

Artist Marc Bauer Unveils Final Alteration to *RESILIENCE, Drawing the Line* at the Menil Drawing Institute

Bauer's ephemeral wall drawing concludes its evolution with a third visit from the artist



HOUSTON—April 16, 2024—Swiss artist Marc Bauer (b. 1975) visited the Menil Collection for a third and final time to alter his wall drawing *RESILIENCE, Drawing the Line* on April 8-9. The 36-foot-wide mural, created with charcoal, pastel, and colored pencil, combines powerful imagery from art history with contemporary references to produce a thought-provoking narrative. Since its conception, Bauer's unique approach to the drawing included the intention to create a three-part framework, evolving the work over its year-long display. ***RESILIENCE, Drawing the Line* is on view at the Menil Drawing Institute through August 18, 2024.**

Wall Drawing Series: Marc Bauer debuted in September 2023 with a major theme of resilience woven throughout the mural. The second phase of this work focused on the theme of resistance. The final modifications represent utopia in its broadest sense. Bauer's incorporation of colorful mandala-inspired, floral-like shapes, shown in the detail above, frame select figures created in the initial drawing and signifies the achievement of a spiritual paradise.

"The addition of these abstract and dynamic shapes on top of heavier, traumatic images, shifts the narrative to bring the original visuals back to the conversation," Bauer said. "It reveals the healing process through which the figures go through to reach utopia."

The themes highlighted in *RESILIENCE*, though fundamentally distinctive, ultimately collapse in on themselves and integrate more and more as the story unfolds. Additionally, the inclusion of more color in each revision enhances the composition, providing a new focus and perspective.

Wall Drawing Series: Marc Bauer is curated by Kelly Montana, Assistant Curator, Menil Drawing Institute. The Menil's Wall Drawing Series began in 2018 as part of the Drawing Institute's commitment to seeking new approaches to the form and language of drawing. An interview with the artist is available at menil.org/marcbauer.

About the Artist

Marc Bauer has been creating socially and politically engaging art for more than twenty years. Based in Zurich, Switzerland, and Berlin, Germany, Bauer's art practice is grounded in reconfiguring existing images—from sources ranging from personal family albums to different news streams—with the goal of ultimately shaping a prismatic view of history, culture, and politics.

About the Menil Collection

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, the Menil Collection consists of a group of art buildings and green spaces located within a residential neighborhood in central Houston. The Menil remains committed to its founders' belief that art is essential to human experience and welcomes all visitors free of charge to its buildings and surrounding green spaces. menil.org

About the Menil Drawing Institute

The Menil Drawing Institute was established in 2008 in recognition of drawing's centrality in the lives of artists and its crucial role in modern and contemporary artistic culture. The Drawing Institute has since developed an international profile for exhibitions, scholarship, and collaboration. In 2018, a dedicated building for the Menil Drawing Institute, designed by Johnston Marklee, was inaugurated. It is now the site of regular drawings exhibitions, an annual monumental wall drawing commission, public programs, and study. menil.org/drawing-institute

Funding

This wall drawing is generously supported by John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation; Cindy and David Fitch; Caroline Huber; Dillon Kyle and Sam Lasseter; Scott and Judy Nyquist; Leslie and Shannon Sasser; Elizabeth and Barry Young/UBS Private Wealth; and Nina and Michael Zilkha

Image Caption

Detail view of *RESILIENCE, Drawing the Line*, 2023 at the Menil Drawing Institute. Photo: Paul Hester

Press Contacts

The Menil Collection
Jennifer Greene, Communications Manager
(713) 525-9477 / jgreene@menil.org

Polskin Arts
Tommy Napier, Vice President
(212) 715-1694 / tommy.napier@finnpartners.com