

Press Release

Artist Project

**CAMHLAB artists Preston Gaines and
Mich Stevenson *NURTURE* through proximity
to nature**



View inside the studio of Mich Stevenson and Preston Gaines, 2021. Image courtesy the artists.

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Media Contact

For high-resolution images or
media inquiries please contact:
Kent Michael Smith, Director of
Communications and Marketing
ksmith@camh.org | 713.284.8255

HOUSTON, TX (May 5, 2021)—Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to announce a summer CAMHLAB residency by Houston-based artists Preston Gaines and Mich Stevenson. The duo's collaboration will culminate in an immersive installation titled *NURTURE*, offering visitors a place of rest, reflection, and contemplation through sound, a bespoke furniture and tapestry installation, and a dense array of tropical plants. The installation will be located in the Museum's newly renovated space adjacent to the Nina and Michael Zilkha Gallery. *NURTURE* will open publicly on May 13, 2021 and remain on view through summer 2021.

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | #atCAMH

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Artist Preston Gaines. Photo by Sway Ambrose.



Artist Mich Stevenson. Photo by Kelly Garcia.

Humans need respite and reflection—a break before society returns to what is perceived as “normal.” This can happen through intention, reflection, and through a willful suspension of time. Gaines and Stevenson seek to offer this interlude through *NURTURE*. Gaines and Stevenson invite visitors to slow down and become aware of the sonic frequency of the gallery space. Through harmonic resonance the artists are able to bring people, the architecture of the Museum, and nature to the same frequency. .

“We’re so pleased Preston Gaines and Mich Stevenson are CAMHLAB artists-in-residence—their work invites visitors to CAMH into a space of introspection that encourages lingering and reflection—qualities we can all embrace right now. In this moment of reemergence, Preston and Mich’s work offers a welcoming and nurturing haven within the Museum,” said CAMH Executive Director Hesse McGraw.

The installation offers a melding of lush color fields of light with an ever-evolving landscape of plants, geometric forms, and natural materials, to create a combination of sensory stimuli that are both meditative and dissociative. *NURTURE* is a physical representation of the relationship between light, tone, color, harmonic intervals, and form—exploring the subjective nature of the viewer’s perception. The viewer is encouraged to not only perceive, but also interact with the mass and physicality of the collective elements.

In this contentious time where so many feel a sense of disconnect from each other and nature, interventions like *NURTURE* feel not only important but necessary for healing and growth within our communities.

Visit CAMH.ORG/CAMHLAB for more information regarding these artists, their process, and in-person and/or virtual programs for this CAMHLAB project over the next few months.

About the artists

Preston A. Gaines (b. 1990), is a Houston-based architect, artist, and industrial designer that manifests the hidden properties of nature through the use of technology, with the intention of learning and re-establishing our connection to the Earth. His immersive botanical installations and furniture designs raise fundamental questions about

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CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours of operation are Wednesday 12–6PM, Thursday 12–9PM, Friday 12–6PM, Saturday 12–6PM, and Sunday 12–6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG or call 713.284.8250.

our collective experience and imagine radical possibilities for the future of art and design. Any built environment can have a physiological effect on the viewer inhabiting the space—Gaines' intent is to go beyond that to a psychological level.

Mich Stevenson (b. 1987), is a native Houstonian raised in creole traditions and the church, along the coastal south. Stevenson's work serves to be restorative within its environments so as to exist as accessible reference points of peace and remembrance — meeting people together and returning them to the reflection of who they can be together on Earth. Stevenson is a sculptor, painter, meditation and yoga instructor living and working in Houston, Texas.

About CAMHLAB

CAMHLAB is an ongoing artist-in-residence initiative that gives the Museum to artists. CAMHLAB supports artists working within, and in partnership with, the Museum to develop new work and ideas. Launched immediately following CAMH's interior renovations in fall 2020, the residency was established in response to the effects of COVID-19, particularly the loss of Houston-area performance and rehearsal space, to make CAMH's galleries and spaces safely available for large-scale production and experimentation. Through both short-term residencies within the Museum and long-term collaborations with artists, CAMHLAB offers critical and early-stage direct support of artists' process and production of new work.