

# Henry

## RAÚL DE NIEVES: A WINDOW TO THE SEE, A SPIRIT STAR CHIMING IN THE WIND OF WONDER...

Sep 30, 2023 – Aug 25, 2024



Raúl de Nieves: studio view of light filtered through one of de Nieves's 21 window panels made from colored acetate and tape for his commissioned installation at the Henry, *a window to the see, a spirit star chiming in the wind of wonder...*

The Henry is pleased to announce Raúl de Nieves: a window to the see, a spirit star chiming in the wind of wonder..., a newly commissioned exhibition by the New York-based artist. Across painting, sculpture, and performance, Raúl de Nieves fuses aesthetic traditions of Mexican craft, Catholicism, the Tarot, the canon of European art, drag performance, and punk music. Steeped in symbolism and personal mythology, de Nieves's work engages themes of self-actualization, transformation, and cycles of death and rebirth. Often using humble or castoff materials, de Nieves reenvision the commonplace to create densely textured, dazzling new forms that conjure a continual process of becoming.

At the Henry, de Nieves will create one of his signature "stained glass" installations to transform the museum's largest gallery space into a container of colored light. The artist imagines what a celestial landscape could be by using colored acetate and tape to custom-fit his intricate, translucent panels to the three immense skylights that span the gallery. The exhibition's poem-like title leads visitors through a meditative journey of inner reflection, while a temple-like seating arrangement provides places for visitors to spend extended time in contemplation of the narrative illustrated across the panels. The panels themselves will transmit the transitional natural light to create a kaleidoscopic, constantly changing atmosphere inside the gallery, illuminating a journey of continual becoming into an

ever-changing interplay of possibility. De Nieves's installation considers the potential of building alternative worlds by recasting whose and which narratives matter.

Activations and performances by de Nieves and local guests will punctuate the run of the exhibition, filling the space with various forms of sound and movement that generate a communal experience.

## ARTIST BIO

Raúl de Nieves (born 1983 in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico; lives and works in Brooklyn, New York) has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in North America and internationally. He has presented solo exhibitions at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; and the Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art, Georgia, among other institutions. Additionally, he has participated in group exhibitions at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; the High Line, New York; the K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong; the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; the New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and numerous other venues. De Nieves has staged performances at institutions including the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia and MoMA PS1, Queens. He has been an artist in residence at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia and Fountainhead, Miami, as well as a fellow at the Joan Mitchell Foundation. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. This fall, in addition to the exhibition at the Henry, de Nieves's work will also be shown in a new commission at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

## CO-CURATOR BIOS

Nina Bozicnik is a curator at the Henry Art Gallery, where she has organized multiple solo and group exhibitions, including most recently *Thick as Mud* (2023); *ektor garcia: matéria prima* (2022); *Packaged Black: Derrick Adams and Barbara Earl Thomas* (2021/22); *Elaine Cameron-Weir: STAR CLUB REDEMPTION BOOTH* (2021); and *Will Rawls: Everlasting Stranger* (2021), realized in collaboration with Velocity Dance Center. Bozicnik's curatorial work takes multiple forms—it has recently included the multi-disciplinary colloquium *Bugs & Beasts Before the Law*, organized on the occasion of the artist duo Bambitchell's exhibition of the same name, and programming in conjunction with the pilot year of the Henry's artist fellowship program, designed to facilitate dynamic exchange between visiting artists and the University of Washington community. Recent publications include *ektor garcia: matéria prima*, *Bugs & Beasts Before the Law*, *Appendix A-L*; and *Carrie Yamaoka: recto/verso*.

Risa Puleo is an independent curator based in Chicago. *a window to the see, a spirit star chiming in the wind of wonder...* is her second exhibition with de Nieves, and follows *Raúl de Nieves: Eternal Return and the Obsidian Heart* at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami in 2021. Puleo is one of a team of curators who has organized the 2023 Counterpublic Triennial in St. Louis. Puleo's other exhibitions include *Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the American Justice System*, which originated at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston in 2018 and

traveled to Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA in 2020; and *Monarchs: Brown and Native Artists in the Path of the Butterfly*, which originated at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE in 2017/18 and traveled nationally. Additional venues that have hosted Puleo's exhibitions include ArtPace, San Antonio; the Leslie Lohman Museum of Art, New York City; Franklin Street Works, Stamford; Charlotte Street Foundation, Kansas City; and more. Puleo has written for *Art in America*, *Art Papers*, *Art 21*, *Asia Art Pacific*, *Hyperallergic*, *Modern Painters*, and other art publications.

*Raúl de Nieves: a window to the see, a spirit star chiming in the wind of wonder...* is organized by Nina Bozicnik, Curator at the Henry Art Gallery, and Risa Puleo, Independent Curator. Generous support provided by the Floyd and Delores Jones Endowed Fund for the Arts.

## ABOUT THE HENRY

The Henry advances contemporary art and ideas. The museum is internationally recognized for groundbreaking exhibitions, for being on the cutting edge of contemporary art and culture, and for championing artists at every level of creation. Containing more than 28,000 works of art, the Henry's permanent collection is a significant cultural resource available to scholars, researchers, and the general public. The Henry is located on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, Washington. Visit [henryart.org](http://henryart.org) to learn more.

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