

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE

THE WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART AND HYUNDAI MOTOR PRESENT THE WORK OF MARINA ZURKOW AS THE NEXT HYUNDAI TERRACE COMMISSION



New York, NY, December 10, 2024 — The Whitney Museum of American Art and Hyundai Motor Company present the next [Hyundai Terrace Commission](#) by Marina Zurkow. The artwork [The River is a Circle](#) will be on view on the Whitney's fifth-floor terrace from April 2025 through early 2026.

Shown on a large-scale video wall, *The River is a Circle* is an animation based on custom software that depicts a complex river ecosystem of fluctuating social and biological groups, such as traveling vessels, schools of fish, and oyster reefs. The animation, accompanied by an installation, offers a split view of the Hudson River, revealing the world above and below the water. Driven by algorithmic probability and real-time climate and tide data from the Hudson River estuary, the software continuously reflects New York City's current weather conditions.

This innovative work by Marina Zurkow, in collaboration with James Schmitz and Blake Goble, marks the Museum's second Hyundai Terrace Commission, a newly imagined annual site-specific installation project supported by Hyundai Motor as part of a multiyear partnership. The [10-year partnership between the Whitney and Hyundai Motor](#) expands a shared

commitment to presenting the most relevant art and ideas of our time and opening up discussions for audiences worldwide.

“Marina’s work has consistently engaged with the complexities of ecosystems in a poetic way, and the Whitney Museum’s 5th floor terrace is a prime location for her site-specific exploration of local waterways and history,” said Whitney Curator of Digital Art Christiane Paul. “Her installation will invite visitors to see the museum in the multilayered context of its environment.”

“We are at a crucial moment in which we must devise an integrated approach to exploring sustainability in the environmental, economic, and social domains,” said DooEun Choi, Art Director of Hyundai Motor Company. “The upcoming Hyundai Terrace Commission will introduce us to an ever-changing ecosystem that our interconnected surroundings generate in real time, triggering us to take collective action for a shared future.”

About Marina Zurkow

Marina Zurkow is a media artist focused on near-impossible nature and culture intersections, researching “wicked problems” like invasive species, superfund sites, and petroleum interdependence. She has used life science, bio materials, animation, dinners and software technologies to foster intimate connections between people and non-human agents. Her work spans gallery installations and unconventional public participatory projects. Currently, she is working on connecting toxic urban waterways to oceans, and researching the tensions between maritime ecology and the ocean’s primary human use as a capitalist Pangea.

Recent solo shows include Chronus Art Center, Shanghai, bitforms gallery, NY, Montclair Museum of Art, and Diverseworks, Houston, and exhibitions at Sundance New Frontiers, FACT, Liverpool, SFMOMA, Walker Art Center, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Wave Hill, NY, and the National Museum for Women in the Arts. She has collaborated with Social Science and Humanities scholars at Rice University, New York University, and the University of Minnesota. Zurkow is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow, and received grants from NYFA, NYSCA, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Creative Capital. She is a full time faculty member at ITP / Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, and is represented by bitforms gallery.

PRESS CONTACT

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ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning “island of many hills.” The Museum’s current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Sapponckanikan (“tobacco field”). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region’s original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum’s Land Acknowledgment, [visit the Museum’s website](#).

ABOUT HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is present in over 200 countries with more than 120,000 employees dedicated to tackling real-world mobility challenges around the globe. Based on the brand vision ‘Progress for Humanity,’ Hyundai Motor is accelerating its transformation into a Smart Mobility Solution Provider. The company invests in advanced technologies such as robotics and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) to bring about revolutionary mobility solutions while pursuing open innovation to introduce future mobility services. In pursuit of a sustainable future for the world, Hyundai will continue its efforts to introduce zero-emission vehicles with industry-leading hydrogen fuel cell and EV technologies.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:
<https://www.hyundai.com/worldwide/en/> or [Newsroom: Media Hub by Hyundai](#)

About Hyundai Motor's Art Projects

For over a decade, Hyundai Motor Company has deepened its partnerships with global museums and cultural organizations, including the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA), Tate, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and the Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Most recently, Hyundai Motor announced a new 10-year partnership with the Whitney Museum of American Art to support the Whitney Biennial and the museum's newly launched Hyundai Terrace Commission. Hyundai Motor's own art-initiatives include open call programs such as the VH AWARD, the Hyundai Blue Prize, and Artlab Editorial, a digital platform dedicated to art writing by transnational voices. Our ongoing collaborations embrace the complexities of the cultural landscape by exploring new ideas and perspectives within and beyond the art ecosystem.

Visit <https://artlab.hyundai.com> or follow @hyundai.artlab #HyundaiArtlab to learn more about our partnerships and programs.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Whitney members: FREE. Beginning December 11, the Whitney will offer FREE admission to all visitors 25 years of age and younger. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.

Image credit: Photograph by Karin Jobst

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