

PRESS RELEASE

VISION & JUSTICE PROJECT TO BE HONORED AT FRIEZE NEW YORK 2021

- Over **50 galleries and institutions** have pledged their support in programming an unprecedented Tribute to the **Vision & Justice Project**
- Announcing the new **Vision & Justice Book Series**, published by **Aperture**, co-edited by **Sarah Elizabeth Lewis**, **Leigh Raiford**, and **Deborah Willis**, with the lead support of the Ford Foundation
- Featuring new commissions by artists **Carrie Mae Weems** and **Hank Willis Thomas** at Frieze New York
- Featuring an online discussion on black cultural leadership between **Wynton Marsalis**, **Ava DuVernay**, **Franklin Leonard** and **Theaster Gates** moderated by **Professor Lewis** supported by **PRADA**.

New York, US (April 6, 2021) – Frieze, today, revealed the central strand of the curated programming for Frieze New York 2021, a **Tribute to the Vision & Justice Project and its founder, Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, Associate Professor at Harvard University**. The Tribute will honor the exemplary work of the Vision & Justice Project, and Professor Lewis, through an unprecedented engagement with the community of galleries participating at Frieze New York. Taking place for the first time at The Shed, Manhattan, Frieze New York will run May 5 – 9, 2021. A dedicated edition of Frieze Viewing Room will run alongside the fair through May 14, 2021.

The Vision & Justice Project is rooted in education and is dedicated to examining art's central role in understanding the relationship between race and citizenship in the United States. The intention of the multifaceted Tribute is to explore this examination and expand the reach of the Vision & Justice Project, giving potential new audiences access to a visual literacy that could change the way they see the world.

At Frieze New York, artists **Carrie Mae Weems** and **Hank Willis Thomas**, have been commissioned to create their own considered homages to the Vision & Justice Project. Mae Weems will present monumental images of unique book covers for the artists who were originally a part of the Vision & Justice Project. Willis Thomas, following his campaign '2020 Awakening,' launched by his initiative, **For Freedoms**, will recreate his billboard, *Who Taught You To Love?* (2020). The award-winning 'Vision & Justice' issue of *Aperture* magazine (2016), curated by Professor Lewis, will also be available for sale at the fair and will be distributed to every gallery booth. Frieze will also host a screening of **Aggie** on frieze.com, a feature-length documentary that explores the nexus of art, race, and justice through the story of art collector and philanthropist **Agnes "Aggie" Gund**'s life, and will salute **Black Art: In the Absence of Light**, an HBO documentary featuring Professor Lewis that provides an illuminating introduction to the work of some of the foremost Black visual artists working today.

An invitation to honor the Vision & Justice Project has also been extended to Frieze New York's participating galleries and to New York City's public institutions. As a starting point, participants were asked the question: 'How are the arts responsible for disrupting, complicating, or shifting narratives of visual representation in the public realm?' In response, **over 50 galleries and**

institutions have pledged their support by creating or showcasing their own programming as part of the Tribute (please see full list below).

Responses and contributions from participating galleries include:

- **Ben Brown Fine Arts** has organized a conversation between **Awol Erizku** and **Daniel S. Palmer**, Curator, Public Art Fund, hosted by The Cooper Union. Erizku's *Untitled (Forces of Nature #1)* (2014) graced the cover of the award-winning 'Vision & Justice' issue of *Aperture* magazine
- **Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel** and **Tanya Bonakdar Gallery** will host a live conversation around artist **Abdias do Nascimento**, and more specifically, the photographic archive of **Teatro Experimental do Negro [Experimental Theater of the Negro]**, founded by him in 1944
- **Alexander Gray Associates** along with **Public Art Fund** will hold a socially distanced walk-through of '**Melvin Edwards: Brighter Days**' at City Hall Park
- **Kavi Gupta** will present Haitian-born, Montreal-based artist **Manuel Mathieu** and philanthropist and art collector **Pamela J. Joyner** in conversation. Mathieu and Joyner will discuss the artist's upcoming exhibition at Kavi Gupta, Chicago
- **Instituto de Visión** is inviting artists **Guadalupe Rosales** and **Modou Dieng** and curators **Danielle Shang** and **Xiaoyu Weng**, to discuss the subjects of race and representation, and the role of art as a powerful tool to influence and heal society
- Working in partnership with the **Korean American Community Foundation**, **Tina Kim Gallery** will sponsor an Anti-Asian American Hate Crime awareness panel discussion
- **Mrs.** will hold an online panel with **Damien Davis**, **April Freely**, **Ivy N. Jones**, **Robin Lynch**, **Pamela Newkirk** and **Deborah Willis**. The discussion will center on Black women's agency across creative industries
- **Pace** will host a series of video screenings from the Vision & Justice Project Convening at the gallery's space at 508 West 25th Street.
- **David Zwirner** will show at the fair one of nine of **Stan Douglas'** new photographs, *Penn Station's Half Century*, 2020, currently on view with the Public Art Fund at Penn Station
- **Gagosian** has organized an online talk focusing on a capacious interpretation of Professor Lewis's concept of 'groundwork' as use of the earth. The event will feature **Sky High Farm**, a non-profit organization dedicated to the equitable distribution of sustainably farmed fresh foods.

Institutional support for the tribute will include:

- **MoMA** will host a special in-person view of their exhibition 'Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America'
- **The New Museum** will host an in-person view of the exhibition 'Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America.'
- **The Solomon R. Guggenheim** will present an in-person view of their **Deana Lawson** exhibition.
- **The Whitney** will organize an in-person viewing of their **Dawoud Bey** exhibition with an artist talk (organized by Sean Kelly Gallery).

The complete calendar of events and talks – including how to attend – and a listing of exhibitions, texts and artist initiatives will be available ahead of the fair on frieze.com.

Sarah Elizabeth Lewis, Associate Professor at Harvard University: ‘The decision to tribute the Vision & Justice Project at Frieze New York came as a true surprise and honor. It brings representational justice into focus in a way I could not have imagined. The number of participating galleries and museums involved, the groundswell of engagement around this important framework is exactly the type of effort that evokes change. In the end, what Frieze New York has created here is a chance to reflect and harness the power of what an art fair can be after the global pandemic and a way forward for the future.’

Loring Randolph, Director of Programming, Frieze New York: ‘This Tribute was born of reflection. The tragedy of the global pandemic this past year provided the necessary time to consider programming for Frieze New York anew. The aim was to integrate a more rigorous and historical narrative into the fair context, and with the support of our participating galleries, to unite our community in an overarching mission that could potentially create a similar pause for change. The Vision & Justice Project and Sarah Elizabeth Lewis are an educational force, one that could forge a pathway toward a more just and visually literate America. We are privileged to honor such an imperative, and to collaborate with everyone participating in this extensive program.’

As part of the Tribute, Professor Lewis has conceived of and will moderate a panel discussion between **Wynton Marsalis, Ava DuVernay, Franklin Leonard and Theaster Gates supported by Prada**. This discussion will offer a rare chance for leaders across disciplines to reflect on the opportunities and challenges for black cultural production and is designed to support the launch and announcement of the next chapter in The Vision & Justice Project, a new book series with **Aperture**.

The Vision and Justice Book Series, co-edited by Sarah Lewis, **Leigh Raiford**, and **Deborah Willis**, with the lead support of the **Ford Foundation**, will extend the work of the award-winning 2016 ‘Vision & Justice’ issue of *Aperture* magazine in reexamining and redressing historical narratives of photography, race, and justice. What distinguishes this series is that it is deliberately corrective, addressing past omissions, contributing to the ongoing work of telling a richer, more racially inclusive story of photographic histories. Each volume will present essential voices who were not always recognized in their time, or during the early stages of their careers, but whose work across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries has had immense impact on the history of the medium and on modern and contemporary culture at large.

The Vision & Justice Project takes the prescient thinking of Frederick Douglass, and his post-Civil War speech ‘Pictures & Progress’ as a starting point. It wrestles with the urgent question of how, in a democracy, the foundational right of representation, and the right to be recognized justly, has historically—and is still—tied to the work of visual representation in the public realm. How have narratives created by culture—the arts, performances, and images—both limited and liberated our definition of national belonging in this digital, democratic age? How can an

examination of our visual literacy be vital for society's collective consciousness and self-comprehension?

Since 2018, Frieze has honored US galleries, institutions and people within the creative community as part of the programming at Frieze New York. This year's curated program will also include the third iteration of the Artist Award, supported by The Luma Foundation, and a collaboration with Acute Art, along with the fair's talks and partnerships.

Further Information

To keep up to date on all the latest news from Frieze, sign up to the newsletter at frieze.com, and follow @friezeofficial on Instagram, Twitter and Frieze Official on Facebook. Frieze New York 2021 is supported by global lead partner Deutsche Bank, continuing a shared commitment to artistic excellence.

Full list of participating galleries and institutions:

Galleries

303 Gallery
Addis Fine Art
Alexander Gray Associates
Arario Gallery
The Breeder
Tanya Bonakdar Gallery
Ben Brown Fine Arts
James Cohan
Massimo De Carlo
False Flag
Henrique Faria
Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel
Fredericks & Freiser
Gagosian
Grimm
Kavi Gupta
Hauser & Wirth
Gallery Hyundai
Instituto de Visión
Charlie James Gallery
Casey Kaplan
Karma
Sean Kelly Gallery
Tina Kim Gallery
David Kordansky Gallery
Galerie Kornfeld
Andrew Kreps Gallery
Lehmann Maupin
Lisson Gallery

Locks Gallery
Mendes Wood DM
Microscope Gallery
MKG127 Gallery
Mrs.
October Gallery
Pace Gallery
Pierogi
P.P.O.W
Gordon Robichaux
Galeria Nara Roesler
Salon 94
Esther Schipper
Tiwani Contemporary
White Cube
David Zwirner

Institutions

MoMA
The Whitney Museum of American Art
The New Museum
The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
Public Art Fund
The Drawing Center
International Center of Photography