WHITNEY

PRESS RELEASE

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of American Art
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WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ROBUST PERFORMANCE SERIES FOR THE 2026 BIENNIAL

New York, NY, March 6, 2026 — The Whitney Museum of American Art announces an engaging performance series as part of *Whitney Biennial 2026*. The performances will activate the Whitney's building and terraces as well as the surrounding neighborhood and parks. This year's schedule offers a unique opportunity to experience the performances from various vantage points, inside and outside the Museum. Almost all of the artists included in the Biennial performance series also have artwork featured in the galleries. Some performances will take place in the Museum's galleries, engaging with artworks from the Biennial or Whitney collection. Marking the 82nd edition of the Museum's landmark exhibition series and the longest-running survey of American art, the 2026 Biennial is co-organized by Whitney curators Marcela Guerrero and Drew Sawyer, and brings together artists working across media and disciplines, reflecting evolving notions of American art.

2026 Whitney Biennial Performance Schedule

March 19–August 23: *End of Days,* Niles Harris with Dyer Rhoads
March 22, July 11: *Doomscroll (Live Show),* Joshua Citarella
April 4: *Pat Oleszko: Reel Life Performantz,* Pat Oleszko
May 14, 16, 17: *BEING MOVED,* Maia Chao
May 15–17: *magic hour–golden time,* Jonathan González

July 10: *Exive* II, Gabriela Ruiz
August 27–29: Julio Torres and Martine Gutierrez

More information about the performances and how to reserve tickets will be available online. Details will be added to the Museum's website as they are available. For the most up-to-date information, please visit whitney.org/b26performances.

PERFORMANCE LISTINGS

End of Days
Niles Harris & Dyer Rhoads
March 19, June 4, July 16, August 12 at 5 pm
April 23, May 9, May 27, June 20, June 27, August 1, August 8, August 22 at 4pm
March 28, March 29, April 3, May 1, May 17, June 28, July 24, August 23 at 12 pm
April 15, June 12, July 8 at 2 pm
May 20, August 20 at 8 pm

Nile Harris and his collaborator Dyer Rhoads expand on the sculpture *Dark Brown Birkin Bag* (2026), featured in the fifth-floor gallery, through the uncrating of a second work of art on the exhibition floor.

End of Days was commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art as part of the 2026 Whitney Biennial.

Location: Floor 5, Exhibition Galleries
Tickets: Free with Museum admission for all shows except May 20 and August 20, which will require tickets. Tickets for May 20 and August 20 will be available soon.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/end-of-days

Doomscroll (Live Show)
Joshua Citarella
March 22 at 11:30 am
July 11 at 11:30 am

Presented as part of the 2026 Whitney Biennial, Doomscroll is a podcast that explores online culture and politics in the 21st century. The live podcast will feature filmmaker John Wilson on March 22 and political scientist Francis Fukuyama on July 11. Previous episodes can be found here.

The July 11 program coincides with West Side Fest, a free, multi-site celebration bringing the best of arts and culture on Manhattan's West Side. West Side Fest returns July 10–12, 2026.

Location: Floor 3, Theater
March 22 Tickets: Tickets are required ($30 adults; $25 members, seniors, and students). Capacity is limited; visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.
March 22 Event Link: whitney.org/events/doomscroll-live
July 11 Tickets: Ticket information will be released closer to the date of the event.
July 11 Event Link: whitney.org/events/doomscroll-live-july

Pat Oleszko: Reel Life Performantz
Pat Oleszko
April 4 at 2 pm

This screening will present a selection of Oleszko's moving image works, of which she produced more than 70 between the 1970s to the 2000s. The screening will be followed by a conversation between Pat Oleszko, Jovanna Venegas, co-curator of *Pat Oleszko: Fool Disclosure*, and Drew Sawyer, the Whitney's Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography.

Presented in partnership with SculptureCenter on the occasion of *Pat Oleszko: Fool Disclosure* running until April 27, 2026.

Location: Floor 3, Theater
Tickets: Ticket information will be released on March 10.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/pat-oleszko

BEING MOVED
Maia Chao
May 14, 16, 17 at 7 pm

This performance explores the theatricality and choreography of a museum visit in the galleries of the Whitney Museum's permanent collection exhibition, *"Untitled" (America).* Centering the visitor's experience, *BEING MOVED* locates its subject not in the artworks themselves, but in the social rules, scripts, and patterns that condition our encounters with art. Tracing the gap between the fantasy of a profound encounter and the ambivalent realities of contemporary spectatorship, the work plays with the ordinary and minor dramas of a museum visit.

BEING MOVED was commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art as part of the 2026 Whitney Biennial.

Location: Floor 7, Exhibition Galleries
Tickets: Ticket information will be released closer to the date of the event.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/maia-chao

magic hour–golden time
Jonathan González
May 15, 6–9 pm
May 16 and 17, 4–7 pm

magic hour–golden time is a durational performance in which five performers activate the Museum's terraces as both stage and vantage point. The work draws on the Japanese aesthetic concept of shakkei—"borrowed scenery"—and the German Romantic compositional device of Rückenfigur, in which a figure is seen from behind, gazing into a landscape. Together, these frameworks shape a choreography of looking and being looked at, situating the body within relations of scale, perception, and environment.

magic hour–golden time unfolds over a three-hour duration, during which the performers relocate at the top of each hour to activate a different outdoor terrace of the Whitney. The

performance can be witnessed from multiple perspectives throughout its duration: from within the Museum's galleries, terraces, and stairwells, as well as from public pedestrian viewpoints including the surrounding sidewalks, waterfront, and the High Line. Viewers are invited to encounter the work from changing positions, emphasizing movement, perception, and the shared experience of time across interior and exterior spaces.

magic hour–golden time was commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American as part of the 2026 Whitney Biennial and is co-presented with support from Frieze.

Location: Floor 6
Tickets: Free with Museum admission.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/gonzalez-golden-time

Exive II
Gabriela Ruiz
July 10

A forklift, built for cargo, for weight, for work, becomes Ruiz's partner, lifting her into the air with a slow, deliberate tenderness that feels both perilous and reverent. Her body rises, not as a spectacle of fragility, but as a figure of power, suspended, carried, guided through space by a dance of steel, air, and breath.

The performance shifts between sharp mechanical precision and moments of ecstatic release, where menial labor turns luminous and gravity becomes negotiable. There is an echo of the quinceañera, of ceremonial elevation, of being lifted into visibility, yet here the ritual is rewritten.

This performance coincides with West Side Fest, a free, multi-site celebration bringing the best of arts and culture on Manhattan's West Side. West Side Fest returns July 10–12, 2026.

Location: Gansevoort Street
Tickets: Ticket information will be released closer to the date of the event.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/gabriela-ruiz

Julio Torres and Martine Gutierrez
August 27–29

More information about the new work by Martine Gutierrez and Julio Torres will be announced soon.

Location: To be announced at a later date.
Tickets: Ticket information will be released closer to the date of the event.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/gutierrez-torres

ABOUT *WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2026*
Opening March 8, *Whitney Biennial 2026* is the 82nd edition of the Museum's landmark exhibition series and the longest-running survey of American art. Featuring 56 artists, duos, and collectives across most of the Museum's galleries, the Biennial is accompanied by a robust

schedule of performance and public programs at the Museum and online. Co-organized by Marcela Guerrero and Drew Sawyer, the exhibition brings together artists working across media and disciplines, reflecting evolving notions of American art.

Whitney Biennial 2026 offers a vivid, atmospheric survey shaped by a moment of profound complexity. The work on view examines varied forms of relationality, from interspecies and familial kinships to geopolitical entanglements, technological affinities, shared mythologies, and the infrastructures that support and constrain contemporary life. Rather than offering a definitive answer to life today, the exhibition foregrounds mood and texture, inviting visitors into environments that evoke tension, tenderness, humor, and unease, while proposing imaginative, unruly, and unexpected forms of coexistence.

Whitney Biennial 2026 is organized by Marcela Guerrero, DeMartini Family Curator, and Drew Sawyer, Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography, with Beatriz Cifuentes, Biennial Curatorial Assistant, and Carina Martinez, Rubio Butterfield Family Fellow.

PRESS CONTACT

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EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Whitney Biennial 2026 is presented by

HYUNDAI

The exhibition is also sponsored by

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Leadership support for the 2026 Whitney Biennial is provided by David Cancel, and Stephanie March and Dan Benton.

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Family Foundation | Kevin, Rosemary, and Hannah Rose McNeely; and the Whitney's National Committee.

Significant support is provided by Sotheby's.

2026 Biennial Committee Co-Chairs: Sarah Arison, Paul Arnhold and Wes Gordon, Suzanne and Bob Cochran, Salvador Espinoza and Jonathan Rozoff, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Further Forward Foundation, Becky Gochman, Christina Hribar, Stephanie and Tim Ingrassia, Peter H. Kahng, Deepa Kumaraiah and Sean Dempsey, Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins, Dawn and David Lenhardt, Sueyun and Gene Locks, George Petrocheilos and Diamantis Xylas, Nancy and Fred Poses, Dr. Jan Siegmund and Dr. Benjamin Maddox, Ron and Ann Pizzuti, Jackson Tang, Teresa Tsai, and Todd White and Cameron Carani.

2026 Biennial Committee: Shelley Fox Aarons and Philip Aarons; Susan and Matthew Blank; Estrellita and Daniel Brodsky; James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach; Yolanda Colón-Greenberg and Craig Greenberg; Stephen Dull; Charlotte Feng Ford; Christy and Bill Gautreaux; Elaine Goldman and John Benis; Grace Gould and Jonathan Goldberg; Marieluise Hessel; Judelson Family Foundation; Michèle Gerber Klein; Gina Feldman Love and Steven Feldman; Joel Lubin; Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi; Marc S. Solomon, Cindy Levine & Interlaken LLC; The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation; Jamie Watson in memory of Emmett Watson; George Wells and Manfred Rantner; Casey and Lauren Weyand; and an anonymous donor.

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Support is also provided by the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Performance, endowed in honor of his parents Anna and Harold Weinberg who taught him the meaning of giving.

The Whitney Biennial and Hyundai Terrace Commission are a multiyear partnership with Hyundai Motor. The Hyundai Terrace Commission is an annual site-specific installation on the Whitney Museum's fifth-floor outdoor gallery.

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.

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:
Photo by Jade Mainade

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