

The Menil Collection Unveils New Wall Drawing by Ronny Quevedo at the Menil Drawing Institute

Museum commissions artist for the sixth installment of its site-specific Wall Drawing Series



HOUSTON—*September 17, 2024*—The Menil Collection is pleased to present the sixth installment of the Menil Drawing Institute’s ephemeral *Wall Drawing Series* with a site-specific work by New York-based artist Ronny Quevedo (b. 1981). ***Wall Drawing Series: Ronny Quevedo is on view at the Menil Drawing Institute through August 2025.***

The 36-foot triptych, *C A R A A C A R A*, 2024, explores the relationship between origin, transfer, and translation, with each panel of the composition indicating a different step in the artist’s process. Quevedo uses drawing, particularly schematic renderings, in his practice to explore the visual languages of abstraction, cartography, cosmology, and sport from across the Americas. The artist builds upon these interests with interconnected diagrams and markings spread across his works to express the complex relationships between body, home, field, globe, and celestial spaces.

The title, *C A R A A C A R A*, or “face-to-face” in English, derives from the pattern paper Quevedo uses in his work—the “face”, or visible side of the fabric in sewing patterns. More abstractly, the artist sees it as a sense of encountering or confrontation that results when

cultures or worlds collide. By using dressmaker wax paper as his foremost material, Quevedo can reproduce images in a way that shows the transformation from the initial drawing to its conclusion, while simultaneously connecting with his mother's history as a seamstress.

In speaking about his work, Quevedo said, "I'm fascinated with how unaligned objects can come together, and how we develop diagrams that map a neutral space. By connecting different symbolic representations, it provides a collective understanding and an entry point for myself and the viewer."

The first panel of the work was created by smoothing dressmaker wax paper against the surface and imprinting marks by pressing into the wall using a bone folder—a small tool for folding and creasing, often used in bookbinding and origami—along with other tools resulting in the transference of blue lines. For the second panel, that same paper was pressed against the wall using heat, suffusing the surface with blue pigmented wax. The grooves in the first panel reveal white lines and indications of the previous drawing. In the third panel, the creased and eroded paper is applied directly onto the surface of the wall. Using mica and layers of chalk to intensify the piece, Quevedo echoes the movements and markings created in the initial two panels to form a visual allegory of what we inherit from the past, how it shapes our present, and what we will pass down to the future.



Wall Drawing Series: Ronny Quevedo is curated by Kelly Montana, Associate Curator, Menil Drawing Institute. The Drawing Institute's *Wall Drawing Series* began in 2018 as part of the its commitment to seeking new approaches to the form and language of drawing. Past participants include Marc Bauer, Mel Bochner, Roni Horn, Marcia Kure, and Jorinde Voigt.

About the Artist

Ronny Quevedo received his BFA from Cooper Union in 2003 and his MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2013. From 2012 to 2014, he was a CORE Fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Quevedo's work has been the subject of many solo exhibitions, including *Ronny Quevedo: ule ole allez*, Locust Projects, Miami, FL (2022); *Ronny Quevedo: at the line*,

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, CO (2021); *no hay medio tiempo / there is no halftime*, Queens Museum, NY (2017), traveled to Temple Contemporary, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Philadelphia, PA (2019), among others. Quevedo has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including *El Dorado: Myths of Gold*, Americas Society/Council of the Americas, New York, NY (2023); *ReVisión*, Denver Art Museum, CO (2021); *Pacha, Llacta, Wasichay; Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2018), among others. Quevedo's work is in the collections of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, NY; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, CO; Denver Art Museum, CO; Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. He is the recipient of many awards and grants, including the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Grant (2022); Joan Mitchell Fellowship (2021); Harpo Foundation New Work Project Grant (2021); Jerome Hill Artists Fellowship (2019); A Blade of Grass Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art (2017); Socrates Sculpture Park Artist Fellowship (2017); Queens Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists (2016); Eliza Long Prize, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2014 & 2013); New American Paintings MFA Annual 99 (2012); BRIO Award, Bronx Council on the Arts (2011); Gloucester Landscape Painting Prize, Yale School of Art (2011); and PRINT Magazine Regional Design Annual (2008). He currently lives and works in New York, NY.

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

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Image Captions

1. Artist Ronny Quevedo in front of *C A R A A C A R A*, 2024, at the Menil Drawing Institute, Houston. Photo: Sarah Hobson
2. Installation view of *C A R A A C A R A*, 2024, at the Menil Drawing Institute, Houston. Photo: Sarah Hobson

Press Contacts

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

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