

## BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



### **MEDIA ALERT: Solo Shows by Marie Watt and R. Eric McMaster Now Open at the Blanton.**

**What:** Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin presents two new contemporary art exhibitions, [Marie Watt: SKY DANCES LIGHT](#) and [R. Eric McMaster: Compressions](#).

*Marie Watt: SKY DANCES LIGHT* is the twelfth Contemporary Project in the museum's series showcasing innovative work by contemporary artists. This immersive installation by Marie Watt, an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation, includes new and recent hanging sculptures created from tens of thousands of tin bells known as "jingles." Historically fashioned from rolled tobacco tin lids, these jingles recognize the Jingle Dress Dance, an important element of today's Native American powwow ceremonies and regalia. Watt connects the Jingle Dress Dance's origins as a healing ritual during the 1918 flu pandemic to the current moment of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Visitors are invited to brush gently against the sculptures and activate the sound of the jingles. This exhibition will complement the major exhibition *Native America: In Translation*, coming to the Blanton this summer.

*R. Eric McMaster: Compressions* is a multimedia installation of videos, photographs, and sculpture, on view in the museum's Film & Video Gallery just in time for the upcoming Summer Olympics. It explores the protocols that govern sports by disrupting the rules and conditions that determine athletes' movement, suggesting the possibility of new ways of seeing and being in the world. In one video, a gymnast performs a pommel horse routine underwater, struggling with the challenge of buoyancy rather than balance. In another, two hockey teams play a match shoulder to shoulder in an ice rink that McMaster constructed at one tenth of regulation size. The third video appropriates footage from the 2012 Summer Olympics of gymnasts tensely awaiting the signal to perform. R. Eric McMaster teaches in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin.

**When:** Both exhibitions are now on view.

*Marie Watt: SKY DANCES LIGHT* is on view through **October 20, 2024**.

*R. Eric McMaster: Compressions* is on view through **August 25, 2024**.

**Upcoming Public Programs:**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 4 p.m.**

Curator's Choice tour of *Marie Watt: SKY DANCES LIGHT* with Blanton curator Hannah Klemm, part of the Blanton's Second Saturday program.

**Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 5 p.m.**

Art with an Expert talk with R. Eric McMaster, part of the Blanton's Second Saturday program.

*Dates and times are subject to change.*

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**Press details:**

Images are available here.

For interviews with the artists or press access to the exhibitions, please reach out to Katie Bruton, [katie.bruton@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:katie.bruton@blantonmuseum.org).

Featured images:

(left) Installation view of *Marie Watt: SKY DANCES LIGHT* at the Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, March 2–October 20, 2024

(right) R. Eric McMaster, *A Change in Atmosphere* (still), 2015, 1080p video, 8:41 minutes (photo: courtesy of the artist)

**About the Blanton Museum of Art:**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.