

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Tel 203.438.4519, Fax 203.438.0198, [aldrichart.org](http://aldrichart.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Pamela Ruggio, [pruggio@aldrichart.org](mailto:pruggio@aldrichart.org), 203.438.4519**



The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum  
Michael Joo, *Marble Strata Room* (digital rendering), 2014  
Courtesy of Michael Joo Studio, New York

**Michael Joo: Drift**  
**at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum**  
**April 6 to September 21, 2014**

Ridgefield (April 2014): Michael Joo has redefined sculpture during his two-decade career, creating a body of work that transcends the seduction of technology and the easy answers offered by science to generate a set of questions that place humankind in the context of natural history.

In his new site-specific exhibition *Drift*, opening at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum on April 6, Joo connects with the local landscape in a meditation on Cameron's Line, an ancient suture fault that traces the edge of the continental collision that initiated the formation of the Appalachian Mountains. The line—which runs north from New York City into Westchester County, passes through Ridgefield as it traverses Connecticut, then crosses Massachusetts

into Vermont—is defined by a belt of marble that includes the famous quarries of Vermont.

The exhibition poses Cameron’s Line as a linear experience through both time and space, and features a massive displacement of Vermont marble that takes the form of a fourteen-hundred-square-foot chamber, whose chilled and frosted ceiling echoes the marble’s crystalline structure.

Aldrich exhibitions director Richard Klein, the curator of the exhibition, explains, “The title *Drift* plays off the concept of continental drift, the geological phenomenon of slowly shifting continental plates that incrementally shape the earth’s crust. But drift has other connotations, including a gradual change in meaning over time; rock debris deposited by natural agents; a horizontal passageway in an underground mine; and the materials transported and deposited by a glacier or glacial meltwater. All of these definitions are relevant detours to consider while traveling along the line that the artist has suggested we follow.”

### **The Aldrich 50th Anniversary**

*Michael Joo: Drift* is part of The Aldrich’s 50th Anniversary celebration, which highlights not only the Museum’s legacy, but also the relationship between the era in which it was founded and our current social, political, and cultural landscape. With perspective gained through five decades, The Aldrich’s formative years of 1964 to 1974 will be examined through a contemporary lens. The presentation includes three overlapping series which will be mounted over the course of a year:

A two-part exhibition—*Standing in the Shadows of Love: The Aldrich Collection 1964–1974*—of iconic, historical works that are representative of The Aldrich’s early collection acquired by founder Larry Aldrich (opening April 6: Robert Indiana, Robert Morris, Ree Morton, Robert Rauschenberg, Robert Smithson; opening October 19: Richard Artschwager, Eva Hesse, Ellsworth Kelly, Agnes Martin, Richard Serra); a group of new projects by contemporary artists whose work reflects the continuing influence of both art and culture from the 1960s and 1970s, in juxtaposition with the historical works (opening April 6: Taylor Davis, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Michael Joo, Michelle Lopez; opening October 19: Kate Gilmore, Ernesto Neto, David Scanavino, Cary Smith); and solo exhibitions of current work by established artists who were included in significant exhibitions during the Museum’s first decade (opening April 6: Jack Whitten; opening July 13: David Diao; opening October 19: Mary Beth Edelson, Jackie Winsor).

## **Reception**

The free opening, on Sunday, April 6, from 1 to 5 pm, will launch The Aldrich's 50th Anniversary with an artists' reunion. At 1 pm the exhibitions, outdoor tented café, and sixties music lounge open to the public. From 1 to 3 pm and 3 to 5 pm, art-making workshops for all ages will be offered; and at 2 and 3 pm docents will lead exhibition tours. The Aldrich is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT.

## **Transportation**

Free onsite parking is available. Direct round trip transportation to the April 6 opening will depart from MoMA PS1 in Long Island City, Queens, at 11:45 am, returning from The Aldrich at 4:30 pm. The shuttle will pick passengers up on Jackson Avenue near 46th Road, right around the corner from the entrance to MoMA PS1. Reservations are required for the shuttle and the cost is \$20. For more information, call 203.438.4519 during regular Museum hours.

## **Artist**

Michael Joo was born in Ithaca, NY, in 1966; he lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, and teaches at Columbia University and in the Bard College MFA program. He received a BFA in sculpture from Washington University (St. Louis) 1989, and a MFA in sculpture from Yale in 1991. Joo has shown extensively in exhibitions worldwide, including the Venice Biennale, 1993 and 2001; Serpentine Gallery, London, 1994 and 2006; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Johannesburg Biennial, 1995; Whitney Biennial, New York, 2000; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Bohen Foundation New York, 2005; Rodin Gallery, Seoul, 2006; Denver Art Museum, 2006 and the Gwangju Biennale, South Korea, 2006. His work is included in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art; and the Samsung Foundation for Art and Culture, Seoul. Joo's work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *The New Yorker*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, and *NY Arts Magazine*. He is the recipient of a US Artists Fellowship, 2006; American Center Foundation Grant, 2003; LEF Foundation Grant, 2002; Warhol Foundation Grant, 2001; Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, 2000; and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 1998. Michael Joo is represented by Blain/Southern in London and Kukje Gallery in Seoul.

## **Museum**

Founded by Larry Aldrich in 1964, The Aldrich is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2014 with a series of exhibitions and programs highlighting not just the Museum's legacy, but also the relationship between the era in which it was founded and the current cultural landscape. The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum in Connecticut devoted to contemporary art. It is one of

only twenty museums in Connecticut and only 318 art museums in the country to be accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Museum, located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877, is dedicated to fostering innovative artists whose ideas and interpretations of the world around us serve as a platform to encourage creative thinking. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203 438 4519 or visit [aldrichart.org](http://aldrichart.org).

## **Sponsors**

The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Major support for Museum operations has been provided by members of The Aldrich Board of Trustees and by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation. *Michael Joo: Drift* is made possible, in part, by generous funding from Blain/Southern, London; Kukje Gallery, Seoul; Jennifer McSweeney; Robin and Andrew Schirrmeister; and The Aldrich Contemporary Council. *Jack Whitten: Evolver* is supported, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are Ridgefield Magazine and WSHU Public Radio.