

**THE MENIL COLLECTION TO PRESENT *MONA HATOUM: TERRA INFIRMA*,
OCTOBER 13, 2017 – FEBRUARY 25, 2018, THE ARTIST'S FIRST MAJOR SOLO
EXHIBITION IN THE UNITED STATES IN TWENTY YEARS**

**Major Grant Funding from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the
National Endowment for the Arts will Support Exhibition and Scholarly Catalogue**

**Following the Menil Presentation, the Exhibition will Travel to the Pulitzer Arts
Foundation in St. Louis from April 6 – August 11, 2018**



HOUSTON, TX, December 22, 2016 –
The London and Berlin-based artist
Mona Hatoum (b. 1952) creates work
that addresses the growing unease of an
ever-expanding world, one that is as
technologically networked as it is
politically fractured by war and exile.
Investigating place and the body
through a minimalist language of form
and a wide range of materials, from
glass and steel to light and sand, her

sculptures and installations since the late-1980s are grounded in questions about how shifting geography and the limits of institutional structures can redefine our understanding of home.

Originating at the Menil Collection and organized by Curator Michelle White, *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma* is the artist's first major solo exhibition in the United States in more than twenty years. Opening October 13, 2017, the exhibition will present approximately 30 major sculptures and installations from North American and European collections. Highlights include work imbued with a sense of physical danger that challenge the idea of home as a place of rest and comfort. *Homebound* (1999) is a room-size assemblage of household objects and furniture threaded together by a crackling wire of live electricity. Other works depart from the Surrealist notion of the uncanny. *La grande broyeuse (Mouli-Julienne x 17)* (1999) is a monumentally-scaled

vegetable slicer. Hatoum transforms the familiar object into a strange and menacing creature through preposterous scale. The artist wants her work to “create a situation where reality itself becomes a questionable point, where [viewers] have to reassess their assumptions and their relationship to things around them.”

Said Curator Michelle White, “The Menil Collection is honored to present this exhibition by one of the most important international artists of our time. Hatoum’s work is thoughtful, surprising and poetic. I hope it will spark a variety of conversations with our audiences about everything from the language of contemporary sculpture to the precariousness of place and identity.”

Working closely with the artist and in tandem with the Menil’s celebrated Surrealist collection, the museum has developed a selection of works that will be presented in the museum’s west temporary exhibition galleries, with additional installations in the Surrealism and African galleries. Hatoum has long been interested in the power of unexpected encounters and material juxtapositions, using Surrealism as point of departure over the course of her more than forty year career. In a contemporary moment of global migration, displacement and political uncertainty, this provocative connection is particularly relevant today.

Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma will be accompanied by a scholarly catalogue with essays by Anna Chave, Adania Shibli, Rebecca Solnit and Michelle White. The book will include new photography of the artist’s works as installed in the Menil’s main museum building.

The Menil Collection has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and has been recommended to receive a \$50,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help support both the exhibition and the accompanying catalogue. The Andy Warhol Foundation’s grant activity is focused on serving the needs of artists by funding the institutions that support them. NEA Art Works grants are awarded for the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and strengthening of communities through the arts.

Following the Menil’s presentation of *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma*, the show will travel to the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in St. Louis, where it will be on view beginning April 6, 2018. Prior to the exhibition, Hatoum will be the inaugural artist-in-residence at the Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University, in the spring of 2017.

Said Menil Director Rebecca Rabinow, “Opening during our 30th anniversary year, the presentation of *Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma* reaffirms the Menil’s commitment to living artists, intellectual independence and risk-taking, the central role of research and scholarship in contemporary art, and collaborating with other arts institutions. We are honored to receive grant funding from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and to be recommended for an NEA Art Works grant that will assist us in making Hatoum’s work accessible to wide and diverse audiences in Houston.”

Born to a Palestinian family in Beirut, Mona Hatoum studied at Beirut University College, and the Slade School of Art in London, where she settled following the 1975 Civil War in Lebanon. She has had major exhibitions at the Center Georges Pompidou, Paris; Tate Modern, London; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and the Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; among other institutions. Hatoum was nominated for the 1995 Turner Prize and was included in important group exhibitions such as Documenta XI in 2002 and the 1995 and 2005 Venice Biennales. In 2011, Hatoum was awarded the Joan Miró Prize by Fundació Joan Miró.

About the Menil Collection

A legacy of the philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, the Menil Collection opened in 1987. The museum presents regular rotations of artworks from its growing permanent collection, organizes special exhibitions and programs throughout the year, publishes scholarly books, and conducts research into the conservation of modern and contemporary art. The Menil Collection’s main museum building, the first building in the United States designed by Renzo Piano, anchors a parklike 30-acre campus, which also includes the Cy Twombly Gallery, a site-specific Dan Flavin installation, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel—now a venue for long-term installations by contemporary artists—and outdoor sculpture. A new building for the Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee, opening October 7, 2017, will be the first freestanding facility in the United States designed expressly for the exhibition and study of modern and contemporary drawings. A celebratory 30th anniversary fundraising gala will be held on December 2, 2017, only the fourth to be held in the Menil’s history. A full schedule of 30th anniversary events will be announced in early 2017. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm, and charges no admission fee.

Also at the Menil

Picasso The Line – On view through January 8, 2017

Andy Warhol: Sunset – Screening once daily at 6pm through January 8, 2017

Holy Barbarians: Beat Culture on the West Coast – On view through March 12, 2017

ReCollecting Dogon – Opening February 3, 2017

The Beginning of Everything: Drawings from the Janie C. Lee, Louisa Stude Sarofim, and David Whitney Collections – Opening February 23, 2017

Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip – Opening April 14, 2017

Francis Alijs: The Fabiola Project – On view through January 28, 2018

The Condition of Being Here: Drawings by Jasper Johns – Inaugural exhibition of the Menil Drawing Institute opening October 7, 2017

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Image: Installation view of Mona Hatoum's La Grande Broyeuse (Mouli-Julienne x 17), 1999, at Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen (MUHKA), Belgium, 2000. Mild steel, 135 × 226 1/2 × 103 1/2 in. (343 × 575 × 263 cm), Discs each: 2 × 67 in. (5 × 170 cm). CGAC Collection, Santiago de Compostella. © Mona Hatoum. Photo: Wim van Neuten, Courtesy MUHKA, Antwerp.

Press Contact:

Menil Press Office

Tommy Napier

713 535 3170

tnapier@menil.org