

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mary Headrick (mheadrick@crafthouston.org)
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
713.529.4848 x.107

“DISCLOSURE” EXPOSES INEQUITY IN THE FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY GLASS, CELEBRATES BIPOC ARTISTS

On View May 25 – August 31, 2024, at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Disclosure: The Whiteness of Glass

May 25 – August 31, 2024

Front Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Exhibition Opening Reception

Friday, May 24, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

The evening will celebrate the summer exhibitions and feature open studios by current resident artists.

Exhibition web page

<https://crafthouston.org/exhibition/disclosure-the-whiteness-of-glass/>

Hours & Admission

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed major holidays. Admission is free.

(HOUSTON, TX) March 7, 2024 — Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is honored to present *Disclosure: The Whiteness of Glass*, a research-driven exhibition by Related Tactics (Michele Carlson, Weston Teruya, and Nate Watson), an artist collective that celebrates community action, collaboration, and making as forms of resistance to the racism, exclusion, and inequity that exists in the field of contemporary glass. The works on view range widely in scale and form, from ephemera of the glass studio—shards, raw materials, and artist sketches—to neon and sand-cast glass sculptures. Viewers have a rare opportunity to engage with a novel project that harnesses the social nature of glassmaking itself, a discipline that requires connection, communication, and teamwork.

Disclosure is traveling from The Corning Museum of Glass, who published Related Tactics' initial dataset in their 2020 issue of *New Glass Review*. Much like a game of telephone, the collective invited a series of artists to creatively translate hard data about the demographics of those working in the glass field. The exhibition showcases three iterative stages of interpretation: data visualizations by Related Tactics; artist instruction responses by Einar & Jamex de la Torre, Cheryl Derricotte, Emily Leach, Corey Pemberton, Ché Rhodes, and Joyce J. Scott; and glass responses by Pearl Dick, Raya Friday, Vanessa German, Helen Lee, and Victoria Ahmadizadeh Melendez. The resulting work—over 100 drawings and objects—celebrates and reflects the invited artists' diversity of practice.

“This exhibition is a documentation of a socially engaged, relational project designed to create community among BIPOC artists, using the glass community as a case study,” said Related Tactics. Using the demographic data the group collected for the *New Glass Review* article as their starting point, they united two groups of artists for a multi-phase collaborative glassmaking and community-building studio process. “The overarching process is a means of contending with the wounds of misrepresentation, tokenization, and marginalization, while creating a space for mutual support, creative exchange, and the development of a collective imaginary.”

This project was supported by a Center for Craft Research Fund Artist Fellowship, and the exhibition originated at the Center for Craft in 2022-2023. *Disclosure* was also made possible with support from Crafting the Future and in-kind support from the Glass Program of Tyler School of Art & Architecture at Temple University.

About Related Tactics

Formed in 2015, Related Tactics is an artistic collaboration between artists and cultural workers Michele Carlson, Weston Teruya, and Nathan Watson. The group’s projects are made at the intersection of race and culture and explore the connections among art, movements for social justice, and the public through trans-disciplinary exchanges, collective making, and dialog. Related Tactics is also a conceptual space and platform that employs curatorial strategies as artistic gestures to create opportunities within communities and construct space for a collective voice. Through collaboration and critical thought, strategically implemented amongst and for communities of color and the diaspora, Related Tactics confronts systemic and institutional racism and inequities that influence their immediate, socio-cultural lived experience. Carlson, Teruya, and Watson work loosely between the San Francisco and Washington D.C. areas, engaging many community members that make their work possible. Their projects have been exhibited and supported by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH), University of San Francisco Thacher Gallery, Berkeley Art Center, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery at Parsons School of Design (New York, NY), Southern Exposure Gallery and an Alternative Exposure Grant (San Francisco, CA), Chinese Cultural Center (San Francisco, CA), the Center for Craft (Asheville, NC), and The Corning Museum of Glass (Corning, NY). More information on Related Tactics can be found at www.relatedtactics.com.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Serving as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community for more than 20 years, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC showcases emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introduces visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on programming, and supports the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed major holidays. Admission is free. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of 59. The front entrance is currently closed. Visitors are encouraged to park in the free parking lot directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Streets, and enter through the back entrance.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Facebook, Instagram, and X @CraftHouston.

###