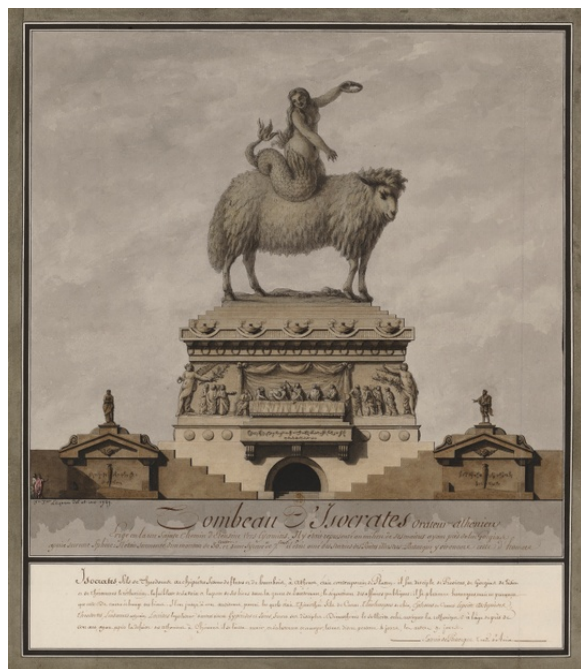


**THE MENIL COLLECTION UNVEILS FALL EXHIBITIONS AND NEW INITIATIVES FOR
MENIL DRAWING INSTITUTE**

***Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect, Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France* on view through January 5, 2020**

Jorinde Voigt Commissioned for Second Installment of Wall Drawing Series

Institute Launches Two Fellowship Opportunities for Modern and Contemporary Drawing Research



HOUSTON, TEXAS, October 30, 2019 –

Following its inaugural year, the Menil Drawing Institute at the Menil Collection continues its commitment to exhibitions and growing its programming to include an annual wall drawing installation and two new fellowship opportunities dedicated to the research of modern and contemporary drawing practices.

Recently opened in the gallery is *Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect, Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France*, an exhibition of fifty drawings by the draftsman and architect who is now considered to be one of the most inventive artists of post-revolutionary France. On display through January 5, 2020, the exhibition explores Lequeu's wildly imaginative and spectacularly detailed architectural drawings and anatomical studies.

Jean-Jacques Lequeu (1757–1826) was born in Rouen, France, but spent most of his life in Paris. Over the course of his career, which was drastically impacted by the French Revolution of 1789 and its aftermath, he worked as a draftsman, a surveyor, and a cartographer. His posthumous acclaim would come from the discovery of the hundreds of carefully preserved drawings he bequeathed to the Bibliothèque nationale de France in 1825, the year before his death.

Ranging from government proposals to fantastic and speculative structures never intended to be constructed, Lequeu's architectural drawings depict civic infrastructure along with curious oddities such as a towering stable in the shape of a cow. His designs were never realized in part because of the political turmoil caused by the Revolution, and also because some of his architectural ideas, though minutely executed on paper, were simply impossible to build.

Co-organized by the Petit Palais, Paris, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the exhibition in Houston is curated by Edouard Kopp, John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation Chief Curator, and Kelly Montana, Assistant Curator, both of the Menil Drawing Institute. Following the Menil's presentation, the exhibition will travel to the Morgan Library & Museum, New York.

Major funding for this exhibition is provided by Cecily E. Horton and The Vaughn Foundation. Additional support comes from Curtis & Windham Architects; Caroline Huber; Janie C. Lee; Adelaide de Menil; Susanne and William E. Pritchard III; James William Stewart, Jr.; and the City of Houston.



Wall Drawing Series: Jorinde Voigt

In addition to the latest exhibition, visitors to the Menil Drawing Institute will discover an extraordinary new work by Berlin-based artist Jorinde Voigt that was specially commissioned for the Menil. Titled *Vertical* (2019), Voigt's site-specific piece is the second in an ongoing series of wall drawings in the interior entry space of the Menil

Drawing Institute building. Known primarily for her works on paper, Voigt crafts complex notational systems to form the basis of her drawings and is influenced by musical scores, philosophical notions, and scientific diagrams.

Beginning with the concept of a "vertical axis," a line that sits perpendicular to the earth and tracks the rotational movement of a body, this epic new work responds to the vegetation and natural resources endemic to Houston and the Gulf Coast region, and records Voigt's presence within this landscape. Using mark-making strategies evocative of artists like Joseph Beuys and Cy Twombly, Voigt's drawing takes its substructure from sources as diverse as geologic mapping and the force of gravitational pull. With the composition unfolding on two facing walls ten feet in height, this immersive piece is Voigt's largest work to date, and the first in which she employed chalk as the primary medium, in addition to graphite and gold leaf on wall paint.

Jorinde Voigt was born in 1977 in Frankfurt and currently lives and works in Berlin. She has had recent solo exhibitions in major museums across Germany and in Austria, and in 2012 won the prestigious Daniel and Florence Guerlain Contemporary Art Foundation Drawing Prize. Her work is included in major public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the British Museum, London; the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich; and the Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin, among others.

Said Menil Director Rebecca Rabinow, "The Menil Collection established the Menil Drawing Institute as a program in 2008 in order to create a vibrant hub for the acquisition, study, exhibition, conservation, and storage of modern and contemporary drawings. Since the opening of our new building last November, the Menil Drawing Institute has hosted exhibitions dedicated to the work of Jasper Johns and Roni Horn and has published the six-volume *Jasper Johns Catalogue Raisonné of Drawing*. This season, with the addition of our Lequeu exhibition, Jorinde Voigt's wall drawing, and the launch of two fellowship programs, our vision is more fully coming to life."

Menil Drawing Institute Scholars Program

Facilitating research has always been at the heart of the Menil Drawing Institute. The building's 30,000 square-foot home has dedicated spaces for teaching, study, and contemplative work. The Menil Collection is proud to announce the creation of two fellowships that will begin as early as fall 2020:

- The Menil Drawing Institute Pre-Doctoral Fellowship is open by application to American and international doctoral students whose dissertation research focuses on modern and/or contemporary drawing. The Pre-Doctoral Fellowship will be nine months in length, lasting from September to June each year.
- A more advanced Menil Drawing Institute Research Fellowship is awarded by invitation. It is intended for individuals with a specific research project and a proven track record in their fields: scholars, conservators, artists, choreographers, writers, or others whose practice pertains to drawing. The Research Fellowship generally lasts from three to nine months, between September and June, but could occasionally last one or two months.

Said Chief Curator Edouard Kopp, "The establishment of a fellowship program is a key component of the Menil Drawing Institute as it grows to become a major research center for modern and contemporary drawing. The program will foster the highest level of scholarship and make possible rich, interdisciplinary, object-based conversations on the drawing medium's history, theory, criticism, and practice."

The fellows at the Menil Drawing Institute are expected to participate in the cultural and intellectual life at the Menil, and to engage with the drawing collection. Fellows receive a generous stipend, are housed in a fully-furnished apartment in a bungalow on the Menil campus, and have access to the collections, archives, library, and staff at the Menil.

For more information, please contact mdi@menil.org and [visit our website](#).

About the Menil Collection

Houston philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to foster greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main building opened to the public. Today, some thirty years later, the Menil Collection consists of a group of five art buildings and greenspaces located within a residential neighborhood. The Menil embodies the ideals and values of its founders, in particular, that art is vital to human life and should be readily accessible to all persons.

A program of the Menil Collection since 2008, the Menil Drawing Institute has organized major traveling exhibitions and undertaken scholarly projects including the catalogue raisonné of the drawings of Jasper Johns. The Menil Drawing Institute's home, designed by the Los Angeles-based firm of Johnston Marklee with the collaboration of landscape architects Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, opened in November 2018.

All Menil art spaces are open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission to the Menil is always free.

About the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)

The Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) is the custodian of collections unique in the world, gathered for five centuries through the legal deposit instituted in 1537 by Francis I, King of

France. This collection is completed by acquisitions, donations, or bequests. The BnF keeps more than 40 million documents: 15 million books and magazines, a collection of some of the most beautiful manuscripts in the world, 15 million iconographic documents (photographs, prints, posters), maps, plans, musical scores, coins, medals, decorations and theater costumes, sound and audiovisual documents, video games, and billions of files collected since 2006 as part of the legal deposit of the French web. The drawings from the collections of the BnF presented in the exhibition *Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect, Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France* come from the Department of Prints and Photography.

This exhibition is organized by the Menil Collection and the Bibliothèque nationale de France with the support of Paris Musées.

On view at the Menil

Mapa Wiya (Your Map's Not Needed) – On view through February 2, 2020

Collection Close-Up: Of Heaven and Earth – Opening November 15, 2019

Photography and the Surreal Imagination – Opening February 5, 2020

Think of Them as Spaces: Brice Marden's Drawings – Opening February 21, 2020

Allora & Calzadilla: Specters of Noon – Opening May 15, 2020

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Images

Jean-Jacques Lequeu, *The Tomb of Isocrates, Athenian Orator (Tombeau d'Isocrate, orateur athénien)*, 1789. Ink on paper, 18 1/2 × 16 1/8 in. (46.9 × 40.9 cm). Collection of the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Photo: Bibliothèque nationale de France, dépt. des Estampes et de la photographie

Installation view of *Vertical*, 2019, by Jorinde Voigt on view now in the Menil Drawing Institute. The Menil Collection, Houston. Photo: Paul Hester

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