

# Ramekon O'Arwisters: HOUSE OF

February 1, 2025 – May 4, 2025



Images:

Ramekon O'Arwisters, *Black & Blue #4*, 2024. Leather, zip ties, assorted metallic objects, ceramic, rope, hot combs. 26 x 17 x 14 in. Courtesy of the artist and Patricia Sweetow Gallery. Image by John White.

Ramekon O'Arwisters, *Mending #32*, 2018. Textile and ceramics. 15 x 12 x 13 in. Courtesy of the artist and Patricia Sweetow Gallery. Image by David Schmitz.

LOS ANGELES- *Ramekon O'Arwisters: HOUSE OF* will be Ramekon O'Arwisters', a Black gay artist, first museum presentation in Los Angeles. Following his successful solo show at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, O'Arwisters' solo exhibition at Craft Contemporary will build on new themes and will include newly commissioned monumental scale works. O'Arwisters employs an interdisciplinary approach to his art, spanning ceramics, fiber art, sculpture, and found objects, to explore the intersections of identity, beauty, sexuality, violence, and pleasure. His work is deeply influenced by his background in divinity and early experiences with religion along with his lived queer experience. This exhibition will present a monographic selection of sculptures from five different bodies of work that span from 2016-2024, along with a newly created body of work. Works from the early part of his career include selections from his *Mending* and *Cheesecake* series which explored his deep roots in domesticity and exploration of queer bodies, respectively. Delving into questions of spirituality and sexuality, the exhibition will also include pieces from his *Bitten* and *Flowered Thorns* series, which juxtapose themes of beauty and pleasure with dangerous materials like zip ties and ceramic shards. His newest series created for *HOUSE OF* is *Black & Blue*. *Black & Blue* builds on the exploration of the power and meaning of objects and making that was seen in earlier bodies of work such as *Bitten* and *Flowered Thorns*. Significantly, this new work will present an evolved and nuanced focus on the violence experienced by Black and Queer bodies, and will also celebrate the strength, beauty, and resilience of these communities.

This exhibition is generously supported, in part, by The Antonia & Vladimir Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund, The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture, The Lehrman Family Charitable Fund, and The Julius Bernard Kester Trust.

Curated by Andres Payan Estrada.

## WINTER/SPRING EXHIBITION OPENING & COMMUNITY GATHERING

Join us on Saturday, February 1 as we open our Winter/Spring season of exhibitions and invite the community to gather together for the first time following the devastating fires in Los Angeles.

In line with the themes and materials of our new exhibitions – *Ramekon O'Arwisters: HOUSE OF*, *Ahree Lee: Home Maker Space*, and *Amanda Maciel Antunes: I've Got To Tell You Something Now*, three solo exhibitions by artists whose works delve with healing and resilience through personal, collective, and historical approaches – this day will kick off a public weaving wall in the museum's courtyard that will serve as a space for collective healing throughout the run of the shows.

Open to all, we invite participation from anyone affected by loss, displacement, and harm, and hope to provide a place of support through the power of craft. Bring recycled fabric strips or receive them when you arrive, and write out thoughts, sentiments, and wishes about healing, memories, and home to weave into the wall.

### EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 1

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Pay-what-you-wish (All contributions will be donated to fire relief efforts by Art World Fire Relief LA and CERF+.)

11:00 AM

Weaving wall kicks off with an introduction from exhibiting artist Ramekon O'Arwisters and the Craft Contemporary Education team. The project will continue throughout the day with food and refreshments in the courtyard while the galleries are open upstairs. Informal walkthroughs will be available from exhibiting artists and curators.

3:00 PM

Artists will reassemble in the courtyard for remarks and a discussion about their work, community, and the healing power of craft.

# Craft Contemporary

5814 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 17, 2025

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Craft Contemporary is an art museum whose purpose is to reveal the potential of craft to educate, captivate, provoke, and empower. Craft Contemporary achieves its mission by exhibiting the artists of our time who favor craft materials and processes. Giving voice to local artists, emerging artists and often under-recognized mid-career artists is a museum priority that works to ensure the recognition of various voices not always heard in larger institutions. The museum strives to achieve equitable access through free and low-cost programs, and the inclusion of multiple teaching artists from communities throughout Los Angeles who offer unique art-making workshops, K-12 school programs, senior adult workshops, and art talks. For more information, visit [www.craftcontemporary.org](http://www.craftcontemporary.org).

LOCATION: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

ADMISSION: \$9 for adults; \$7 for students, teachers, seniors; free for Craft Contemporary members;  
FREE admission every Sunday

HOURS: Monday - Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday - Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm  
First Thu every month: 12 - 8 pm

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Image:

Ramekon O'Arwisters, *Untitled (Broken Ceramic and Fabric)*, 2022. Sublimation printing on fabric. Variable dimension. Courtesy of the artist and Patricia Sweetow Gallery.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ramekon O'Arwisters is a San Francisco-based multimedia artist exploring textile and crafting traditions through found-object abstract sculpture and socially engaged community projects. Born in Kernersville, North Carolina, O'Arwisters earned an M.Div. from Duke University Divinity School in 1986. His works have been exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design, the Museum of the African Diaspora (San Francisco, CA), and the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles (San Jose, CA). O'Arwisters has received numerous grants and awards, including the Artadia Fund for Art and Dialogue, the McLaughlin Foundation Award for The Project Space, and the Eureka Fellowship. His ongoing socially engaged community art-making project, *Crochet Jam*, has been presented at various institutions, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and ICA San Francisco.