

The Contemporary Austin

The Contemporary Austin Presents

HOST: Tenant of Culture

Premiering newly commissioned work, this marks the artist's first U.S. museum exhibition



Austin, TX (January 29, 2025) – 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 mainly 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

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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.

This is the fifth exhibition presented as part of *HOST*, The Contemporary Austin's ongoing program series and exhibition space committed to centering artists and welcoming publics. Initiated in 2023, each exhibition cycle welcomes an artist to create a newly commissioned environment in the *HOST* gallery space at the Jones Center which is accompanied by related programming. Previous *HOST* artists include Mexico City-based artist duo Celeste, Texas-based artist Aryel René Jackson, arts organization Fusebox, and a solo presentation by Slovakian artist Katarina Janečková Walshe.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

HOST: Tenant of Culture - Opening Celebration

Members Preview | 6:30–8P

Public Opening | 8–9:30P

January 31 (Fri) | The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

Second Saturdays Are for Families: Thrifty Threads

Feb 8 (Sat) | 11A–3P | The Contemporary Austin - Laguna Gloria

Virtual: In Conversation with Tenant of Culture

Feb 14 (Fri) | 11A | Online

Upcycling Textile Workshop: Transform Old Clothes into New Creations

Feb 22 (Sat) | 12–4P | The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

Screening: Brandy Hellville and the Cult of Fashion

Apr 2 (Wed) | 6–8:30P | The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

On Trend / Off Balanced: A Panel on Fashion and Sustainability

Apr 30 (Wed) | 6–8:30P | The Contemporary Austin - Jones Center

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ABOUT TENANT OF CULTURE

Tenant of Culture is the artistic practice of Hendrickje Schimmel (b. 1990, Arnhem, Netherlands), who lives and works in Amsterdam. She received her MA in Mixed Media from the Royal College of Art, London in 2016, and completed a BA in Womenswear at ArtEZ Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, Zwolle, Netherlands in 2012. By disassembling and rebuilding manufactured garments, Tenant of Culture examines the ways in which ideological frameworks and power structures materialize in methods of production, circulation, and marketing of apparel. The materials used in her textile assemblages are sourced from various stages of the garment production cycle, as well as secondary-use platforms and refuse. She recognizes commodities not only as the result of a standardized production process, but also as the social relations that arise in the process of their usage and wastage. Working across mediums such as garment, sculpture, workshop, and installation, her work suggests implicit potential for both destruction as well as transformation.

Previous solo exhibitions include the Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam (2024); Condo Mexico City, PEANA, Mexico City (2024); Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp (2023); Soft Opening, London (2023); Camden Art Centre, London (2022); Kunstverein Dresden (2021); Het Fries Museum, Leeuwarden (2020). She was also included in the 2023 British Textile Biennial. The work of Tenant of Culture is in the collections of Het Fries Museum, Leeuwarden; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Zabłudowicz Collection, London; and The Pier Arts Center, Orkney. Tenant of Culture was the 2020-21 recipient of the Camden Art Centre Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze. In 2020, the artist's first monograph, co-published by Soft Opening and Charles Asprey, was awarded the Swiss Most Beautiful Book Award.

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 35th 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

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Sosnowska, Jessica Stockholder, SUPERFLEX, Marianne Vitale, and Ursula von Rydingsvard. Learn more at thecontemporaryaustin.org.

Follow The Contemporary Austin on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



HOST: Tenant of Culture is made possible with financial support from the Mondriaan Fund, the public cultural funding organization focusing on visual art and cultural heritage. Additional support provided by the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York, and the Netherland-America Foundation. The Contemporary Austin's Exhibition Program is supported in part by Malú Alvarez, Rachel and Jeff Arnold, Bettina and Brian Barrow, Adrienne and Christopher Bosh, Suzanne Deal Booth, Debbie Dupré and Richard Rothberg, Kathleen and Christopher Loughlin, Chris Mattsson, Danielle Nieciag and Brian Sharples, O'Shaughnessy – Rivers Family Fund, Zarmeena Vendal, and anonymous donors. Exhibitions and programming are also made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Still Water Foundation, Every Page Foundation, and Stratus Properties.

The Contemporary Austin is supported by the generosity of its Board of Trustees, members and donors, and the citizens of Austin through the City of Austin Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts Division.

MEDIA CONTACT

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IMAGES: 1) Portrait of Tenant of Culture (Hendrickje Schimmel). Image courtesy the artist; 2) Tenant of Culture, Puzzlecut Boot Miscellaneous (2), 2021. Recycled shoe lining, textile scraps, belt, labels, acrylic paint, padding, shoe last, glue, and thread. 15 3/4 x 13 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches. Artwork © Tenant of Culture. Courtesy the artist and Soft Opening, London. Photograph by Kunst-dokumentation.com; 3) Rebekah Flake; 4) Brian Fitzsimmons.

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