WHITNEY

PRESS RELEASE

Whitney Museum of American Art
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NEW MIDNIGHT SHOW ADDED! WHITNEY MUSEUM AND LITTLE ISLAND TEAM UP TO PRESENT PERFORMANCE BY JULIO TORRES AND MARTINE GUTIERREZ AS PART OF WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2026

Due to popular demand for the sold-out premiere of Julio Torres and Martine Gutierrez's Marina, *the Whitney Museum and Little Island have added a fifth performance to the schedule on Saturday, August 29.*

New York, NY, updated August 14, 2026 — The Whitney Museum of American Art and Little Island announce the addition of a special midnight performance of *Marina,* a new work commissioned for *Whitney Biennial 2026* debuting at Little Island later this month. The added performance is scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at 11:59 pm.

In this original story by Julio Torres and Martine Gutierrez, audiences are invited under the sea. Directed and written by Emmy® nominated, award-winner Julio Torres, Martine stars as Marina, a New York City seawench on a journey of romance and self-discovery. The story opens with a construction worker on a dock arguing over the phone. As his conversation abruptly ends, he flings the phone into the water, sending it sinking to the bottom of the sea. Under the water,

Marina awakens and is greeted with gifts from her sea creature friends, then suddenly she discovers something new on the floor—the phone. When she begins scrolling, she connects with someone online and becomes entangled with the world above. Along with scenic design by Griffin Stoddard, score by Lia Ouyand Rusli, and choreography by Ryan McNamara, Julio and Martine's comic collaboration blends their surreal humor and sublime artistry into something altogether unique. *Marina* performances will take place in The Amph at Little Island on August 27, 28, and 30 at 8:30 pm, and on August 29 at 9:30 pm and 11:59 pm.

"We are thrilled to highlight the artistic friendship and comedic brilliance of Martine Gutierrez and Julio Torres—both Biennial artists—in the premiere of *Marina,* made possible through this major partnership with Little Island. Bringing the Biennial beyond the walls of the Museum and into the surrounding neighborhood through this significant collaboration marks a watershed moment in the history of this long-running exhibition," said Whitney Biennial co-curators Marcela Guerrero and Drew Sawyer.

"The work of Martine Gutierrez and Julio Torres knows no boundaries, and so it seemed perfectly obvious that their raucous new commission from the Whitney Biennial should happen at Little Island, where there are no walls to contain them. It is our sincere honor to work alongside the Whitney Museum of American Art and get to be a small part of the tremendous legacy of the Biennial," said Zack Winokur, Producing Artistic Director at Little Island.

PERFORMANCE LISTING

Marina
Julio Torres and Martine Gutierrez
Thursday, August 27, 8:30 pm
Friday, August 28, 8:30 pm
Saturday, August 29, 9:30 pm
Saturday, August 29, 11:59 pm (new!)
Sunday, August 30, 8:30 pm

Location: Little Island, Pier 55 at Hudson River Park, New York, NY
Tickets: Tickets are available online.
Event Link: whitney.org/events/gutierrez-torres

Performance Details
Conceived by Julio Torres & Martine Gutierrez
Writer and Director: Julio Torres
Writer: Martine Gutierrez
Composer: Lia Ouyand Rusli
Choreographer: Ryan McNamara
Production Stage Manager: Lindsay Jones
Assistant Stage Manager: Anna Lieberman
Production Designer: Griffin Stoddard
Assistant Scenic Designer and Props: Seth Mazlin
Charge Scenic Artist: Eve Clark
Design & Build Consultant: Inna Hays
Fabrication Partners: Cojo LTD, Fabhaus, Lab Lab, Inna Hays

GS Studio Producers: Vivian Swift and Audrey Ledoux
Lighting Designer: Yuki Nakase Link
Video Designer: André Azevedo Sweet
Sound Designer: Christopher Darbassie
Costume Designer: Erik Bergrin
Make Up Designer: Nina Carelli

Cast
Martine Gutierrez - *Marina*
River L. Ramirez - *Mound*
Spike Einbinder - *Detective*
Scully James - *Nano*
Brandon Flynn - *Dino/Jared/Construction Worker*
Brandon Washington - *Tide 1*
Evan Fisk - *Tide 2*
Tim Bendernagel - *Tide 3*

Marina was commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art as part of *Whitney Biennial 2026* and presented in partnership with Little Island. Generous support was provided by Thom Rom. Additional support was provided by Bridget Colman, Steve Corkin and Dan Maddalena, Fraenkel Gallery, David Frankel and Lynn Freedman, Doree Friedman, Kathryn Minette and Stan Biderman, Sarah Maryam Moosvi, Amitha Raman, RYAN LEE Gallery, and an anonymous donor.

About the Artists

Julio Torres is an award-winning Brooklyn-based writer, director, and comedian from El Salvador. His work on Saturday Night Live earned four Emmy® nominations and received wide acclaim. His first solo hour, *My Favorite Shapes by Julio Torres,* received rave reviews and was released as an HBO comedy special in 2019. Torres has received two Peabody Awards, for HBO's *Los Espookys,* which he co-created and starred, and HBO's *Fantasmas,* which he wrote, directed, and starred. Most recently, his one-man show, *Color Theories,* was filmed during its sold-out Off-Broadway run last fall and released as an HBO comedy special that is now streaming. Torres made his feature directorial debut with A24's *Problemista,* which he wrote and starred in alongside Tilda Swinton. His first book, *I Want to Be a Vase,* was published by Simon & Schuster in 2023, and his upcoming coffee-table book, *The Perfect Gift,* will be released on November 3rd.

Martine Gutierrez (b. 1989) is an artist and muse.

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.

About Little Island

Sitting directly in the Hudson River itself, Little Island opened in May 2021 and has since been enjoyed by more than 7 million visitors, has featured more than 885 performances, and has employed more than 2,000 artists. In 2013, Barry Diller, in partnership with Hudson River Park Trust leadership, embarked on the unique opportunity to envision a solution for the repair and reactivation of Pier 54, which had been badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The park was designed as an entirely new type of public space for New York, one that would create an immersive experience of nature and art. Born from a collaboration of the UK-based Heatherwick Studio and the New York-based landscape architecture firm MNLA, led by Signe Nielsen, the park's imaginative design offers all New Yorkers and visitors a new public space that is dynamic, captivating, and restorative.

Zack Winokur is Producing Artistic Director of Little Island's 2026 summer season. Little Island is made possible by a gift from The Diller–von Furstenberg Family Foundation and is operated year-round by a 50-member staff led by Executive Director Laura Clement.

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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BVLGARI

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 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.

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.

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 Daniel Arnold

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