

Public Programs

These events are free, open to the public, and take place at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Seating is limited. Please check camh.org for the most current information.

Opening Reception | Will Boone: *The Highway Hex*
Friday, November 8, 2019 | 6:30–9PM

In Conversation | Artist Will Boone and Patricia Restrepo, CAMH Exhibitions Manager and Assistant Curator
Saturday, November 9, 2019 | 2–3PM

Open Studio | Festive Gift Wrap
Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 2–4PM

Performance | Driven Theatre Company
Thursday, January 9, 2020 | 6:30–8:30PM

Performance | Los Texmaniacs
Thursday, January 16, 2020 | 6:30–8PM

Art at Noon | Susanne Theis
Friday, January 24, 2020 | 12–1PM

Performance | Musiqá
Thursday, January 30, 2020 | 6:30–7:30PM



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

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[#WillBoone](https://twitter.com/WillBoone)

HOURS

Mon.	Closed
Tue.	10AM–7PM
Wed.	10AM–7PM
Thu.	10AM–9PM
Fri.	10AM–7PM
Sat.	10AM–6PM
Sun.	12PM–6PM

IMAGES

All works courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.

Cover: *A Picture of Me (Without You)*, 2019. Wood, automotive paint, speakers, car stereo, and Plexiglas. 64 x 36 x 18 inches.

Outside: *Sweet Perfume* (video still), 2019. VHS video transferred to digital: color, sound, 54:41 minutes.

Inside (L to R): *Lazy X*, 2019. Resin, enamel, acrylic, and found material on canvas. 75 x 150 inches.

The River, 2019. Acrylic on wood, neon, and hardware. 24 x 240 x 5 inches.

Will Boone: The Highway Hex was made possible by David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California and Karma, New York, New York.

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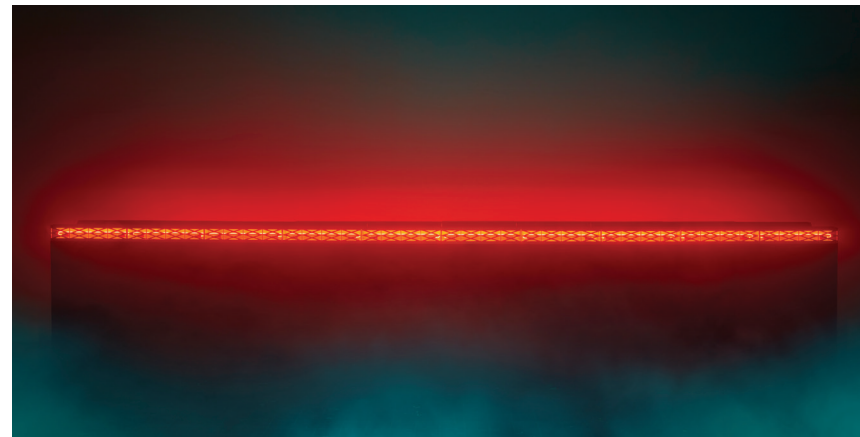
Will Boone: The Highway Hex

November 9, 2019–February 16, 2020



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Will Boone: The Highway Hex uses the physical and psychological landscape between Texas and California to examine a person's relationship to their place of origin. In Boone's first museum solo exhibition, the artist (b. 1982 in Houston, Texas; based in Los Angeles, California and Central Texas) produced a site-specific exhibition for Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH). *The Highway Hex* also features his first long-form video alongside new sculptures and paintings. In *The Highway Hex*, the artist continues to investigate themes salient to his artistic practice, such as storytelling and unconventional portraiture, while examining the symbolism and mystique of Texas. The exhibition title refers to a bizarre medical condition called highway hypnosis, or "white line fever," where a driver enters an altered mental state and can operate a car for great distances in a safe manner with no memory of having done so.



Boone's narrative video, titled *Sweet Perfume* (2019), questions what it means to revisit your roots when both you and the place you are from have changed. The video may be read simultaneously as a self-portrait, a portrait of a geographical region, and a portrait that redirects the possibilities of an infamous movie character. Boone wrote, directed, and produced *Sweet Perfume* and its original score.

The video's loose narrative centers around the iconic character Leatherface, lifted from the 1974 horror film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, directed by Tobe Hooper. Inspired by fan fiction, *Sweet Perfume* gives "Face," played by his wife and artist Stephanie Boone, a new personal trajectory. She portrays the chainsaw-less monster excised from the context of a horror movie and living peacefully in the hills overlooking east Los Angeles.

The artist is fascinated by the magnetic pull of Southern California that seems to attract those who do not fit in elsewhere: the outsiders and the dreamers. Boone said, "the film is about someone dealing with who they are—the intersection of who they have been and who they want to be. It is also about the mind-warping physical space between Houston and Los Angeles: 1,500 miles on Interstate 10 through the desert. El Paso is halfway."

The Highway Hex includes sculptures the artist has employed in the film, such as a homemade jukebox that only plays George Jones, which the artist sees as both an homage to the country music singer and an instrument of torture "depending on who you ask." Fueled by his years based in Los Angeles, Boone is interested in props and exploring how an object is imbued with meaning and mythology. Relatedly, his sculptures demonstrate his penchant for employing techniques developed outside of a fine arts framework, such as model building, automotive painting, and sign making.

The Highway Hex also features a neon-lit, twenty-foot-long wooden model of the Los Angeles River, a symbol of the artist's current surroundings, as well as a new series of large-scale assemblage paintings incorporating found objects and bar top resin. Boone refers to these paintings as "Arterials" because of their relationship to the highway, specifically Interstate 10, and their sanguine color, which is similar to the kitschy stage blood used in the slasher film genre.

Will Boone: The Highway Hex is curated by Patricia Restrepo, CAMH Exhibitions Manager and Assistant Curator.

Suggested Resources

These resources are recommended for further inquiry into the artwork and themes explored in the exhibition *Will Boone: The Highway Hex*.

Reading

Kennedy, Randy
– *Presidio: A Novel*, 2018

O'Connor, Flannery
– *A Good Man is Hard to Find: and Other Stories*, 1955

Tomkins, Calvin
– *Off the Wall: A Portrait of Robert Rauschenberg*, 2005

Wright, Lawrence
– *God Save Texas: A Journey into the Soul of the Lone Star State*, 2018

Viewing

Jigoku
– Nobuo Nakagawa, 1960

Paris Texas
– Wim Wenders, 1984

Slacker
– Richard Linklater, 1990

Two-Lane Blacktop
– Monte Hellman, 1999

Listening

Allen, Terry
– *Juarez*, 1975

The Gun Club
– *Miami*, 1982

Hopkins, Lightning
– *Mojo Hand*, 1962