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Texas Low Income Housing Information Service

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## An equitable Houston demands continuous engagement in the wake of Harvey

by Elena Vann   April 26, 2018   Harvey Recovery



Hurricane Harvey “pulled back the curtain” on inequality in Houston, revealing some “scary truths about the city we are living in,” said Ginny Goldman last week as she moderated a panel discussion at the Deborah Colton Gallery in the wealthy Boulevard Oaks Neighborhood.

# Drenched

Molly Gochman

Water. The main constituent of all the earth's living organisms. It's where we all found home before we were born. It's where we often find home as we grow. It's what has brought us to build cities, and what has torn our cities apart.

*Drenched* combines several series by Molly Gochman that seek to explore the vulnerabilities people face because of natural disasters, and the ways in which communities come together as a result.

The hope is that *Drenched* can serve as a memorial to the emotional loss caused by flooding, in the context of Houston and India. Homes ruined, belongings irreparably damaged, photographs lost forever, families separated — the flooding destroyed more than just objects.

These images, of flood-damaged personal items and parts of homes that became piles of trash, were transferred by hand onto paper then digitally printed onto aluminum, juxtaposing a resilient and durable object with precious, fleeting memories.

*"Drenched" artist Molly Gochman's words on the exhibit at the Deborah Colton Gallery*

In conjunction with the panel was artist Molly Gochman's exhibit, "Drenched," which examines life in the aftermath of flood disasters featuring photos of damaged belongings in both Houston and India. The series, as described by the artist, seek to "explore the vulnerabilities people face because of natural disasters, and the ways in which communities come together as a result."



*Artist Molly Gochman (center) speaks with an attendee at the Deborah Colton Gallery*

Goldman, founder and executive director of the Texas Organizing Project (TOP) led the discussion between panelists Maria Moreno, director of communications at TOP, Marianela Acuña-Arreaza, executive director of Fé y Justicia Worker Center, and Lance Gilliam, a senior policy advisor for Harris County Precinct 1. The panel aimed to educate guests on Harvey recovery – what has and has not been done – and how to make Houston more equitable in the process.

What has become obvious to Houstonians citywide is that there is disaster money entering the pipeline for recovery purposes. Lots of it.

The main takeaway of the discussion, however, was that even if money comes falling from the sky and we have more than we know what to do with (however unlikely that may be), **without engagement, money will be spent unequally**. Moreover, despite the multibillion dollar federal disaster allocations, it has been a tough year in U.S. disasters, and money must be divided between Texas, California, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



*Left to Right: Ginny Goldman, Lance Gilliam, Mary Moreno, and Marianela Acuña-Arreaza*

Most vulnerable to an inequitable recovery, and the focus of each of the panelists' work, are low-income communities and low-wage workers, especially undocumented immigrants working in construction. With less than six weeks until the start of the next hurricane season, the sense of urgency among advocates is an everyday presence. The priority of each of the panelists' organizations is ensuring their communities have a voice in the recovery process and are not left behind.

Without local recovery policy steering by communities and advocates, however, and an over-reliance on Federal aid dollars, low-income communities are in danger. On one hand, many homes affected by the flood waters fall into the contested category of “naturally occurring affordability,” which largely includes housing units that are not fully up to code, or in hazardous areas – such as flood plains. Harris county feels, stated Gilliam, that while many of these communities should be bought out, the right of residents to stay where they are if they so choose, makes “safe, affordable, replacement housing...a non-negotiable” where buyouts do occur.

While federal programs such as Army Corps of Engineers Bayou Projects proved themselves **incredibly effective against flooding during Harvey**, the Corp’s criteria, said Gilliam, is inherently **“codified discrimination based on income.”** The criteria for giving federal projects the green light, he explained, is based solely on the property values of homes, rather than the number of citizens in an area of interest. In order to qualify, a neighborhood can have no lower than a 1:1 cost ratio. Simply put, the federal government will not provide the funding in low-income neighborhoods because the homes are not valued high enough. While Brays bayou in Houston’s more middle class neighborhood of Braeswood qualified for federal project, as did Sims bayou’s main channel (barely scraping by at a 1:1.1 cost ratio) Gilliam stated bluntly, “you can’t sugarcoat it...if all we have is federal Army Corps of Engineers money, you’re never going to see a long-term project on Greens Bayou,” that travels through the historically low-income Northeast quadrant of the city.

The most important thing for Houston, echoed the panelists, is for communities to get involved and stay engaged. State and City officials have a crucial role to play by actively seeking – and acting upon – citizen participation. One major difficulty Moreno pointed out, with regards to getting more Houstonians to understand the magnitude and severity of damage that remains almost a year after the storm, is that **“the pain people are enduring is not visible,”** as mold and **shoddy repairs** hide behind front doors. The coming together of so many Houston non-profit and advocacy organizations, however, as well as the increased attention to flood risk in the wake of Harvey, gives them hope for a more equitable future for Houston.

**“We need to stay together,”** said Acuña-Arreaza, followed by Gilliam’s insistence that, **“it’s going to take a motivated constituency...if we are going to see change.”**



(<https://houstonfloodmuseum.org>)

< **COMMUNITY STORIES** ([HTTPS://HOUSTONFLOODMUSEUM.ORG/CATEGORY/HURRICANE-HARVEY/COMMUNITY-STORIES/](https://HOUSTONFLOODMUSEUM.ORG/CATEGORY/HURRICANE-HARVEY/COMMUNITY-STORIES/))

# *Drenched*

MOLLY GOCHMAN

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M E N U



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## Currently in the galleries and museum

Published 11:01 am CST, Wednesday, March 7, 2018



**IMAGE 1 OF 4**

A work from Molly Gochman's show "Drenched," on view at Deborah Colton Gallery March 8-April 21.

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Houston's art scene is as diverse and colorful as the city itself, with galleries and museums that feature works by local, national and international talents. All shows are free unless otherwise noted.

### GALLERIES

#### *Anya Tish Gallery*

"Richard Tuschman: Hopper Meditations," through March 31; 4411 Montrose; 713-524-2299, [anyatishgallery.com](http://anyatishgallery.com).

#### *Art of the World Gallery*

"Cosmic Energy in the Sculpture of Jiménez Deredia," through March 17; 2201

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"Miguel Soler Roig | Out of Silence," through March 30; 4411 Montrose; 713-520-9200, [barbaradavisgallery.com](http://barbaradavisgallery.com).

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Up Next - Trash to Treasure! Workshop Turns Discarded Waste into Rooster Decorations to Sell

*BLUEOrange Art*

"Visual Arts Alliance 82nd Exhibition," opens 6 p.m. Wednesday, awards 7 p.m., through April 28; 1208 W. Gray; 713-527-0030, [blueorangehouston.com](http://blueorangehouston.com).

*Brookfield Gallery*

"The Photography of Louise Ozelle Martin (1911-1995): A Photographic Legacy  
Chronicling Black Society in Houston," through April 20; One Allen Center, 500 Dallas; [brookfield.com](http://brookfield.com).

*Catherine Couturier Gallery*



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"Keith Carter: Dirty Pictures," through March 31; 2635 Colquitt; 713-524-5070,  
[catherinecouturier.com](http://catherinecouturier.com).

*Cindy Lisica Gallery*

"Jan Rattia: Landings," through March 31; 4411 Montrose; 713-807-7760,  
[cindylisicagallery.com](http://cindylisicagallery.com).

*Clarke & Associates*

"Roberto Cortázar: A 30-Year Survey," through April 2; 301 E. 11th; 713-254-2998,  
[clarkeassoc.com](http://clarkeassoc.com).

*David Shelton Gallery*

"Misty Keasler: Haunt," through March 31; 4411 Montrose; 713-393-7319,  
[davidsheltongallery.com](http://davidsheltongallery.com).

*Front Gallery*

Jamey Hart: "Soft Pace Time," through March 31; 1412 Bonnie Brae; 713-298-4750, [frontgallery.com](http://frontgallery.com).

*Gallery Sonja Roesch*

"Mac Whitney: Sculptures and Paintings," through Saturday; 2309 Caroline; 713-659-5424, [gallerysonjaroesch.com](http://gallerysonjaroesch.com).

*Gray Contemporary*

"Jai Llewellyn: Collages," "David Janesco: Cyanotypes" and "Deb Covell & David Goerk: White Angles," through March 31; 3508 Lake; 713-862-4425, [graycontemporary.com](http://graycontemporary.com).

*Hiram Butler Gallery*

"Joseph Havel: Wrapped in Stars," through March 31; 4520 Blossom; 713-863-7097, [hirambutler.com](http://hirambutler.com).

*Hooks-Epstein Galleries*

"Kathryn Dunlevie: The Taxidermist's Imaginarium," "Julie Brook Alexander: Collecting Echoes" and "Prince Verughese Thomas: New Works," through March 31; 2631 Colquitt; 713-522-0718, [hooksepsteingalleries.com](http://hooksepsteingalleries.com).

*Inman Gallery*

"Where We Meet," group photography show, through March 31; 3901 Main; 713-526-7800, [inmangallery.com](http://inmangallery.com).

*McClain Gallery*

"Re:Construction," through March 31; 2242 Richmond; 713-520-9988,

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"Manual (Hill/Bloom): ... and Books," through March 31; 2815 Colquitt; 713-526-9911, [moodygallery.com](http://moodygallery.com).

### *Nicole Longnecker Gallery*

"Kevin Cole: Danci' With Color" and "George Smith," through March 31; 2625 Colquitt; 346-800-2780, [longneckergallery.com](http://longneckergallery.com).

### *Our Texas Russian Cultural Center*

"Vladimir Frumin and Lola Vayner: India Visible and Invisible," opens 7:30 p.m. Friday, through April 20; 2337 Bissonnet; 713-395-3301, [ourtx.org](http://ourtx.org).

### *Rudolph Blume Fine Art/ArtScan*

"Jane Eifler: Spare Parts" and "Kevin Jones: The New Pollution," through March 31; 836 Richmond; 713-807-1836, [rudolphprojects.com](http://rudolphprojects.com).

### *Samara Gallery*

"Martin Corn: Traveling the Road to Nowhere" and "Barbra Riley: The Woods Journal," through March 31; 3911 Main; 713-999-1009, [samaragallery.com](http://samaragallery.com).

### *Sicardi Gallery*

"Portrait," group show, through March 15; 1506 W. Alabama; 713-529-1313, [sicardigallery.com](http://sicardigallery.com).

### *Reaves | Foltz Fine Art*

Debbie Stevens' "Wings: The Ways of Water Birds" and group show "Texas Aviary: More Birds in Art," through Saturday; 2143 Westheimer; 713-521-7500, [reavesart.com](http://reavesart.com).

526-6461.

## MUSEUMS

### *Art Car Museum*

"Photography by Ricarda Redeker and John Bernhard," through May 20; 140 Heights; 713-861-5526, [artcarmuseum.com](http://artcarmuseum.com).

### *Art League Houston*

Hazel Meyer's "Muscle Panic objects," Sherman Finch's "Perceptual Perpetual" and Gao Hang's "Good Times, Bad Times, Give Me Some of That," through Saturday; 1953 Montrose; 713-523-9530, [artleaguehouston.org](http://artleaguehouston.org).

### *Asia Society Texas Center*

"FotoFest 2018 Biennial: INDIA | Contemporary Photographic and New Media Art," opens Saturday, reception 2 p.m. Sunday, through July 29, and "Zheng Chongbin: Clusters of Memory," through July 8; 1370 Southmore; 713-496-9901, [asiasociety.org/texas](http://asiasociety.org/texas).

### *Blaffer Art Museum*

"The Future Is Certain; It's the Past Which Is Unpredictable" and "Immortality for All: A Film Trilogy on Russian Cosmism by Anton Vidokle," through Aug. 11; University of Houston, 4173 Elgin; 713-743-9521, [blafferartmuseum.org](http://blafferartmuseum.org).

### *Contemporary Arts Museum Houston*

"Christopher Knowles: In a Word," through March 25; "Dissent and Desire," through April 29; 5216 Montrose; 713-284-8250, [camh.org](http://camh.org).

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### *Galveston Artist Residency*

"Re-Claimed Empire/The Unseen Obelisk," site-specific installation and videos by Adam Putnam, through May 12; 2521 Mechanic, Galveston; 409 974 4446, [galvestonartistresidency.org](http://galvestonartistresidency.org).

### *Galveston Arts Center*

"AnnieLaurie Erickson: Into the Digital Mesh" and "Paho Mann & Leigh Merrill: Collections, Keepsakes, Souvenirs," through April 15; 127 Strand, Galveston; 409-763-2403, [galvestonartscenter.org](http://galvestonartscenter.org).

### *Holocaust Museum*

"New Dimensions in Testimony," through March 20; "Human Rights Art," through June 3; \$8-\$12, free on Sundays; 9220 Kirby; 713-942-8000, [hmh.org](http://hmh.org).

### *Houston Center for Contemporary Craft*

"Light Charmer - Neon and Plasma in Action," through May 13, and "Treachery of Materials: The Surrealist Impulse in Craft," through April 15; 4848 Main; 713-529-4848, [crafthouston.org](http://crafthouston.org).

### *Houston Museum of African American Culture*

"Sandra Bland," through April 28; "Over There, Some Place," through April 14; "Aesha Lee: The Beauty of the Black Woman," through April 7; 4807 Caroline; 713-526-1015, [hmaac.org](http://hmaac.org).

### *Lawndale Art Center*

"Between Love & Madness: Mexican Comics From the 1970s" and "Augusto Mora: x  
Where Are They Taking Us To?" through March 25; 4010 Main; 713-522-5252

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Cy Twombly Gallery, permanent collection; Byzantine Fresco Chapel, "Francis Alÿs; The Fabiola Project," through Oct. 28; Richmond Hall, Dan Flavin permanent installation; main museum closed for repairs; 1533 Sul Ross; 713-525-9400, [menil.org](http://menil.org).

#### *Moody Center for the Arts*

"Josiah McElheny: Island Universe," "Leo Villareal: Particle Chamber" and "Pile the Wood High!," through June 2; Rice University, 6100 Main; 713-348-4772, [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu).

#### *Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

"Michelangelo and the Vatican," opens Sunday, through June 10; "Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India," through Aug. 12; "The Glamour and Romance of Oscar de la Renta," through March 18; \$7.50-\$25; 5601 Main; 713-639-7300, [mfah.org](http://mfah.org).

#### *O'Kane Gallery*

"Floyd Newsum: A Survey - 1970-2018," through March 29; UH Downtown Visitors Center, 100 Main; 713-221-8042, [uhd.edu](http://uhd.edu).

#### *Project Row Houses*

"Round 47 | The Act of Doing: Preserving, Revitalizing and Protecting Third Ward," through March 25; 2521 Holman; 713-526-7662, [projectrowhouses.org](http://projectrowhouses.org).

#### *Station Museum of Contemporary Art*

"in(di)visible," group show about immigration, war, assimilation, integration and invisibility among Asian-Americans; through April 22; 1502 Alabama; 713-529-6900,

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281-283-3311, [uhcl.edu](http://uhcl.edu).

*University Museum*

"Rites of Passage: An Ode to Humanity and Culture," through April 15; 3100 Cleburne;  
713-313-1164, [umusetsu.org](http://umusetsu.org).

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**H E A R S T**



## Molly Gochman: Drenched



**March 8 - April 21, 2018**

An exhibition of photographs by artist Molly Gochman. The show combines three of Gochman's series, *Before*, *Waterfalls Wept*, and *Surrogates*, that explore how in Houston and in India the “myriad ways water works to build, destroy, connect, devo and grow.”

**Opening:** March 8, 2018 | 6–8 pm

**Performance:** March 10, 2018 | 2:30–3 pm



## Sound baths with Sara Auster

**Performance:** March 10, 2018 | 6:30–7 pm

## Sound baths with Sara Auster

**Panel:** April 19, 2018 | 6–8 pm

Building a more equitable Houston in Harvey’s aftermath : Ginny Goldman, Michell Tremillo, Joe Carlos Madde, and Marianela Acuña Arreaza

[Deborah Colton Gallery](#)

2445 North Boulevard

Houston, 77098 TX

(713) 869-5151

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