

The Captivating Unknown: Charting Our Relationship with the Cosmos
Opens at The Rollins Museum of Art on Friday, May 15, 2026



Sandra Ramos (Cuban, b. 1969) *Utopia*, 2010, Etching aquatint 19 11/16 x 39 3/8 in. The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art. Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alford. Image courtesy of the artist.

For centuries, civilizations have been fascinated by what lies beyond human perception, oftentimes looking to the stars and the sky for answers. This exploration of the otherworldly frequently coincides with an internal reflection on the limits of human knowledge and understanding. With distinct visual narratives, the works in this exhibition blur the lines between the physical and the immaterial, presenting unique perspectives on personal experiences and interpretations of reality.

The six artists in this exhibition seek to translate the enormity of universal wonder into a tangible reality. Through a variety of media and across diverse periods of time, *The Captivating Unknown* explores the connection between human experience and the greater cosmos.

For **Sandra Ramos**, whose work is featured above, the cosmos offers an image of utopia, which she describes as “an unreachable territory that contains all the desires, hopes, and dreams of humankind.”

In this work, the artist addresses the complexities of both physical and metaphorical distance between the young girl and her homeland of Cuba. The figure, a reference to Ramos' own childhood and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, looks through a telescope at the expansive night sky, gaze focused on the geographical outline of her island. Ramos ultimately invites us to question our own interpretation of utopia and consider where we might look to find it.

For South Korean artist **Yeondoo Jung**, the cosmos is a hyperobject – “a fantasy within the possibility of imagination.” In this work, Jung creates a fantastical altered moon in the form of a disco ball, scattering its light across a tranquil night sea, evocative with violet, soft pink, and deep blue hues. While the artist relies on traditional methods of capturing landscapes, the manipulation of images through technology in his *Location* series challenges the definition of nature photography.



Combining the representation of the artist's family garden in Maine with images from the Hubble Telescope, **Leidy Churchman's** *One Taste* explores the connection between the earthly and the cosmological. Utilizing striking colors and vivid details, Churchman illustrates the scope of human knowledge and the enormity of the unknown. A large visual cue within the work translates to something familiar: our moon. As a practicing Buddhist, their work is

informed by explorations of human consciousness and meditative contemplation. *One Taste* reminds us of the ever-present question within human understanding: What lies beyond? And is it truly so different from what is right in front of us?

Image: Leidy Churchman (American, b. 1979), *One Taste*, 2020, Oil on linen, 79 x 102 ½ x 2 in. The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, Rollins Museum of Art. Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alford 2021.1.18 © Leidy Churchman

The Captivating Unknown: Charting Our Relationship with the Cosmos is curated by **Avryl Colón-Pérez '26, Fred W. Hicks Curatorial Fellow**. The Museum's **Fred W. Hicks Curatorial Fellowship** offers a unique opportunity for Rollins undergraduates to explore curatorial work through mentorship that results in hands-on experiences and practical skills developed over the course of the academic year. Colón-Pérez will offer a public tour of the exhibition on **August 28** before its closing on **August 30**.

A link to select imagery is here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/s0sf4e7b2coonmfxnf9tm/AFkpegrhpYHIODF0h60EI5U?rlkey=bjpt94w0lbfsmstn64et9lxm&st=g25qvm7q&dl=0>

ABOUT THE FRED W. HICKS CURATORIAL FELLOWSHIP

The Fred W. Hicks Curatorial Fellowship at the Rollins Museum of Art provides in-depth training for advanced Rollins College undergraduate students seeking professional experience in a museum setting. The selected candidate works with education and curatorial staff on day-to-day activities and long-term projects. The fellowship provides both broad and deep involvement and offers the opportunity to gain working knowledge of the museum's staff, programs, and functions.

ABOUT THE ROLLINS MUSEUM OF ART

The Rollins Museum of Art offers always-free admission to rotating exhibitions, dynamic public programs, and access to an extensive permanent collection of more than 6,000 objects spanning antiquity to the present. The collection includes a world-class global contemporary art collection, the only European Old Master paintings in the Orlando area, and a significant holding of American art. Contemporary works are also on view at The Alford Inn at Rollins, a nearby philanthropic boutique hotel whose proceeds support student scholarships. In 1981, the museum became Florida's first accredited college museum and remains one of only four museums in greater Orlando accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. For additional information, call 407.646.2526 or visit www.rollins.edu/rma. "Like" the RMA on Facebook and follow on Instagram @rollinsmuseum.

ABOUT ROLLINS COLLEGE

Founded in 1885, Rollins College is Florida's oldest recognized college. Located in Winter Park, near Orlando, Rollins is consistently ranked as one of the top regional universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to full-time undergraduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts, Rollins offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults through its evening program at the Hamilton Holt School and graduate business degree programs through its Crummer Graduate School of Business, which has been ranked a top MBA program by Forbes and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Rollins serves approximately 3,127 degree-seeking students annually. For more information, visit www.rollins.edu. "Like" Rollins on Facebook and follow on X @RollinsCollege.

Museum Location

Rollins Museum of Art, Rollins College
1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789
407.646.2526

Museum Hours

Tuesday and Thursday: 10am-7pm
Wednesday and Friday: 10am-4pm
Saturday-Sunday: 12-5pm (11am-4pm beginning May 30)
Closed Mondays, major holidays, and during installation periods

Alford Inn Location

The Alford Inn at Rollins College
300 East New England Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Press Contact

Lindsay DeSantis | Publicist
lindsay@lindsaydesantis.com | 814-460-3365

Museum Contact

Jamie Donmoyer | Digital Initiatives Coordinator
jfriedmandonmoyer@rollins.edu