



Design Description for Exhibition Design of Adam Pendleton: *Who is Queen?*

Made of timber and painted jet black, three wooden scaffold towers will envelop the perimeter of the Donald B. and Catherine C. Marron Atrium of the Museum of Modern Art from September 18, 2021 through January 30, 2022. These monumental structures are the backdrop for artist Adam Pendleton's *Who Is Queen?* exhibition. Designed by Frederick Tang Architecture in collaboration with Pendleton, they serve as a physical armature to exhibit a series of new paintings, drawings, and sculptures.

Standing at an impressive sixty-feet tall, the scaffolds serve as a mediator between Pendleton's work and the institution's white walls, a contrast that "questions the traditional notion of the museum as a repository," according to MoMA's press release. "Scaffolding as a technique is often a temporary structure built in support of a larger, more permanent one. In this case, we are creating a supporting armature for Adam's work that could inhabit the Atrium but also overwhelm it," says Frederick Tang, founder of Frederick Tang Architecture.

The floor-to-ceiling installation is built with dimensional lumber and uses traditional vernacular methods of house framing. Utilizing balloon-framing techniques to achieve its height allows for long, uninterrupted spans in the material and variety in the physical installation. The structure includes a syncopated pattern of ladders and platforms that imply occupation and provide a human scale to the installation.

It also resembles a scaffold used to assist in building and construction. Says Tang, "We chose to use dimensional lumber sizes so that the materiality of it felt very much like a typical wood framing structure. It was important for the wood to look like standard lumber, but used in a different way."

The exhibition is the first of several design collaborations between Frederick Tang Architecture and Adam Pendleton, including the design of a studio and a production facility, both in Brooklyn.

About Frederick Tang Architecture

Frederick Tang Architecture is a boutique architecture and design practice based in the Old American Can Factory in Gowanus, Brooklyn. The ten-person studio provides a full array of architectural and design services from early programming and conceptualization through architectural and interior design, permitting, bidding, and construction phase services. The holistic practice completes the package with custom offerings in branding, graphic, product, and experience design.

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Rather than approach each project with a particular style we prefer to emphasize experimentation, curiosity, and collaboration throughout our process. The studio designs largely in physical models, full-scale mock-ups, material samples, hand sketching, as well as digital renderings. We trust that an iterative process produces more refined and unexpected solutions because space can tell a story.

Our work spans many typologies and scales including public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants, art galleries, and fitness centers, as well as private spaces like townhouses, apartments, and offices. Current projects include a Williamsburg studio for the artist Adam Pendleton, a home in Germantown, New York, and more.