MEDIA ALERT: Blanton Museum to Present “Diedrick Brackens: darling divined”

What: The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces *Diedrick Brackens: darling divined*, the seventh Contemporary Project in the series. From Mexia, Texas, and currently based in Los Angeles, Diedrick Brackens honors Black and queer histories through textiles that imagine new futures through symbolic elements and evocative gestures. This presentation of *darling divined*, originally organized by the New Museum, includes nine narrative weavings that draw inspiration from diverse sources ranging from European tapestries and quilts from the American south to popular culture, such as the film *Moonlight*. One of the key works, *bitter attendance, drown jubilee* (above), commemorates three Black teenagers who died in 1981 while in police custody in Mexia. As Brackens recently articulated: “I created the weaving as a way to tell the story and re-imagine its violent ending. To honor the lives lost, the boys are returned to the world transformed as catfish.”

When: October 17, 2020 – May 16, 2021. Please note some dates are subject to change because of fluctuations associated with the pandemic. Check with media contacts or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org) for most up-to-date information.

Programs: Artist Talk: Diedrick Brackens in conversation with Blanton Curator Veronica Roberts, November 17, 5pm Central, via Zoom

Admission Information: Advance, timed-tickets are required. Visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org) for tickets. For press visits, email penny.snyder@blantonmuseum.org.
Diedrick Brackens: darling divined is organized by New Museum, New York. The exhibition is curated by Margot Norton, Curator, and Francesca Altamura, former Curatorial Assistant. The Blanton Museum of Art’s presentation is organized by Veronica Roberts, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Funding for this exhibition at the Blanton is provided in part by Fredericka and David Middleton, and the Loraine O’Gorman Gonzales Creative Craft Fund.

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Carlotta Stankiewicz, carlotta.stankiewicz@blantonmuseum.org

Penny Snyder, penny.snyder@blantonmuseum.org

Image: Diedrick Brackens, *bitter attendance, drowned jubilee*, 2018. Woven cotton and acrylic yarn and silk organza, 72 x 72 in. Hammer Museum. Los Angeles; purchased with funds provided by Beth Rudin DeWoody. Image courtesy the artist; Various Small Fires, Los Angeles / Seoul; and Jack Shainman, New York © Diedrick Brackens

**About the Blanton:**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with around 19,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly’s *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.