present the exhibition *Tangible/Nothing* beginning September 8, 2022. The exhibition, the first reinstallation of the permanent collection galleries since the contemporary art center opened in 2019, will feature approximately 40 works, including works by David Avalos, Dorothy Cross, Milagros de la Torre, Thomas Demand, Alejandro Diaz, Sam Durant, Kate Ericson and Mel Ziegler, Teresita Fernández, Mona Hatoum, Nina Katchadourian, Rick Lowe, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Daniel Joseph Martinez, Gabriel Orozco, Rubén Ortiz-Torres and Jim Mendiola, Katie Pell, Paul Pfeiffer, Chuck Ramirez, Dario Robleto, Doris Salcedo, and Adam Schreiber, among others. *Tangible/Nothing* highlights two groups of works from the collection that conversely represent seeming nothingness or ubiquity.

Many works represent apparent voids, vestiges of what's missing or subjects not pictured – a pair of arms bereft of a body, a woman represented only by her purse or Miss America seen only as a bobbing crown. Other works represent or incorporate mundane, everyday objects that stand in for big ideas, such as empty paint cans representing a white, heroic vision of American patriotic ideals.

Curated by Elyse Gonzales, director of Ruby City, the exhibition was inspired in part by Linda Pace, the founder of the Linda Pace Foundation and a lifelong supporter of artists. Though deceased in 2007, Pace and her imprimatur still deeply resonate throughout the Ruby City campus, its

mission and the city's art community as a whole. The exhibition's themes also reflect the social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This notion of absence and presence was similarly experienced by everyone over the past two years, when many people were physically separated from friends and family, needing to find ways to connect with them in absentia—with many experiencing permanent loss," said Gonzales.

Serving as the backbone of the exhibition are a series of works by artists, many of whom were friends, that intimately portray or memorialize Pace, even if she is not pictured. For example, Chuck Ramirez photographed Pace's purse in [Purse Portraits: Louis \(Linda\)](#), 2005. Ramirez's series of purses, seen from above with the contents exposed, represent the owners, since purses—and the objects carried within—are a most personal possession and constant companion of many women. Another example is *BookPace* (2002), a series of photographs of the book spines in Pace's home library by Nina Katchadourian, on loan from the artist. Selected and arranged by the artist, the book titles become spontaneous sentences, poems that all reveal Pace and her passions, known and unknown.

In the suite of prints ["I Miss Everyone Who Has Ever Gone Away."](#) Dario Robleto memorializes music icons such as Maria Callas, Patsy Cline, Jimi Hendrix, and Kurt Cobain. Each print represents the cover of a live album with a stylized version of the cover's colors and shapes—but with the names and photos of the musicians absent.

Paul Pfeiffer's video work [Miss America \(2003\)](#) includes an altered clip from the broadcast of the Miss America pageant. It shows only the bobbing crown moving on the stage, the beauty queen herself absent. Another work by Pfeiffer, [Red Background #1 \(2002\)](#), is a photograph of a red velvet background, typically used in the photography of art and objects, with the objects themselves removed.

Rick Lowe's [Untitled \(2021\)](#) a recent acquisition on view for the first time, is an abstract pattern based on the game of dominoes. The painting and collage represents the artist's personal experience with the game as well as the spirit of community that the game engenders and the places it is played. Lowe is currently featured in the 2022 Whitney Biennial. Similarly, [Bitchen Stove](#) (2006), by popular San Antonio artist Katie Pell (1965–2019), transforms an otherwise commonplace appliance—a gas stove—into a comment on traditional gender roles—the bright pink stove is customized like a lowrider car.

Also on view will be [Abstract Painting, White, Number 862 \(2005\)](#), an all-white canvas by Daniel Joseph Martinez (who is also currently featured in the 2022 Whitney Biennial). Only the accompanying label suggests the subject of the work, the role (or lack of a role ) of the state in higher human culture, typical of the artist's abstract explorations of individual and collective identity.

Kate Erickson (1955–1995) and Mel Ziegler are known for their conceptual works commenting on American history and its tropes. Their work [High Gloss \(1991\)](#), recently gifted to Ruby City, is a group of 80 empty paint cans, the dried colors still visible. The paint is from a line of housepaint from one of Benjamin Moore's historic series. The colors are named for places and figures from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries—stand-ins for broad, romanticized concepts of US history that privileged a white, male, and heroic narrative.

### **Related Programs**

Ruby City will celebrate the exhibition with a free public opening reception on Saturday, **September 10**, 2022. Other programs will include a family day on **October 15** and a talk by artist Rick Lowe, in conversation with Gonzales, on **November 10**.

### **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 900 paintings, sculptures, installations and video works. The new building, designed by renowned architect [Sir David Adjaye OBE](#), is part of a campus, which also includes [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 free; advance reservations are recommended. Information and reservations are available at [www.rubycity.org](http://www.rubycity.org).

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