



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Cloud City* to Reflect OKC, Oklahoma Contemporary’s Home-to-Be**

Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center will reflect, refract and rearrange the skyline of downtown Oklahoma City this fall with Tomàs Saraceno’s *Cloud City*. The large-scale art installation will open Sept. 8 at Campbell Art Park, adjacent to the site of our planned art campus at NW 11th and Broadway.

Visitors to *Cloud City* can walk inside what Saraceno calls “a utopian city in the sky.” Made of steel and acrylic, the structure is both transparent and reflective, so that grass may appear overhead and the sky is reflected onto the ground. The 16 interconnected modules – each the size of a small room – draw shapes from natural forms, including bubbles, clouds, universes, bacteria, foam and animals’ neural communication networks.

“*Cloud City* represents one direction Oklahoma Contemporary is headed artistically,” says Jeremiah Matthew Davis, Oklahoma Contemporary’s artistic director. “Saraceno’s interdisciplinary work connects art, engineering, science and innovation to create a fun, interactive and unique platform of exploration. This kind of project lays the groundwork for conversations across diverse fields and between communities, creating connections and opening doors to new ways of participating with art in Oklahoma City.”

Previously shown on the rooftop of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the Green Box Arts Festival in Green Mountain Falls, Colo., the 28-foot-tall installation in Campbell Art Park will reflect and reimagine the downtown Oklahoma City cityscape and our state’s unending sky. Saraceno notes: “When it is reassembled in a different place, the sky and the environment will be different; it will change completely.” The change it will bring to downtown will be breathtaking.

“Bringing this massive installation to Campbell Art Park, overlooking the site of our future home, we hope visitors will be able to experience the Oklahoma sky and the buildings of downtown from the vantage point of the clouds,” Davis says. “While climbing through the complex, interconnected structure, people can look east and imagine how the landscape will change once we open our new building.”

The sculpture shows how Saraceno, who studied art and architecture in his native Argentina and in Frankfurt, Germany, blends them with science and engineering. Instead of designing buildings, the artist has developed a series of projects that present alternative ways of perceiving reality and interacting with others.

During its five-week run, the interior of *Cloud City* will be open for exploration at scheduled intervals Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Interior visitors must follow specific

safety guidelines and will be required to sign a waiver to enter. There's no charge for admission, but reservations are recommended. Guests can reserve their slot at bit.ly/exploreCloudCity.

Oklahoma Contemporary is also seeking volunteers to help man the installation, as well. Learn more and sign up at bit.ly/OCcloudvol. Volunteers who work three shifts earn a free Oklahoma Contemporary membership and six get a ticket to ArtNow.

Cloud City is on loan through and with the generous support of the Christian Keese Charitable Trust. It is presented by Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Campbell Park is maintained by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and Campbell Art Park, L.L.C., under an agreement with the City of Oklahoma City. Oklahoma Contemporary began programming Campbell Art Park in 2014 with Orly Genger's *Terra*. For more information on Oklahoma Contemporary's planned arts campus, visit oklahomacontemporary.org.

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Oklahoma Contemporary's artistic and exhibition staff are available for interviews about *Cloud City* and media can take tours of the installation. Contact Lori Brooks (lbrooks@okcontemp.org or 405-951-0000) for details. A media kit, including this press release and high-resolution photos of *Cloud City* at Green Box Arts Festival, is available at bit.ly/OCcloudCitydrop. Past press releases and additional information are archived at oklahomacontemporary.org/about/media.

About Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center

Currently located at State Fair Park, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center aims to encourage artistic expression in all its forms through education and exhibitions. We endeavor to instill in the public a lifetime appreciation of the arts and enthusiasm for creative practice through a broad range of educational programs, exhibitions and cultural offerings, including:

- Youth art camps that help students begin a lifetime relationship with art and creativity.
- Art classes and workshops where students of all ages find the chance to learn and grow.
- Exhibitions that feature the work of emerging and mid-career artists.
- Free public lectures, artist talks and events that enrich Oklahoma City's cultural offerings.

Oklahoma Contemporary is in the midst of a capital campaign to create a spectacular new arts education and cultural resource on a 4.6-acre site at NW 11th and Broadway in Oklahoma City. The arts education campus will include:

A four-story, 50,000-square-foot building with classrooms, galleries, a dance studio and a black-box theater to promote learning about the artists of our time and educating those to come. Expanded classes in ceramics, fiber, painting, sculpture, drawing and dance, plus a new media curriculum with programs in filmmaking, animation, photography, web design and 3-D printing. A remodeled 10,000-square-foot building will house an Industrial Arts program, focusing on wood, ceramics, metal and jewelry. Grounds with space for outdoor sculpture exhibits, children's art education activities and outdoor music, movie and drama productions.

Oklahoma Contemporary is a regional 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1989 by businessman and philanthropist Christian Keese and Kirkpatrick Foundation Director Marilyn Myers. Marfa Contemporary is the organization's first regional extension.