

Announcing *Horizon Drift*: A Newly Commissioned Public Artwork at Denver’s Plaza of the Americas

Presented by the Biennial of the Americas with Artistic Direction by Black Cube Nomadic Art Museum, *Horizon Drift* is a new, textile-based outdoor art installation by Rachel Hayes that opens May 16th in Downtown Denver.

DENVER (May 1, 2024) – With Artistic Direction by [Black Cube Nomadic Art Museum](#) and presented by the [Biennial of the Americas](#), *Horizon Drift* is a newly commissioned, textile-based public art installation by Tulsa artist [Rachel Hayes](#). This temporary installation will open with a reception on May 16 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza of the Americas (1550 Wewatta St, Denver, CO 80202), and the artist will be in attendance. On May 17 from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. a free public “Party on the Plaza” will be hosted for the greater community including art kits for kids and families, food, music and local vendors. Following the opening, the installation will be on view outdoors, 24/7 through October 27, 2024.

Designed specifically for the Plaza of the Americas and in response to Colorado’s colorscape, *Horizon Drift* will canopy the Plaza with a series of large, vibrant, and handmade textile panels that attach to and play off the space’s surrounding structures. Made from radially-oriented fabrics intentionally chosen by the artist for their durability and the ways in which their colors, opacities, and textures invoke and interact with the dynamic lighting and palette of Denver, these suspended panels will serve as windows to the city’s ever-ephemeral environmental conditions.

Hayes’ practice calls back to a rich lineage of artistic predecessors, from American quiltmakers, to Frank Stella’s abstract expressionist paintings, to Chihuly’s glass ceilings. *Horizon Drift* intertwines these references, adapting the traditionally feminine craft of Log Cabin quilting as the backbone for an architectural-scale, contemporary work that is as immense and compelling as it is functional. For viewers, Hayes envisions the installation as an uplifting offering that both augments and softens public space, yielding a place “where one can have a delightfully bold experience of the senses and also sit, chill out, and notice where we are in this exact moment.”

Horizon Drift is made possible through generous support from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, City of Denver’s Downtown Denver Activation Grant, Colorado Creative Industries, Laura Merage Foundation, Metropolitan District, and Riverfront Park Community Foundation. *Horizon Drift* is on view 24/7 and is free and open to the public. The Black Cube shipping container will be on site for more context about the process in making the artwork. Additionally, five free

monthly public programs every fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m., featuring music, and other creative interpretations of *Horizon Drift*, partnering with local organizations and creatives.

About the Artist

Rachel Hayes was born in Independence, Missouri and lives and works in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She received her BFA in Fiber from the Kansas City Art Institute, and her MFA in Painting from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has exhibited her work at institutions including SculptureCenter in New York City, NY; Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; Roswell Museum of Art, Roswell, NM; among others. Her work has been covered by *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Vogue*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Artforum* among others.

About Black Cube

Black Cube is a nonprofit, nomadic art museum headquartered in Denver, Colorado, with staff based in both Denver and Chicago. By operating outside of traditional museum confines, Black Cube endeavors to reach diverse audiences across the globe while realizing artists' most ambitious ideas. At its core, Black Cube stimulates the public realm with ambitious, experimental, and engaging contemporary art that seeks to inspire. Since 2015, Black Cube has worked closely with over 200 artists and produced nomadic exhibitions regionally, nationally, and internationally—from small Colorado mining towns to the world stage of the Venice Biennale. Black Cube was founded by philanthropist, Laura Merage, and is supported by the David and Laura Merage Foundation and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Learn more at www.blackcube.art or engage with us on [Facebook](#) (@BlackCubeNomadicArtMuseum) and [Instagram](#) (@blackcube.museum).

About Biennial of the Americas

The [Biennial of the Americas](#) (The Biennial) builds connections, creates community and inspires change across the Americas through a multi-day festival in Denver every other year and ongoing leadership summits in Canada and Latin America. Due to its location on the North-South axis, this Denver nonprofit organization was launched in 2010 by civic leaders in Colorado to enhance, celebrate and discover the cultural and economic connections between North and South America. The Biennial assembles the most innovative leaders in the Western Hemisphere to identify unique opportunities and solutions to our shared challenges. For more information, visit <https://www.biennialoftheamericas.org> or and engage with the Biennial on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [X](#) (@thebiennial).

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BIENNIAL OF THE AMERICAS

PARTY ON THE PLAZA



Friday, May 17, 2024 | 4pm-9pm
1550 Wewatta Street, Denver, CO 80202

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WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DOWNTOWN DENVER ACTIVATION GRANT