

# WHITNEY

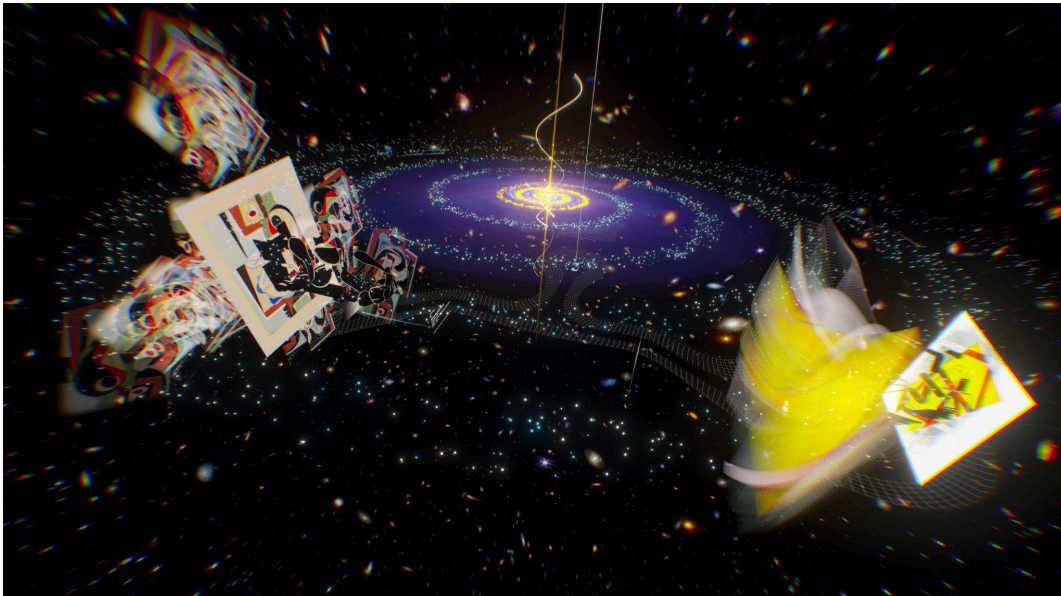
Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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## MEDIA ALERT

### THE WHITNEY WILL HOST PUBLIC PROGRAM SET IN THE MUSEUM'S VIRTUAL LANDSCAPE EXPLORING INTERSECTIONS OF SCIENCE AND ART HISTORY



*Join artist Ashley Zelinskie and curator Christiane Paul for a conversation set in the virtual world of *Twin Quasar*, a digital work that was commissioned by the Whitney for artport.*

**New York, April 23, 2025** — The Whitney Museum of American Art will host [Exploring \*Twin Quasar\*: A Conversation on Art, Science, and Virtual Worlds](#) on **Thursday, May 22** from **12–1 pm**. The program features a conversation between artist Ashley Zelinskie and curator Christiane Paul set within the [Whitney Museum Virtual Landscape](#) on the MONA platform, where Zelinskie's [Twin Quasar](#) is accessible. *Twin Quasar* is a virtual reality artwork that combines elements of science and art history, and builds on the artist's eight-year coordination with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope team and discussions with European Space Agency scientist Tim Rawle.

Exploring the intersections between science and art history, *Twin Quasar* turns two works from the Whitney's collection into navigable 3D models and draws parallels between phenomena in physics and the artist's exploration of space and form. The conversation between Zelinskie and Paul will delve into the work's conceptual and technical creation process, the potential virtual worlds as gallery spaces, the artistic practice of "sci-art," and the challenges of balancing art

historical context and scientific research. Following the discussion, attendees are invited to explore the artworks in the virtual space on MONA. More information about *Twin Quasar* can be found online at [whitney.org/exhibitions/twin-quasar](https://whitney.org/exhibitions/twin-quasar).

## PROGRAM LISTING

### Exploring Twin Quasar: A Conversation on Art, Science, and Virtual Worlds

Thursday, May 22, 12–1 pm

Join artist Ashley Zelinskie and Christiane Paul, the Whitney's Curator of Digital Art, for a conversation in the virtual world of Zelinskie's work *Twin Quasar*. The conversation explores the work's conceptual and technical creation process and the potential of using virtual worlds as gallery spaces.

**Location:** Whitney Museum Virtual Landscape

**Tickets:** Free with registration. Register to attend online.

**Event Link:** [whitney.org/events/exploring-twin-quasar](https://whitney.org/events/exploring-twin-quasar)

Ashley Zelinskie's [Twin Quasar](https://whitney.org/exhibitions/twin-quasar) is commissioned by the Whitney Museum for [artport](https://artport.org), the Museum's online gallery space for net art and new media art commissions. *Twin Quasar* is produced by James Tunick, CEO of [The IMC Lab](https://theimclab.com) and XR/AI pioneer and artist who has created award-winning virtual worlds. Support on [MONA](https://mona.art) is contributed by platform founder and CEO Justin Melillo, a pioneer in advancing open, immersive virtual worlds. Artport projects are organized by Christiane Paul, Curator of Digital Art at the Whitney. More information about artport can be found at [whitney.org/artport](https://whitney.org/artport).

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ashley Zelinskie is a Brooklyn-based conceptual artist employing media as vehicles in service of underlying concepts. Her works span a variety of media, from sculpture, canvas and print works to digital art, VR, and holograms. Each artwork is created using technologies such as 3D printing, computer-guided laser cutting, satellite plating technology, and gaming engines. Her work focuses on visualizing data in abstract forms and finding new and interesting ways to describe complex ideas. Ashley's work has been featured by The New York Times, The New Yorker, Vice, Popular Science, Space.com, and Hyperallergic. Her work forms part of the permanent collection of the US Department of State Art in Embassies Program, has been exhibited at Sotheby's New York, ArtScience Museum in Singapore and Art Center Nabi in Seoul. Ashley is a former resident of NEW INC, the New Museum's Art and Technology Incubator, and the Shapeways x Museum of Art and design "Out of Hand" exhibition residency. She is currently working in coordination with NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Smithsonian and is a member of Onassis ONX XR studio in New York City.

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## ABOUT ARTPORT

artport is the Whitney Museum's portal to Internet art and an online gallery space for net art and new media art commissions. Launched in 2001, artport provides access to original commissioned artworks, documentation of net art and new media art exhibitions at the Whitney, and new media art in the Museum's collection. Recent commissions include Maya Man's *A Realistic Day In My Life In New York City* (2024); Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst's *xhairymutantx* (2024); Nancy Baker Cahill's *CENTO* (2024); Peter Burr's *Sunshine Monument* (2023); Rick Silva's *Liquid Crystal* (2023); Auriea Harvey's *SITE1* (2023); Amelia Winger-Bearskin's *Sky/World Death/World* (2022); Mimi Onuoha's *40% of Food in the US is Wasted (How the Hell is That Progress, Man?)* (2022); and Rachel Rossin's *THE MAW OF* (2022). Access these and more projects at [whitney.org/artport](https://whitney.org/artport).

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## PRESS CONTACT

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site at [whitney.org/press](https://whitney.org/press) or 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 Acknowledgement, [visit the Museum’s website](#).

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## **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. Visitors twenty-five years and under and Whitney members: FREE. 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:**

Ashley Zelinskie, screenshot of *Twin Quasar*, 2024. Commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art

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