

# The Contemporary Austin

JONES CENTER  
700 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

LAGUNA GLORIA  
3809 W. 35th St., Austin, TX 78703

## THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN ANNOUNCES SPRING 2025 PROGRAM

*Highlights of the upcoming season include Jiab Prachakul and Tenant of Culture's U.S. museum debuts and Raven Halfmoon's first traveling institutional solo show*



**Austin, Texas (November 21, 2024)**—The Contemporary Austin announces highlights of its Spring 2025 program. The season will welcome the debut of *Sweet Solitude*, the first museum exhibition spotlighting Jiab Prachakul's sensitive portraits of friends, family and muses often from the Asian diaspora; a traveling solo exhibition, *Flags of Our Mothers*, dedicated to the monumental stoneware sculptures of Raven Halfmoon, spanning both the indoor and outdoor museum sites; and *HOST: Tenant of Culture*, the first U.S. museum show with newly commissioned work by Tenant of Culture, the moniker of Dutch artist Hendrickje Schimmel, who investigates the vast material impact of the fashion industry through sculptures made of deconstructed clothing.

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## OPENING IN SPRING 2025

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### ***Jiab Prachakul: Sweet Solitude* | January 31, 2025 – August 3, 2025 | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center**

This is the first solo museum exhibition of artist [Jiab Prachakul](#) (b. 1979, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand), a self-taught artist, originally trained in film, living and working in Vannes, France. Her sensitive and distinctive paintings are conceived as layers of time that enfold memories, dreams, photographs, and references to cinema, providing an intimate window into the artist's circle of friends, family, and muses. The figures in Prachakul's work are often from the Asian diaspora, addressing a gap in the Western canon and challenging the Orientalist perspective prevalent in 19th-century French painting. Her richly textured canvases contextualize her subjects within their daily environments as well as cinematic scenes she constructs through extensive in person photographic sessions.

*Sweet Solitude* comprises a selection of paintings from the past five years, presented in a sequence that loosely mirrors Prachakul's own journey as an artist. Having lived in Europe for much of her adult life, her paintings are often inflected with her desire for connection amidst a feeling of displacement, a sense of romantic longing pervading throughout. Her muses, often from the Asian diaspora, include close friends whom she paints repeatedly, and fellow artists, such as filmmaker and artist Apichatpong Weerasethakul and author Ocean Vuong, whose portrait she produced especially for this exhibition. The final section of the exhibition centers on the importance of place in her work, with a new painting that finds inspiration in the waterways in Austin as they resonate with her home in Vannes, France and connect to the memories of her childhood growing up along the Khong River in Thailand. Prachakul is the recipient of the 2020 BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

*Jiab Prachakul: Sweet Solitude* is curated by Alex Klein, Head Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, The Contemporary Austin.

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***Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers* | January 31, 2025 – August 3, 2025 | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center and The Contemporary Austin – Laguna Gloria (outdoor sculpture, *Flagbearer*)**

[Raven Halfmoon](#)'s (b. 1991, Caddo Nation; lives and works in Norman, Oklahoma) touring solo exhibition will span both of The Contemporary Austin's sites with an indoor exhibition at the Jones Center and an outdoor sculpture, *Flagbearer*, which will be installed at the museum's Laguna Gloria location in mid-February. Halfmoon's practice spans torso-scaled and colossal-sized stoneware sculptures, with some soaring up to twelve feet and weighing over eight hundred pounds. With inspirations that span centuries, from ancient Indigenous pottery to Moai statues to Land Art, Halfmoon interrogates the intersection of tradition, history, gender, and personal experience. Born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, Halfmoon learned about ceramics as a teenager from Caddo elders. Her work fuses inherited Caddo pottery techniques, a tradition of making mostly done by women, with her own expressive mark making and contemporary lexicon of symbols. Her surfaces are expressive and show deep finger impressions and dramatic dripping glazes—a physicality that positions her as both maker and matter. Through stacking and repeating imagery, Halfmoon creates totemic forms that represent herself and her maternal ancestry while also reinforcing the multiplicities that exist inside all of us. Growing up in Oklahoma, a state with thirty-seven federally recognized Tribal Nations, Halfmoon reclaims space for herself and her Caddo lineage, asserting an Indigenous presence and resilience through her colossal figures.

*Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers* will feature a combination of new and recent works, with the artist's first museum catalogue accompanying the presentation. The exhibition debuted at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (June 25, 2023 - January 7, 2024) and traveled to the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (May 18 - September 15, 2024), and is co-curated by Rachel Adams, Chief Curator & Director of Programs, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (Omaha, NE) and Amy Smith-Stewart, Chief Curator, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Ridgefield, CT). The Contemporary Austin's presentation of *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers* is organized by Julie Le, Assistant Curator.

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## ***HOST: Tenant of Culture* | January 31, 2025 – August 3, 2025 | The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center**

This is the first U.S. museum exhibition of [Tenant of Culture](#), a moniker for the artistic practice of Hendrickje Schimmel (b. 1990, Arnhem, Netherlands; lives and works in Amsterdam). Originally trained in fashion design and textiles, Schimmel brings this experience to bear in her material explorations of the fashion industry, particularly the volume and speed at which it produces, consumes, and discards. Using items often sourced secondhand, Schimmel deconstructs and reassembles garments—often combining elements from multiple pieces and transforming them into new sculptural works that transcend their original form.

*HOST: Tenant of Culture* presents newly commissioned works by the artist alongside a selection of recent works in an installation that explores the tension between seductive, consumer-facing displays and spaces less visible in the fashion industry, such as production factories and fulfillment centers. *Tenant of Culture*'s assemblages reflect the patchwork nature of globalized production, where materials and labor from disparate locations create garments that are discarded as quickly as they are produced. For the artist, these materials are not an end but a starting point. Remixing secondhand garments into new forms, *Tenant of Culture* proposes a cyclical process where materials can be continually restructured, serving as a means of critique and reimagination in our world of overproduction.

*HOST: Tenant of Culture* is curated by Julie Le, Assistant Curator, The Contemporary Austin.

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING**

### **Spring Exhibitions Opening Reception**

Friday, January 31, 2025

Members & Friends Preview | **6-8PM**

Public Reception | **8-9:30PM**

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## **In Conversation with Jiab Prachakul**

Saturday, February 1, 2025 | **2-3:30PM**

The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center

## **Film Series presented in conjunction with *Jiab Prachakul: Sweet Solitude***

February 2 - February 19, 2025\*

Austin Film Society

*\*Prachakul will present for the screening on February 2*

## **ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN**

As Austin's only museum solely focused on contemporary artists and their work, The Contemporary Austin offers exhibitions, educational opportunities, and events that start conversations and fuel the city's creative spirit. Known for artist-centric exhibitions and collaborations, The Contemporary invites exploration at both its urban and natural settings—downtown at the Jones Center (700 Congress Avenue) and lakeside at the Laguna Gloria campus (3809 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street), which includes the museum's Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park, with a growing program of commissions, temporary projects, and a permanent collection of outdoor sculptures by artists including Ai Weiwei, Terry Allen, Carol Bove, Sarah Crowner, Tom Friedman, Anya Gallaccio, Ryan Gander, Liam Gillick, Nancy Holt, Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler, Paul McCarthy, Wangechi Mutu, Clare Rojas, Tom Sachs, Monika Sosnowska, Jessica Stockholder, SUPERFLEX, Marianne Vitale, and Ursula von Rydingsvard. Learn more at <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/>

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## **Media Contacts**

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Image captions: Jiab Prachakul, *Jeonga (In Nia's Eyes)*, 2022. Acrylic on linen canvas. 63 x 78 3/4 x 1 1/2 inches. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Purchase through a gift of Pamela and David Hornik. Image courtesy the artist; Installation view, *Raven Halfmoon: Flags of Our Mothers*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut, 2023. Artwork © Raven Halfmoon. Image courtesy The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. Photograph by Jason Mandella; Tenant of Culture, *Puzzlecut Boot Brown* (detail), 2021. Recycled shoes and belts, shoe last, glue, and thread. Artwork Tenant of Culture. Courtesy the artist and Soft Opening, London. Image courtesy the artist. 32 x 34 x 9 centimeters (12 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches). Photograph by Kunst-dokumentation.com.