

**THE WORLD OUTSIDE  
SOPHEAP PICH**

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# FOREWORD

TYLER ROLLINS

*The World Outside*, the second of a two-part exhibition of new works by Sopheap Pich, features seven floor-standing or wall-hanging sculptures, mainly organic in form. Constructed from strips of bamboo and rattan, Pich's primary media, they also make use of a diverse array of natural materials, including goat hide, stone, and antler, as well as naturally curved bamboo stalks. The title of the exhibition takes its inspiration from Louis MacNeice's poem "Snow," in which the narrator is transfixed by the contrast between a vase of pink roses placed in front of his window, and the snowy scene outside. Contemplating how these two opposing realities, the worlds inside and outside the house, are demarcated by a few windowpanes, he comes to the realization that "there is more than glass between the snow and the huge roses" – for they are separated by something much more complex and profound that gives us a hint of the mysterious complexities of the world. Each of the works in the exhibition in some way embodies this sense of a hidden mystery that is revealed through an intimate encounter with a physical object in the natural world. In each we feel that something concealed or overlooked has been exposed, often at an unfamiliar scale: biomorphic structures based on the human heart and circulatory system; obscure elements of the natural landscape, such as tiny seed pods and sinuous trails made by passing animals; or the rough bricks, each unique, that are typically covered over during building construction. The distinction between flora and fauna begins to blur, with an open heart resembling a fruitful vine, or a pair of seed pods becoming human lungs. The materials themselves embody this process, with goat hide often wrapping the rattan structures, like skin stretched over a skeleton. "All the works in the exhibition have different qualities of ambiguity, and one has to read into the materials and forms for clues to their meaning," Pich explains. "This exhibition can be thought of as a musician's album, with each 'song' or artwork standing for the various things I think about on a daily basis. But when they all come together, they have an emotional rhythm and narrative structure that shows a journey through the relationship between personal reflection and the external objects or events that we experience which are accepted by our mind but exist independently of it."

Pich is widely considered to be Cambodia's most internationally prominent contemporary artist. Born in Battambang, Cambodia, in 1971, he moved with his family to the United States in 1984. After receiving his BFA (University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1995) and MFA (The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1999), he returned to Cambodia in 2002, where he began working with local materials – bamboo, rattan, burlap, beeswax and earth pigments gathered from around Cambodia – to make sculptures inspired by bodily organs, vegetal forms, and abstract geometric structures. Pich's childhood experiences during the genocidal conditions of late 1970s Cambodia had a lasting impact on his work, informing its themes of time, memory, and the body. His sculptures stand out for their subtlety and power, combining refinement of form with a visceral, emotive force.

Pich has exhibited at numerous museums and biennials around the world, including Documenta (2013) and the Venice Biennale (2017). In 2013, he presented a highly acclaimed solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, entitled *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*. The museum's first solo show given to a contemporary Southeast Asian artist, the exhibition constituted what *Art in America* called "a cameo retrospective, since its 10 works accurately reflect the range of the artist's motifs from 2005 to late 2012." It included several large biomorphic rattan sculptures alongside works from Pich's grid-based *Wall Reliefs*, an ongoing series that reflects his interest in abstraction and conceptualization. Pich's works can be found in numerous museum collections around the world, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Cleveland Museum of Art; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Singapore Art Museum; M+, Hong Kong; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.





VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



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**NEW DWELLINGS**

2018

bamboo, rattan, wire

126 x 63 x 63 inches (320 x 160 x 160 cm)



LOVE HILL TRAIL

2018

bamboo, wood, goat hide, wire, bronze

67 ¾ x 64 x 26 inches (172 x 163 x 66 cm)



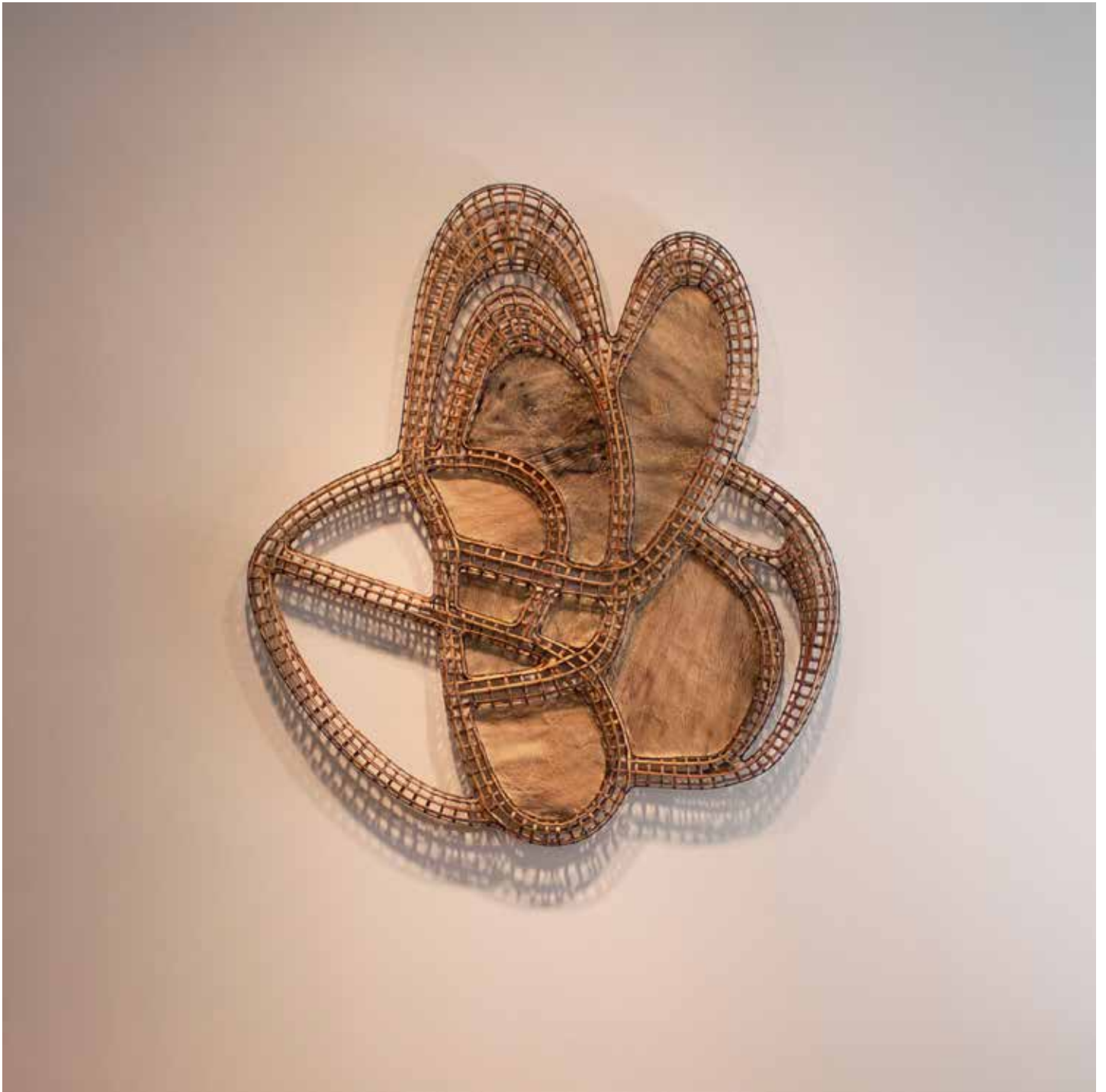
DYAD

2019

wood, bamboo, rattan, wire

117 ¾ x 65 ¼ x 12 ¼ inches (299 x 166 x 31 cm)





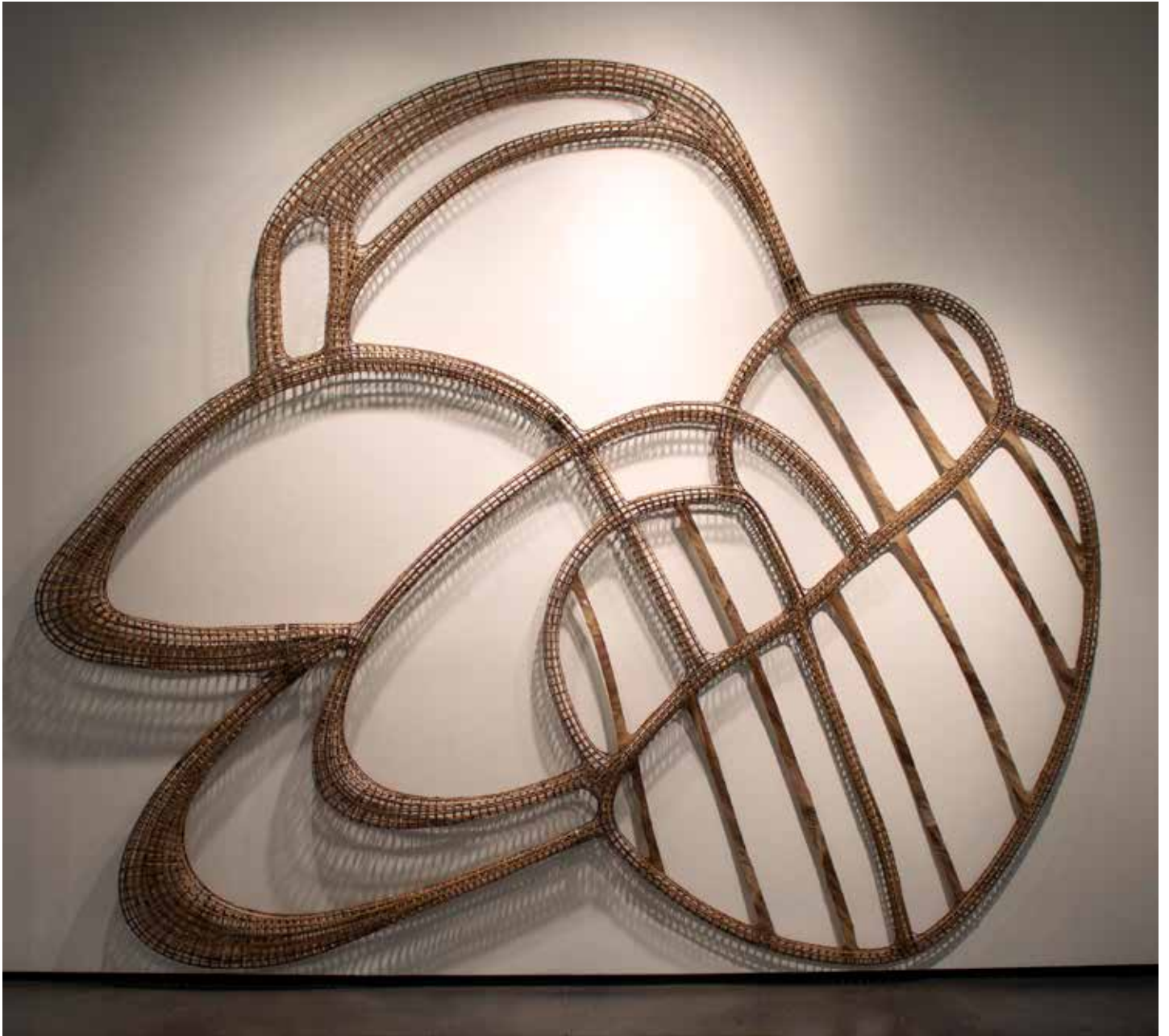
**TRENCHES**

2019

rattan, goat hide, wire

49 x 43 ¼ x 3 ¾ inches (124 x 110 x 9.5 cm)





TRENCHES 2

2019

bamboo, rattan, cow hide, wire

147 ¼ x 135 x 5 inches (374 x 343 x 13 cm)



**AT REST**

2019

rattan, goat hide, wire, synthetic resin, damar resin, beeswax, charcoal  
61 x 39 x 28 inches (154 x 99 x 72 cm)



RIDING FOR THE FEELING

2018

bamboo, wood, stone, antler

81 ½ x 21 ¼ x 16 ½ inches (207 x 54 x 42 cm)

# SOPHEAP PICH

## SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Born 1971 in Battambang, Cambodia. Lives and works in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

### EDUCATION

1999 MFA in painting: The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA.  
 1995 BFA in painting: The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA, USA.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *The World Outside*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2018 *Expanses*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2017 *Hidden Nature: Sopheap Pich*, The Crow Collection, Dallas, TX, USA.  
*Sopheap Pich: from studio to fine art*, Institut francais du Cambodge, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2016 *Rang Phnom Flower*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2015 *Structures*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2014 *Sopheap Pich: A Room*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA.  
 2013 *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Reliefs*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Compound*, Brookfield Place Winter Garden, New York, NY, USA.  
*Collection+ Sopheap Pich*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.  
 2011 *Morning Glory*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Compound*, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA.  
 2010 *Fragile*, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2009 *The Pulse Within*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2008 *Strands*, The Esplanade, Singapore.  
 2007 *Recent Works From Kunming*, TCG/Nordica, Kunming, China.  
 2006 *Moha Saen Anett*, Gallery Dong Xi, Vestfossen, Norway.  
 2005 *Chomlak, sculptures and drawings*, The Arts Lounge of Hotel de la Paix, Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
*Sculptures and Drawings*, Amansara Resort, Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
 2004 *Pdao*, French Cultural Center Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2003 *Excavating the Vessels*, Java Café and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2002 *Recent Works*, The Brewery Studio, Boston, MA, USA.  
 1997 *Empty Wooden Cigarette Boxes From Cambodia*, the Augusta Savage Gallery, Amherst, MA, USA.

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Minimalism: Space. Light. Object*, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore.  
*Angkor: Exploring Cambodia's Sacred City*, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore.  
*Trees of Life - Knowledge in Material*, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Singapore.  
*Two houses: Politics and histories in the contemporary art collections of John Chia and Yeap Lam Yang*, Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, Singapore.

*We the People: New Art from the Collection*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.  
*In Search of Southeast Asia through the M+ Collections*, M+ Pavilion, West Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
*Sopheap Pich - Khvay Samnang - Shooshie Sulaiman*, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.  
 2017 *Viva Arte Viva*, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.  
*Drawing: The Beginning of Everything*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
*Buddha's Smile*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.  
*SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.  
*Flora and Fauna*, Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.  
 2016 *For the Love of Things: Still Life*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
*Histories of the Future*, National Museum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2015 *Drawn from Nature*, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX, USA.  
*Renaissance*, Lille3000, Lille, France.  
*First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
*"I Want Justice"*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, USA.  
 Selected works on exhibition, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA.  
 2014 *The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections*, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain.  
*No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore.  
*Re: Collection*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA.  
*Medium at Large*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
*TRANSMISSION*, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand.  
 2013 Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia.  
 Dojima River Biennale, Dojima River Forum, Osaka, Japan.  
*Collecting Art of Asia*, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA, USA.  
 2012 *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia*, Asia Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore.  
*Invisible Cities*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, USA.  
*dOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, Germany.  
 2011 Asian Art Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan.  
 Singapore Biennale, Singapore.  
*Here / Not Here: Buddha Presence in Eight Recent Works*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 2010 *Classic Contemporary: Contemporary Southeast Asian Art from the Singapore Art Museum Collection*, Singapore Art Museum.  
 2009 Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia.  
 Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Fukuoka, Japan.  
 2008 *Strategies from Within*, Ke Center for the Contemporary Arts, Shanghai, China.  
*The Mekong Project*, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos.  
 2006 *Paint Around the Dog*, with Jack Bauer, Lake Studio, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
*2+3+4 Cambodian/Vietnamese Exchange*, Java Cafe and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2005 *Visual Arts Open*, Elsewhere and New Art Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
*Première Vue*, Passage de Retz, Paris, France.  
*Je/Jeu*, French Cultural Center, Yangon, Myanmar.



- 2004 *Guide*, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 2001 *Subject Picture*, The Optimistic, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2000 *Just Good Art 2000*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Memory: Personal and Social Testimonies*, the Augusta Savage Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA.
- 1999 *Altered Object*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Young Talents II*, Contemporary Arts Workshop, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*MFA Thesis Exhibition, G2*, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.  
*Yellow/Face*, Gallery Pilson East, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Cows on Parade*, a collaborative project with J. Zakin and S. Biggers for The Chicago Park District, The Field Museum Campus, Chicago, IL, USA.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA.  
 Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA.  
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA, USA.  
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA.  
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, USA.  
 The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, USA.  
 The Ford Foundation, New York, NY, USA.  
 Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.  
 Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.  
 M+ Museum of Visual Culture, Hong Kong.  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan.  
 Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
 MAIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.  
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.  
 Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.

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