

# BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

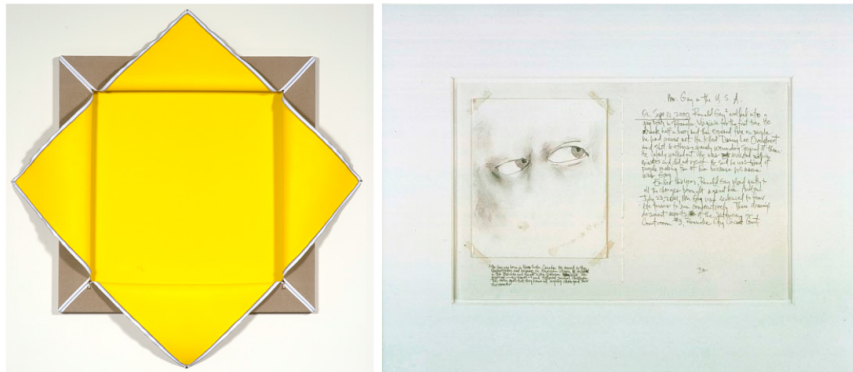
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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Kathleen Brady Stimpert, 512-475-6784, [Kathleen.bradystimpert@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:Kathleen.bradystimpert@blantonmuseum.org)

Rachel Judlowe, 212-951-1895, [Rachel@Kubanyjudlowe.com](mailto:Rachel@Kubanyjudlowe.com)

**BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS NEW ACQUISITIONS  
BY TEXAS NATIVE DONALD MOFFETT**



**Donald Moffett**

**August 29, 2015-February 28, 2016**

AUSTIN, TX—June 16, 2015—As part of a growing initiative to increase holdings by artists from Texas or currently based in the state, the Blanton Museum of Art presents a special installation of newly acquired works by San Antonio native Donald Moffett. With eight works by Moffett in its collection—including the entire suite of eighteen drawings comprising the artist’s *Mr. Gay in the U.S.A.* series—the Blanton currently holds more works by the artist than any other museum in the United States. In this intimate presentation, Moffett’s diverse and influential practice is showcased through a rich variety of media including painting, drawing, and projected video on canvas. In addition to the Blanton’s new acquisitions, a handful of works by Moffett on loan from two Texas collections will be featured.

“I think Donald Moffett is one of the most exciting artists working today and I am thrilled that his work is now well represented at the Blanton and in his home state,” explains Veronica Roberts, Blanton curator of modern and contemporary art. “One of the things I admire most about him is the way he consistently takes risks. This exhibition will spotlight the diverse directions that he has explored in his practice.”

Moffett emerged onto the New York art scene in the late 1970s and quickly became immersed in political activism. He understood the power of art to affect change, and in the early 1980s was a founding member of Gran Fury, the artistic arm of the AIDS activist group ACT UP. He later co-founded Bureau, a design company created to support social causes. In addition to his work that

investigates and advances social justice, Moffett is celebrated for his innovative use of materials and non-traditional approach to the canvas. The Blanton's installation highlights the full breadth of his range, including digital chromogenic prints, drawings, video projection paintings, and lush, bold abstract oil paintings.

*What Barbara Jordan Wore* (2001), a series of digital prints exploring the legacy of Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, reveals Moffett's interest in politics and the highs and lows of equality and progress in America. So too does his series of drawings, *Mr. Gay in the U.S.A.*, which depicts the sentencing of Ronald Gay, a Vietnam War veteran who shot several people at a gay bar in Roanoke, Virginia in 2000, killing one person and seriously injuring many others (Moffett was in attendance during Gay's sentencing). In contrast, *Lot 102807 (yellow)* (2007) features an "unzipped" canvas, highlighting the artist's exploration of abstraction and experimental treatment of the canvas. His *Untitled/Green Roller (Lot 080104)* (2004) further upends the confines of the traditional two-dimensional frame. It features a video projected on canvas that first appears as an abstract blue and green landscape punctuated by a black hole. In an unexpected and comic turn, a projected hand then emerges from the hole to perform the absurd task of painting the canvas surrounding it.

Since joining the Blanton in 2013, Veronica Roberts has made it a priority to collect and exhibit artists currently based in Texas or with Texas roots. She has facilitated the acquisition of works by emerging and mid-career artists including Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler, Jamal Cyrus, Natalie Frank, Kirk Hayes, Vincent Valdez, Nic Nicosia, and the collective, Okay Mountain. By increasing its holdings of works by Moffett and other important Texas artists, the Blanton aims to share with visitors the significant role that Texas has played in shaping the art historical canon.

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### **About Donald Moffett**

Donald Moffett was born January 20, 1955 in San Antonio, Texas. He attended The University of Texas at Austin for two years and transferred to Trinity University in San Antonio, where he received a BA in art and biology.

In 1978, Moffett moved to New York, where he has lived and worked ever since. In the 1980s, he became a founding member of Gran Fury, and in 1989, he and artist Marlene McCarty (also a member of Gran Fury) founded Bureau, a design company created to support themselves financially and to support social causes that they believed in. In 1993, Gran Fury disbanded and Moffett took a break from making art. When he returned to making art in 1995, he produced modestly sized abstract paintings. Since then, he has explored a wide variety of approaches to making work, producing everything from abstract painting to projected videos on painting, light box sculptures, works on paper, and sound installations.

Moffett is represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Anthony Meier Fine Arts in San Francisco. His work is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, among other institutions.

### **About the Blanton Museum of Art**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM – 5 PM, Saturday from 11 AM – 5 PM, and Sunday from 1 – 5 PM. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9 PM. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13-21) \$5. Admission is free to members, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

### **Image Captions:**

*Lot 102807X (Yellow), 2007*

Acrylic polyvinyl acetate on linen and wall, with rayon and steel zipper

72 x 72 inches

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© Donald Moffett. Photo: Rick Hall

*Mr. Gay in the U.S.A., 2001*

Pencil on paper, laid tape, matte board

18 drawings

16 drawings: 11 x 17 inches each

2 drawings: 6 1/3 x 7 2/3 inches each

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