



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

CONTACT: Vanessa Cordova

media@mcadenver.org

219-218-4408

MCA Denver's Fall 2025 Exhibitions Seek to Explore the Paradox of Water

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – DENVER – Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (MCA Denver) announced its fall exhibitions, with two shows including [*Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of Them All*](#) and [*Deborah Jack: the haunting of estuaries...an \(after\)math of confluence*](#). The exhibitions will be on view Sept. 12, 2025 – Jan. 25, 2026.

Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of Them All is curated by former Mark G. Falcone Director, Nora Burnett Abrams, and was organized during Abrams' time with MCA Denver before moving to her role as the Ellen Matilda Poss Director at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston. *Deborah Jack: the haunting of estuaries...an (after)math of confluence* is curated by Ellen Bruss Chief Curator, Miranda Lash.



Roni Horn, *Doubt by Water*, 2003-04. Up to 30 two-sided pigment prints in plastic sleeves on aluminum stanchions. 60 photographs, each: 16 ½ x 22 inches. Stanchions, each: 14 in

(diameter) x 70 ½ in (height). Detail. Installation view, Art Basel Unlimited, Switzerland, 2023.
Photo by Stefan Altenburger. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. © Roni Horn

Presenting works in a range of mediums – including sculpture, photography, drawing, and bookmaking – Horn’s solo exhibition is the first to focus exclusively on the concept of water. Including signature works from her oeuvre, such as *You are the Weather, Part 2* (2010–11), a series of 100 photographs of a woman submerged in various geothermal pools across Iceland; a series of never-before-exhibited cast glass sculptures, whose reflective surfaces allude to a pool of water; and books from *To Place*, an ongoing series of publications initiated in 1989, which address the artist’s relationship to identity and place.

Horn’s use of water as content furthers her interests in paradox and identity, both recurring themes in her work. In her own words, “You say water is troubled or calm. You say water is rough and restless. You say water is quiet. Water is serene and sometimes clear, it might be pure and then it is brilliant. Water is heavy; that’s a fact. Water is often tranquil, even placid. Water is still and then it might be deep as well. Water is cold or hot, chilly or tepid. You say water is brash or brisk, sometimes crisp. You say water is soft and hard. You say water irritates and lubricates. You say water is foul. You say water is fresh. You say water is limpid and languorous. You say water is sweet.”

Horn’s paradox of water is analogous to that of human identity: that something so fixed and stable in what we imagine it to be is—in reality—dynamic, unpredictable, and inchoate. For regions like Denver and the Intermountain West, this paradox has particular regional and cultural relevance: for centuries, water has been an assumed resource, readily available in manifold forms. Amidst climate change and population pressure, however, that resource is increasingly at risk, posing an immediate threat to the stability of both the natural environment and our human experience of it.



Rizzoli Electa's *Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of Them All* book cover image courtesy of Rizzoli Electa.

The release of a book will accompany this exhibition. Rizzoli Electa's *Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of Them All*, which will be released on September 9, 2025, is a captivating monograph which explores Horn's decades-long fascination with water, both as a material and a metaphor. This volume not only offers a retrospective of her water-centered works but also connects them to broader global challenges with critical and poetic texts by Nora Burnett Abrams, Jarrett Earnest, Anne Carson, and the artist herself.



Deborah Jack, *a sea desalts, creeping in the collapse...in the expanse...a rhizome looks for reason...whispers an elegy instead*, 2024 (video still). Commissioned by Prospect.6.
Image courtesy of the artist and Prospect New Orleans

Deborah Jack's solo exhibition (her first in Colorado) includes a dynamic, six-channel video installation featuring tumbling waters and fauna from the shorelines of four geographically distant places: Maine, Louisiana, Brazil (Belém), and the island of St. Maarten. Entitled *a sea desalts, creeping in the collapse... in the expanse...a rhizome looks for reason... whispers an elegy instead*, 2024, this installation offers a meditation on the dynamic nature of coastlines and humanity's relationship to water.

Jack is a multidisciplinary artist whose artistic practice includes video installation, photography, and text. She engages a variety of strategies for mining the intersections of histories, cultural memory, ecology, and climate change. For her exhibition at MCA Denver, Jack's photography and videos combine footage from the coastline of Jack's home of St. Maarten with the shores of York, Maine and the shorelines of Louisiana's Lake Peigneur (a lake created by a man-made disaster), as well as Louisiana's Neptune Pass and Quarantine Bay (areas of the Mississippi delta where the land made from river sediment continues to rebuild despite human interventions). Along the coastlines of Louisiana, Maine, and St. Maarten, land is rapidly disappearing and changing due to erosion, warming ocean waters, and hurricanes. Meanwhile, in Louisiana's river delta, Neptune Pass and Quarantine Bay offer unexpected examples of where the land is

naturally repairing itself. These shifting edges of where the water meets the land underscores the limitations of humans' ability to control nature.

"Having had the pleasure of exhibiting Deborah Jack's work in the Prospect.6 triennial in New Orleans, it a privilege to now bring Jack's evocative and visually stunning practice to Denver," says Lash. "Through keen observation and dynamic imagery, Jack calls attention to some of our planet's most fragile ecosystems. Shooting from a bird's eye view or deep within the mangroves, Jack's camera illuminates the richness within these edges of land where freshwater and saltwater meet."

"My current art practice connects the effects of the hurricane storm surge in relation to coastal erosion and the saltwater inundation of intertidal spaces" says Jack. "I imagine these protective intersectional landscapes and wetlands as resistant geographies. This altered landscape, post surge, though temporary, is an exciting conceptual space regarding the memory of water as it intersects with the land and the edges, even for those who live inland, in areas like Denver, and their relationship with lakes and rivers."

Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of Them All is made possible through the generous support of Susan and Larry Marx, Carla Emil and Rich Silverstein, and Girlfriend Fund. MCA Denver also thanks Hauser & Wirth for their support of *Roni Horn*. MCA Denver also thanks the citizens of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) for their support of both exhibitions.

###

ABOUT MCA DENVER

The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (MCA Denver) explores the art and culture of our time through rotating exhibitions and public educational programs in two locations: the Fries Building at 1485 Delgany Street and at the Holiday Theater in Denver's Northside neighborhood. Featuring international, national and regional artists, MCA Denver offers a wide range of exhibitions promoting creative experimentation with art and ideas. Through adult and youth education programs and other creative events, the museum serves as an innovative forum for a culturally engaged community.

About Roni Horn

Born in 1955 in New York, Horn grew up in the city and its suburbs. She studied at the Rhode Island School of Design before earning an MFA from Yale University in 1978. Her first solo exhibition (outside the university) was held in 1980 at the Kunstraum München. Horn taught at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York for three years after completing her studies at Yale. She then returned to New York, where she currently lives and works.

About Deborah Jack

Born in 1970, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Jack lives in Cole Bay, St. Maarten and Jersey City, New Jersey. Jack received an MFA from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2002. Her work has been featured in significant exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, NY; Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, MA; the Houston Center of Photography, TX; and other renowned institutions. In 2021, a retrospective, *Deborah Jack: 20 Years*, was presented at Pen + Brush in New York, NY. Her work is in the collections of Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL; Des Moines Art Center, IA; Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL; and the Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA. Jack was a 2023 Changing Climate Resident at the Santa Fe Art Institute and a Surf Point Foundation artist-in-residence. She is a recipient of a Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (2024), a Soros Arts Fellowship (2023), a Jersey City Artist Grant (2022), and a Nancy Graves Grant for Visual Artists (2021). Jack is currently a Professor of Art at New Jersey City University.