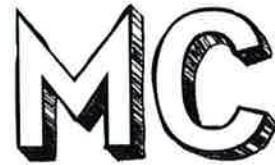


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The University of Houston
Blaffer Art Museum and Mitchell Center
Present Tomás Saraceno: *Lighter than Air* Contemporary Salon**

HOUSTON (June 16, 2010) – On Wednesday, June 30, at 6:30 p.m., the University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts and Blaffer Art Museum join forces to present a Contemporary Salon in conjunction with Blaffer's summer exhibition, *Tomás Saraceno: Lighter than Air*. Moderated by Blaffer director and chief curator Claudia Schmuckli, the talk will feature guest panelists John Reed, the director of the School of Art at UH, architect Garrett Finney, and UH professors of architecture Larry Bell and Patrick Peters. Admission to the Contemporary Salon is free to the public and will be preceded by a wine-and-cheese reception. The event will take place at Blaffer Art Museum, which is located in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Houston's central campus, located on entrance 16 south of the intersection of Cullen and Elgin.

This event marks the launch of a new partnership, the Contemporary Salon series. The two institutions will work together to select a diverse range of artists, community members and experts to discuss Blaffer exhibitions. Some Salons will also feature special programming.

WHAT: *Tomás Saraceno: Lighter than Air* Contemporary Salon

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. June 30, 2010

WHERE: Blaffer Art Museum
120 Fine Arts Building, University of Houston's central campus
(Located on Entrance 16 by the intersection of Cullen and Elgin)
Houston, TX 77204

WHO: University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts and Blaffer Art Museum

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About Blaffer:

Founded in 1973, Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston was named in honor of the late Sarah Campbell Blaffer, a noted Houston arts patron and collector. Since its inception, the museum has been a vital force in the presentation and promotion of contemporary visual arts in Houston. Blaffer is located in the Fine Arts Building on the University of Houston's central campus, entrance 16 south of Cullen Boulevard. It is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sundays, Mondays, university holidays and during exhibition installations (visit the website or call to confirm). The museum is ADA compliant. For general inquiries, please call 713.743.9521, or visit the museum online at www.blafferartmuseum.org.

About the Mitchell Center:

The University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts cultivates interdisciplinary collaboration in the performing, visual and literary arts. From its base at the University of Houston, the Mitchell Center offers public events, residencies and courses that fuse artistic disciplines, ignite dialogue and present new ways of experiencing the arts in contemporary life. The Mitchell Center forms an alliance among five units at the University of Houston: The School of Art, Creative Writing Program, Moores School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, and Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston. For general inquiries, please call 713.743.5548, or visit the Mitchell Center online at www.mitchellcenterforarts.org.

Media Contacts:

For press inquiries, please contact Jeffrey Bowen, Blaffer Art Museum's assistant director of external affairs (713.743.9528, jbowen2@uh.edu) or Nicole Laurent, the Mitchell Center's director of communications and special projects (713.743.5749, nlaurent@uh.edu).

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Tomás Saraceno: Lighter than Air was organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. The exhibition was made possible by generous support from John Taft. Additional support was provided by the Harpo Foundation. Tomás Saraceno's artist residency at the Walker was made possible by the Nimoy Foundation. Artist materials were provided by 3M. The exhibition at Blaffer is sponsored in part by Gail and Louis K. Adler. In kind support was provided by Houston Photo Imaging.