

NEW
235 BOWERY
NEW YORK NY
10002 USA
MUSEUM

**New Museum Announces "Soft Water Hard Stone,"
the Fifth New Museum Triennial, Opening October 27
and Featuring Works by Forty Artists and Collectives**



Soft
Water
Hard
Stone

New York, NY...The New Museum announces the 2021 Triennial, "**Soft Water Hard Stone**," on view from October 27, 2021 to January 23, 2022. Installed throughout all of the Museum's galleries, the fifth iteration of the Triennial brings together works across mediums by forty artists and collectives who are living and working in twenty-three countries. The exhibition is co-curated by Margot Norton, Allen and Lola Goldring Curator at the New Museum, and Jamillah James, Senior Curator, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA).

The title of the 2021 Triennial, "Soft Water Hard Stone," is taken from a well-known proverb in Brazil: *Água mole em pedra dura, tanto bate até que fura* (Soft water on

hard stone hits until it bores a hole). The proverb can be said to have two meanings: that if one persists long enough, the desired effect can eventually be achieved; and that time can destroy even the most perceptibly solid materials. The title speaks to ideas of resilience and perseverance, and the impact that an insistent yet discrete gesture can have in time. It also provides a metaphor for resistance, as water—a constantly flowing and often underestimated material—is capable of eventually dissolving stone—a substance associated with permanence, but also composed of tiny particles that can collapse under pressure.

In this moment of profound change, where structures that were once thought to be stable are revealed to be precarious, broken, or on the verge of collapse, the 2021 Triennial recognizes artists reimagining traditional models, materials, and techniques beyond established institutional paradigms. Their works exalt states of transformation, calling attention to the malleability of structures, porous and unstable surfaces, and the fluid and adaptable potential of both technological and organic media. The works included in the exhibition look back toward overlooked artistic traditions and technological building blocks, while at the same time look forward toward the immaterial, the transitory, and the creative potential that might give dysfunctional or discarded remains new life.

“Soft Water Hard Stone” follows the previous installments of the New Museum Triennial, “Younger Than Jesus” (2009), “The Ungovernables” (2012), “Surround Audience” (2015), and “Songs for Sabotage” (2018). This edition will present new and recent work by a majority of artists who are exhibiting in a US museum for the first time.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue copublished by the New Museum and Phaidon Press Limited. The catalogue is designed by Elizabeth Karp-Evans and Adam Turnbull of Studio Pacific and includes contributions from Jamillah James, Margot Norton, Karen Archey, Eunsong Kim, and Bernardo Mosqueira, and features original interviews with all forty artists and collectives participating in the exhibition.

ARTIST LIST

Haig Aivazian (b. 1980 Beirut, Lebanon; lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon)

Evgeny Antufiev (b. 1986 Kyzyl, Russia; lives and works in Moscow, Russia)

Alex Ayed (b. 1989 Strasbourg, France; lives and works in Brussels, Belgium, and Tunis, Tunisia)

Nadia Belerique (b. 1982 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; lives and works in Toronto, Canada)

Hera Büyüktaşçıyan (b. 1984 Istanbul, Turkey; lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey)

Tomás Díaz Cedeño (b. 1983 Mexico City, Mexico; lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico)

Gabriel Chaile (b. 1985 San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina; lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal)

Gaëlle Choisne (b. 1985 Cherbourg, France; lives and works in Paris, France)

Krista Clark (b. 1975 Burlington, VT, United States; lives and works in Atlanta, GA, United States)

Kate Cooper (b. 1984, Liverpool, United Kingdom; lives and works in Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Cynthia Daignault (b. 1978 Baltimore, MD, United States; lives and works in Baltimore, MD, United States)

Jes Fan (b. 1990 Toronto, Canada; lives and works in New York, NY, United States and Hong Kong)

Goutam Ghosh (b. 1979 Nabadwip, India; lives and works in Kolkata, India)

Harry Gould Harvey IV (b. 1991 Fall River, MA, United States; lives and works in Fall River, MA, United States)

Clara Ianni (b. 1987 São Paulo, Brazil; lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil)

Kahlil Robert Irving (b. 1992 San Diego, CA, United States; lives and works in St. Louis, MO, United States)

Arturo Kameya (b. 1984 Lima, Peru; lives and works in Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Laurie Kang (b. 1985 Toronto, Canada; lives and works in Toronto, Canada)

Bronwyn Katz (b. 1993 Kimberly, South Africa; lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa)

Ann Greene Kelly (b. 1988 New York, NY, United States; lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, United States)

Kang Seung Lee (b. 1978 Seoul, South Korea; lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, United States)

Amy Lien and Enzo Camacho (b. 1987 Dallas, TX, United States; lives and works in New York, NY, United States) and (b. 1985 Manila, Philippines; lives and works in Berlin, Germany)

Tanya Lukin Linklater (Alutiiq) (b. 1976 Kodiak, AK, United States; lives and works in North Bay, Ontario, Canada)

Angelika Loderer (b. 1984 Feldbach, Austria; lives and works in Vienna, Austria)

Sandra Mujinga (b. 1989 Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo; lives and works in Oslo, Norway and Berlin, Germany)

Gabriela Mureb (b. 1985 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; lives and works in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Brandon Ndife (b. 1991 Hammond, IN, United States; lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, United States)

Erin Jane Nelson (b. 1989 Neenah, WI, United States; lives and works in Atlanta, GA, United States)

Jeneen Frei Njootli (Vuntut Gwitchin) (b. 1988 Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada; lives and works in Vancouver, Canada)

Ima-Abasi Okon (b. 1981 London, United Kingdom; lives and works in London, United Kingdom and Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Christina Pataialii (b. 1988 Auckland, New Zealand; lives and works in Wellington, New Zealand)

Thao Nguyen Phan (b. 1987 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Nickola Pottinger (b. 1986 Kingston, Jamaica; lives and works in New York, NY, United States)

Rose Salane (b. 1992 New York, NY, United States; lives and works in New York, NY, United States)

Blair Saxon-Hill (b. 1979 Eugene, OR, United States; lives and works in Portland, OR, United States)

Samara Scott (b. 1984 London, United Kingdom; lives and works in London, United Kingdom)

Amalie Smith (b. 1985 Copenhagen, Denmark; lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark)

Iris Touliatou (b. 1981 Athens, Greece; lives and works in Athens, Greece)

Ambera Wellmann (b. 1982 Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada; lives and works in New York, NY, United States)

Yu Ji (b. 1985 Shanghai, China; lives and works in Shanghai, China)

ABOUT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

SUPPORT

Lead Support for the 2021 Triennial: “Soft Water Hard Stone” is provided by the Friends of the Triennial. Shelley Fox Aarons, *Co-Chair*; Charlotte Ford, *Co-Chair*; Ken Kuchin, *Co-Chair*; Toby Devan Lewis, *Co-Chair*; Jerri and Steven Nagelberg, Travel and Research Fund; Peter Boyce II; James-Keith Brown and Eric G. Diefenbach; Maureen Carr and Walter Nollmann; Glori and Meir Cohen; Abbie and Patrick Dean; Sandra and Leo DelZotto; Dudley and Michael Del Balso; Rebecca and Martin Eisenberg; Judith and Paul Fried; Carol and Arthur Goldberg; Elaine Goldman; Christina Hribar; Tina Kim; Ahmet Kocabiyik; Jill and Peter Kraus; Lynn K. and Jules Kroll; Lorraine and Edouard Malingue; Iris Marden; Carlos Marsano; Tommie Pegues and Don Capoccia; Steven Pulimood; Almine Rech and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, Debbie and Mitchell Rechler; Lisa Roumell and Mark Rosenthal; Sybille and Gregorio Schneider; Lyn and Sam Schwab; Susan and Kent Seelig; Tracey and Jonathan Serko; Amir Shariat; Michael Wise; Laurie and David Wolfert; Neda Young; Rosina Lee Yue; and Margot and Scott Ziegler.

Major support is provided by the Jacques and Natasha Gelman

Foundation. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund. Artist commissions are generously supported by the Neeson / Edlis Artist Commissions Fund. Support of artist participation is provided by Laura Skoler. Additional support is provided by the Ford Family Foundation, Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso para el Arte, Phileas and con-tempus, and SAHA Association. Exhibition-related education programs are supported by the American Chai Trust.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Paul Jackson, Director of Communications and Marketing

press@newmuseum.org

Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc.

917.371.5023

info@andreaschwan.com

Image: Title Design by Studio Pacific