

## Next Rauschenberg Gallery exhibit to feature site-specific Keith Edmier sculptural environment

By TOM HALL  
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*Keith EDMIER: Edison Impluvium* opens with a lecture and public reception on Saturday, December 5. The exhibition features a site-specific, full-scale sculptural recreation of the historic circa 1910 concrete swimming pool located on the nearby property of the Edison-Ford Winter Estates and will include the first-ever exhibition in Florida of the late, great inventor Thomas Edison's "full-head" plaster-cast death mask.

In addition to Edison's, the cementitious interior walls of the "swimming pool" sculpture (sans water) will be adorned with fifty other original plaster life masks, many created from molds made personally by Edmier from the faces and bodies of his subjects. These "casts" represent a physical record of time and include "self-portraits" of the artist as a teenager, in his 20s and most recently as a middle-aged man in his late 40s. Keith Edmier's parents (Tom and Beverly) are memorialized alongside a chronological "who's who" of the artist's friends, actors, comedians, musicians and various subjects from his personal life and work history, including "life masks" of Farrah Fawcett, Michael J. Fox, Charlie Sheen, David Bowie and former studio-mate Matthew Barney.

According to the artist, "Edison's Fort Myers pool is reimagined as an ancient ruin and references both the Roman Republic-era idea of life casts as ancestral masks and the water basins (known as impluviums) in the atriums of houses like those found in Pompeii."

Keith Edmier is an American visual artist who was born in 1967. He enjoyed his first solo show in 1993 at the Friedrich Petzel Gallery. He has exhibited extensively since, including solo exhibitions at the USF Contemporary Art Museum/Tampa (curated by Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Director Jade Dellinger), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Andy Warhol Museum, with major mid-career surveys at the CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, New York and De Hallen Haarlem/the Frans Hals Museum, the Netherlands. His work is in numerous private and public collections including the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Hessel Museum of Art/CCS-Bard College, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Denver Art Museum; The Israel Museum, TeleViv; and The Tate Gallery in London. A number of Edmier's works have sold at auction, including *Victoria Regia (Second Night Bloom)* sold at Sotheby's London Contemporary Art Evening Auction in 2011 for \$86,906. The artist has been the subject of numerous articles, including *Now Showing | Keith Edmier* written by Erika Allen for *New York Times Magazine* in 2013. ■

