

# WHITNEY

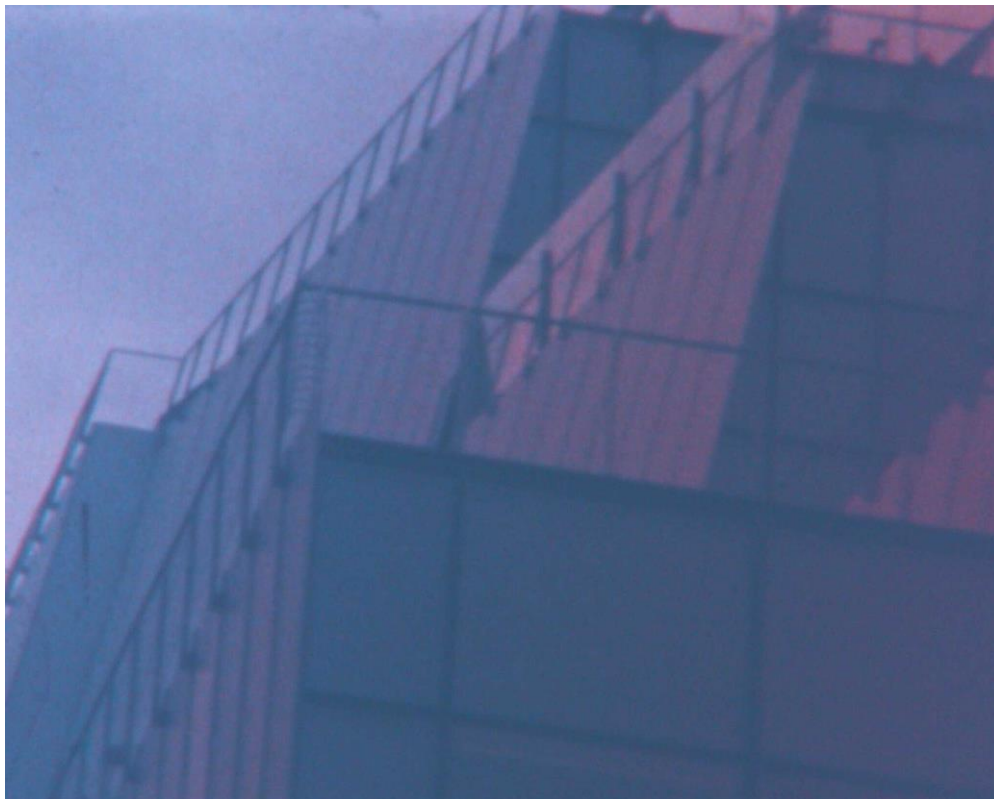
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of American Art  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## WHITNEY MUSEUM DEBUTS PERFORMANCE BY JONATHAN GONZÁLEZ AS PART OF WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2026



**New York, NY, April 22, 2026** — The Whitney Museum of American Art will debut [\*magic hour–golden time\*](#), a new performance by Jonathan González, commissioned by the Whitney for the 2026 Biennial and co-presented and supported by Frieze. For this performance, González activates the Whitney’s building exteriors and offers a unique opportunity to witness the performers from various vantage points. *magic hour–golden time* will be presented on May 15, 6–9 pm, and May 16 and 17, 4–7 pm, coinciding with Frieze New York.

*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.

### **Performance Details**

***magic hour–golden time***

**Jonathan González**

May 15, 6–9 pm

May 16 and 17, 4–7 pm

**Location:** Floor 6

**Tickets:** Free with Museum admission.

**Event Link:** [whitney.org/events/gonzalez-golden-time](https://whitney.org/events/gonzalez-golden-time)

### **About the Artist**

**Jonathan González** is a choreographer, artist, and writer whose interdisciplinary practice engages site, sensation, memory, and embodiment as core materials of performance. Working across choreography, installation, sound, image, and text, González explores how movement operates as a form of spatial thinking and cultural inquiry. Their work has been presented internationally in museums, performance spaces, and public contexts, and centers collaborative methodologies that test how collective bodies negotiate atmosphere, duration, and shifting environments.

González is the author of *Ways to Move: Black Insurgent Grammars* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2025), a book that extends their choreographic thinking into poetic and theoretical writing. Recent and forthcoming projects include *Swerve Fatigue*, a large-scale ensemble work developed with The Kitchen, and a new commission for the 59th Carnegie International. González is a 2025 Pew Fellow and currently serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance at Hunter College (CUNY), where their teaching bridges embodied research, performance studies, and interdisciplinary artistic practice.

### **About Whitney Biennial 2026**

[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.

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## PRESS CONTACT

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## EXHIBITION SUPPORT

*Whitney Biennial 2026* is presented by



The exhibition is also sponsored by



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

Major support is provided by the Adam D. Weinberg Artists First Fund; Marcia Dunn and Jonathan Sobel; The Holly Peterson Foundation; the Kapadia Equity Fund; The KHR McNeely 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

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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.

Generous support is provided by The James Howell Foundation, The Keith Haring Foundation Exhibition Fund, and the Trellis Art Fund.

Biennial funding is also provided by endowments created by Emily Fisher Landau, Leonard A. Lauder, and Fern and Lenard Tessler.

Curatorial research and travel for this exhibition were funded by an endowment established by Rosina Lee Yue and Bert A. Lies, Jr., MD.

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.

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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](#).

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## ABOUT FRIEZE

Frieze is a leading global contemporary art organization, recognized for its art fairs, publications and digital presence. Founded in 1991 with the launch of *frieze* magazine, the brand has grown to encompass eight of the most significant art fairs worldwide in cities including Chicago, London, Los Angeles, New York, Seoul and Abu Dhabi. These events attract leading artists, galleries and collectors, fostering innovative dialogues and practices within the art community. *frieze* magazine continues to set the benchmark for insightful art criticism and commentary, while [frieze.com](#) serves as a vital online resource. Committed to expanding the reach and understanding of contemporary art, Frieze also hosts year-round curated programs and associated initiatives, such as [No.9 Cork Street](#), [Frieze House Seoul](#) and [Frieze Connect](#), that enrich the cultural landscape. With a dedicated team passionate about the arts, Frieze remains at the forefront of artistic exploration and cultural discourse, connecting diverse audiences with groundbreaking artists and their work. Frieze is part of the MARI network. For more information, visit [frieze.com](#).

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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:**

*magic hour–golden time C. [Heights] (2026)*. 11 x 8.5. Chromogenic Print. Jonathan González

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