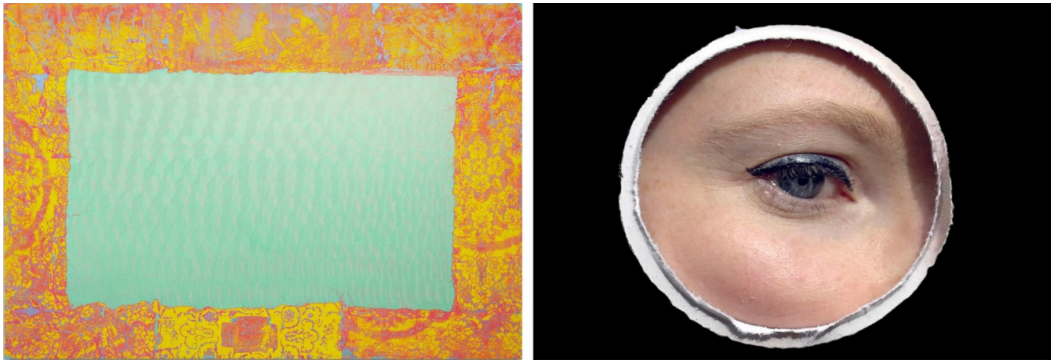


OPERA GALLERY



(L-R) Mark Flood, *Page from a Wanderers Scrapbook*, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 70 x 102 in | 177.8 x 259.1 cm;
Virginia L. Montgomery, *Eye Sees Eye*, 2026, 4k digital video still

TEXAS CONTEMPORARY

September 17 - October 8, 2026
HOUSTON

**Opera Gallery Houston Announces 'Texas Contemporary,'
An Exhibition That Brings Together Eight Leading Artists
Whose Practices Reflect the Cultural, Historical, and Creative
Landscape of Texas.**

**Featured artists: Rick Lowe, Mark Flood, Preston Douglas Boyer, Bradley Kerl,
Virginia L. Montgomery, Lovie Olivia, Eric DePan and Reynier Leyva Novo**

HOUSTON, TEXAS — August 17, 2026 — Opera Gallery Houston is pleased to announce its newest exhibition, *Texas Contemporary*, on view September 17 through October 8, 2026. Bringing together eight leading contemporary artists with deep connections to Texas, the exhibition examines the state not simply as a geographic region, but as one of the most compelling sites of artistic production in the United States today. Long defined by the convergence of cultures, histories, industries, and landscapes, Texas occupies a unique position. The exhibition argues that this intersection has produced artists whose work is both distinctly rooted in place and profoundly engaged with global contemporary discourse.

The exhibition features artists whose practices reveal the many ways Texas informs contemporary artistic production. **Rick Lowe's** socially engaged practice has transformed Houston through Project Row Houses, redefining art's relationship to community. **Virginia L. Montgomery's** immersive installations and films draw from the ecological systems of East Texas, incorporating sound recordings and organic materials collected throughout the region. **Reynier Leyva Novo's** Dust Paintings transform collected dust from culturally significant sites— including Houston's Astrodome— into meditations on memory, history, and place. Across equally distinct practices, **Mark Flood, Lovie Olivia, Preston Douglas Boyer, Bradley Kerl, and Eric DePan** each explore identity, material culture, alchemy, labor, mythology, and contemporary life through deeply personal visual languages.

Texas Contemporary, reflects the gallery's commitment to expanding conversations around contemporary art while recognizing Houston's emergence as one of North America's most dynamic cultural capitals. As museums, collectors, and institutions increasingly turn their attention toward the region, the exhibition offers a timely examination of the artists contributing to this evolving cultural landscape.

OPERA GALLERY

"As a native Texan, it's especially meaningful to present an exhibition that reflects the extraordinary artistic energy emerging from this state," said Kara Przybyl McIver, Deputy Director of Opera Gallery Houston. "Texas has become one of the most compelling places in the country for artists to develop ambitious, deeply considered practices. Rather than presenting a singular narrative, this exhibition brings together artists whose work is rooted in place while engaging universal conversations around memory, identity, landscape, architecture, and social change. It demonstrates that Texas is not simply participating in the global art world—it is helping shape it."

Opera Gallery has built an international reputation for presenting artists whose work defines the evolution of modern and contemporary art. The Houston gallery extends, and looks to further bolster, that legacy by fostering dialogue between Texas-based artists and Opera Gallery's global network of collectors, curators, museums, and cultural institutions.

"Opening Opera Gallery Houston with an exhibition dedicated to artists working in and from Texas reflects both our confidence in this region and our belief in its international significance," said Gregory Lahmi, Director of Opera Gallery Houston. "The artists gathered here represent extraordinary depth of practice and remarkable diversity of perspective. Collectively, they demonstrate that some of today's most thoughtful and ambitious contemporary art is being made in Texas—not as an alternative to established cultural centers, but as an essential contributor to the future of contemporary art itself."

The exhibition brings together artists working across painting, sculpture, multimedia, installation, objets d'art, and conceptual practice. While each approaches their work through a distinct visual language, they share an enduring engagement with questions of place—examining history, ecology, migration, community, material culture, and the rapidly changing environments that define contemporary Texas. Rather than offering a singular portrait of the region, the exhibition embraces the multiplicity of experiences that continue to shape its cultural identity.

About The Artists

Rick Lowe: A MacArthur Fellow and one of the pioneers of social sculpture, Rick Lowe has spent decades redefining the relationship between art and community. Best known for founding Houston's Project Row Houses, Lowe's practice examines systems of equity, urban development, and collective memory. His work demonstrates how artists can actively shape the cultural environments in which they live, making him one of the defining voices of contemporary art in Texas.

Mark Flood: Houston-based artist Mark Flood has built an influential multidisciplinary practice spanning painting, collage, sculpture, and conceptual work. Blending humor, irreverence, and historical references, his work critiques consumer culture while embracing experimentation. Flood occupies a unique position within Texas contemporary art, balancing institutional recognition with an independent spirit that has influenced generations of younger artists.

Preston Douglas Boyer: Boyer's sculptural practice transforms industrial materials into highly refined forms that investigate memory, architecture, and material history. Working between craftsmanship and conceptual inquiry, Boyer creates objects that reflect both the physical landscape of Texas and broader questions surrounding permanence, labor, and the built environment.

Bradley Kerl: Kerl's paintings explore perception through subtle shifts of color, gesture, and surface. Built through layered applications of paint, his compositions reward sustained looking and emphasize the physical act of painting itself. Working in Houston, Kerl contributes to the city's rich legacy of abstraction while developing a distinctive visual language rooted in process and restraint.

Virginia L. Montgomery: Montgomery creates immersive installations, sculptures, and moving-image works inspired by the ecology and mythology of the American South. Frequently incorporating sound recordings gathered throughout East Texas, her practice considers the reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world, inviting viewers to imagine environments as living archives of memory and transformation.

Lovie Olivia: Olivia's multidisciplinary practice examines Black identity, mythology, ancestry, and collective memory through richly symbolic imagery. Drawing from folklore, literature, history, and personal narrative, her paintings construct layered visual worlds where imagination becomes a means of reclaiming cultural histories while envisioning new futures.

Eric DePan: DePan creates meticulously crafted glass sculptures and objets d'art that blur distinctions between fine art and functional object. Combining traditional glassmaking techniques with contemporary design, his work transforms familiar materials into luminous forms that invite close observation while expanding conversations around craft and sculpture.

Reynier Leyva Novo: Although internationally recognized, Reynier Leyva Novo's practice has become deeply intertwined with Houston's cultural landscape. His conceptual works investigate history through absence, archives, and material traces. His ongoing Dust Paintings— created using dust collected from historically significant locations, including Houston's Astrodome— transform overlooked material into powerful meditations on memory, identity, and historical narrative.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged a network of galleries worldwide with locations in London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Madrid and Dubai, establishing itself as one of the leading forces within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Chairman and Founder, Opera Gallery specialises in modern, post-war, and contemporary art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler, Pieter Obels and Gustavo Nazareno, alongside internationally recognised names such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés and Anselm Reyle.

For more than 30 years, Opera Gallery's mission has been to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming and collaborations with private collections and leading public institutions. Opera Gallery in Houston is led by Director Gregory Lahmi and Deputy Director Kara Przybyl McIver.

Press Contacts

Whitney Lawson | whitney@wklpr.com | (210) 865-2353
Katherine McMahon | katherine@operagallery.com

Opera Gallery
Houston, Texas
4444 Westheimer Road
Suite A115
houston@operagallery.com
(713) 485-6964

Monday-Saturday: 10am - 7:00pm
Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

www.operagallery.com