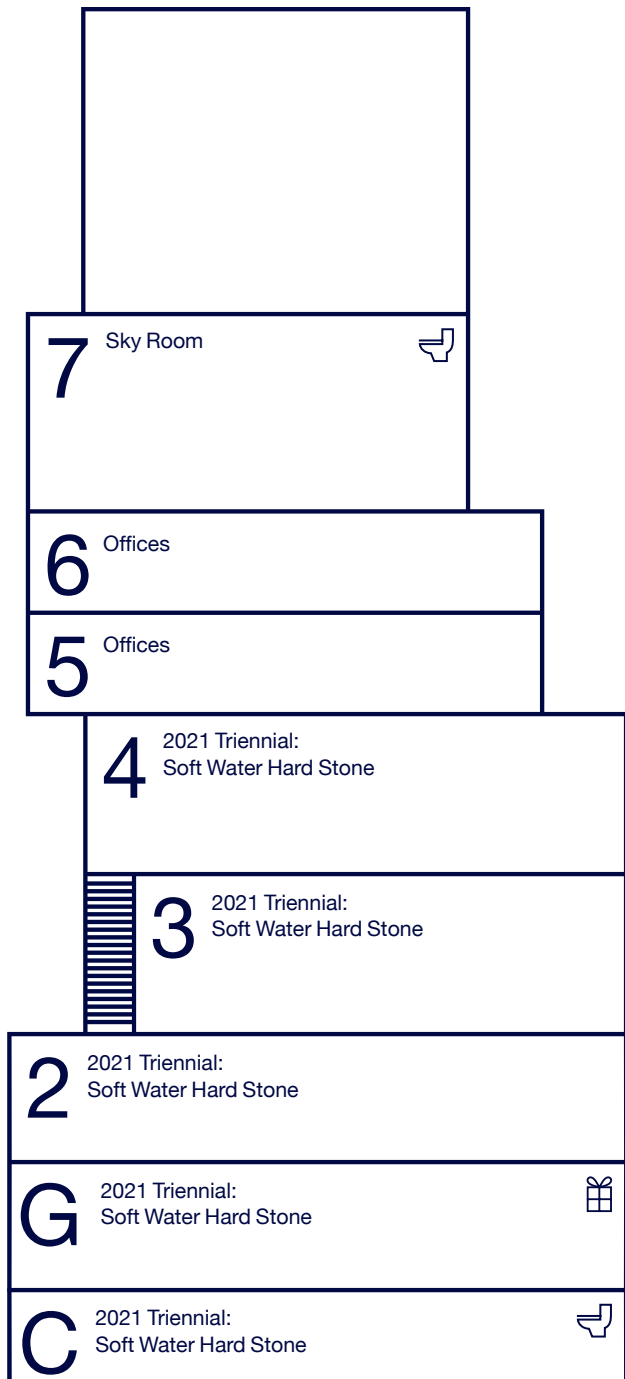


2021  
New Museum  
Triennial

# Soft Water Hard Stone

**NEW  
MUSEUM**

October 28, 2021–  
January 23, 2022



The 2021 Triennial, “Soft Water Hard Stone,” arrives in a time of enduring uncertainty. The title of the exhibition invokes a Brazilian proverb, versions of which are found across cultures:

*Água mole em pedra dura, tanto bate até que fura*  
Soft water on hard stone hits until it bores a hole

The proverb can be said to have two meanings: if one persists long enough, the desired effect can eventually be achieved; and time can destroy even the most perceptibly solid materials. The title speaks to ideas of resilience and perseverance, and the impact that a discrete gesture can have over time. It also provides a metaphor for resistance, since water — a constantly flowing and transient material — is capable of eventually dissolving stone — a substance associated with permanence, but also composed of tiny particles that can collapse under pressure.

In this moment of profound change, where structures once thought to be stable are disintegrating or on the edge of collapse, the 2021 Triennial is characterized by artists re-envisioning traditional models, materials, and techniques beyond established paradigms. Their works exalt states of transformation, calling attention to the malleability of structures, porous and unstable surfaces, and the fluid and adaptable qualities of both technological and organic media. Throughout the exhibition, artists address the regenerative capabilities of the natural world and our inseparable relationship to it, and grapple with entrenched legacies of colonialism, displacement, and violence. Their works look back toward overlooked histories and artistic traditions, while at the same time look forward to the creative potential that might give dysfunctional or discarded remains new life. It is through their reconfigurations and reimaginings that we are reminded not only of our temporality but of our adaptability — fundamental characteristics we share, and which keep us human.

“Soft Water Hard Stone” is the fifth edition of the New Museum Triennial, an exhibition series dedicated to presenting the work of emerging artists from around the world. The exhibition is curated by Margot Norton, Allen and Lola Goldring Curator, and Jamillah James, Senior Curator, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA), with Jeanette Bisschops, Curatorial Fellow, and Bernardo Mosqueira, ISLAA Curatorial Fellow. Exhibition catalogue and visual identity designed by Pacific.

Support for the 2021 Triennial, “Soft Water Hard Stone,” can be viewed on [newmuseum.org](http://newmuseum.org).

**NEW  
MUSEUM**

**New Museum**  
235 Bowery  
New York, NY 10002  
212.219.1222

**Hours**

Mon  
Tues–Sun  
Thurs

Closed  
11 AM–6 PM  
11 AM–9 PM

[newmuseum.org](http://newmuseum.org)  
[newmuseum.tv](http://newmuseum.tv)  
[@newmuseum](mailto:@newmuseum)  
[info@newmuseum.org](mailto:info@newmuseum.org)

# Your Visit

## Getting Around

Take the elevator or use Stairwells A or B to access all galleries. Please note that there is no access to theater/cellar level from either stairwell.

## Restrooms

Restrooms are located on the Lower Level and in the Sky Room. Single-occupancy restrooms are located in the Sky Room.

## Sky Room

The Sky Room is open to the public during our open hours. Please check our website for closures prior to your visit.

## Accessibility

Our free accommodations include wheelchairs and portable stools. Please inquire at the Visitor Desk in the Lobby if you need additional assistance.

## Hours

Tuesday–Sunday	11 AM–6 PM
Thursdays open late	(7–9 PM pay what you wish)
Closed Mondays	

## Admission

General	\$18
Seniors	\$15
Students	\$12
Members	Free
18 & Under	Free

## Tours

Onsite tours will resume in November 2021. To learn more about onsite or virtual tours, visit [newmuseum.org/calendar](https://newmuseum.org/calendar).

## Photography

No-flash photography is allowed for personal, non-commercial use, except where noted. We do not allow tripods, selfie sticks, or videography. Please do not touch works of art.

## Shop

Find books, limited edition art objects, and gifts in the New Museum Store, located in the Lobby and at [newmuseumstore.org](https://newmuseumstore.org).

## Join Today

Apply the cost of your ticket toward a New Museum membership, which starts at \$70. Members enjoy unlimited express admission, invitations to events, and much more. To become a Member, visit our Visitor Desk or [newmuseum.org/join](https://newmuseum.org/join).

# Public Programs

Public programs are hosted online and onsite at the Museum. Please visit [newmuseum.org/calendar](https://newmuseum.org/calendar) for more information.

# COVID-19 Safety

To ensure the health and safety of all visitors and staff of the New Museum, please follow these safety measures during your visit:

## Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Required

In compliance with the Mayor's Emergency Executive Order 225, visitors 12 years of age and older must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter the New Museum. Visitors 18 years of age and older must also show an ID bearing the same identifying information as proof of vaccination. Vaccinated visitors ages 12–17 without an ID must be accompanied by a vaccinated adult with an ID.

## Wear a Mask

The Museum requires all visitors age 4 and up to wear a mask or solid face covering over their nose and mouth for the duration of their visit, regardless of vaccination status. Face shields without masks are not sufficient. The Museum's staff are also required to wear masks. We cannot accommodate visitors without masks at this time.

## Maintain Social Distancing

All visitors must adhere to social distancing protocols, remaining at least six feet apart from those from different households/family groups.

## Coat and Bag Check Closed

Large bags will not be permitted as coat and bag check is closed. Visitors with large bags may be denied entry to the Museum.

## Wash Your Hands

The Museum encourages frequent hand washing and hand-sanitizing stations can be found throughout the building. The Museum cleans and sanitizes high-touch, high-traffic areas frequently; the Museum has also upgraded its air filtration system.

## Café Closed

The Café is closed, and public water fountains are not available. Use of closed water bottles is permitted in areas outside of the galleries.

## Questions?

Contact us at [info@newmuseum.org](mailto:info@newmuseum.org).

# About

The New Museum on the Bowery was designed by acclaimed architects Sejima + Nishizawa/SANAA. SANAA conceived of the Museum as a sculptural stack of rectilinear boxes shifted off-axis around a central steel core. The use of industrial materials is in keeping with the commercial character of the Bowery, and SANAA has used them in a way that is at once beautiful and rough. The exterior is clad in a seamless, anodized aluminum mesh that emphasizes the volumes of the boxes while dressing the whole building in a shimmering skin. The structure appears as a mutable, dynamic form, animated by the changing light of the day.

## Land Acknowledgment

The New Museum sits on the unceded Indigenous homeland of the Lenape peoples. We acknowledge the genocide and continued displacement of Indigenous peoples during the colonial era and beyond. The island of Mannahatta in Lenapehoking has long been a gathering place for Indigenous people to trade and maintain kinship ties. Today, these communities continue to contribute to the life of this city and to celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land and waterways as sacred.

## Site Heritage

We acknowledge the significant history of African Americans on and around the Bowery. Manhattan's first free Black settlement was on the Bowery and the second earliest known African-American burial ground in New York is adjacent to the New Museum's site.

The New Museum extends our respect and gratitude to the many African American and immigrant communities who have lived and moved through this place for over hundreds of years.



Photo: Dean Kauffman