

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
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PRESS RELEASE



Installation view of *Jason Moran* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 20, 2019-January 5, 2020). From left to right: Jason Moran, *STAGED: Slugs' Saloon*, 2018; Theaster Gates and Jason Moran and The Bandwagon (Tarus Mateen and Nasheet Waits), *Looks of a Lot*, 2014; Jason Moran, *STAGED: Savoy Ballroom 1*, 2015. Photograph by Ron Amstutz

THE WHITNEY PRESENTS 2019 WALTER ANNEBERG LECTURE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16: JASON MORAN IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM D. WEINBERG

NEW YORK, October 29, 2019—For the 2019 Walter Annenberg Lecture, artist Jason Moran—whose work is currently on view at the Whitney in his first solo museum show—will speak with Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director. The conversation will cover Moran's interdisciplinary practice grounded in music composition, collaboration, and performance, and the tradition of jazz in American history and contemporary culture. The annual lecture is given in honor of the late Walter H. Annenberg, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and former ambassador.

The conversation will take place on Monday, December 16, at 7pm in the Susan and John Hess Family Theater on the Whitney's third floor. Tickets are \$15, and \$12 for members, seniors, and students. Past Annenberg Lecture participants include Kara Walker (2018), Catherine Opie (2017), Martha Rosler (2016), and Frank Stella (2015).

Jason Moran presents the range of work the artist has explored, from his own sculptures and drawings to collaborations with visual artists and performances. This grand finale in Moran's hometown of New York City features the series *Jazz on a High Floor in the Afternoon*, presenting live in-gallery performances, activations, and evening concerts. The exhibition is organized by Adrienne Edwards, the Engell Speyer Family Curator and Curator of Performance, with Clémence White, curatorial assistant, and will run through January 5, 2020.

About Jason Moran

Jazz pianist, composer, and performance artist Jason Moran was born in Houston, Texas in 1975 and earned a degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 1997, where he studied with Jaki Byard. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2010 and has been the Artistic Director for Jazz at the Kennedy Center since 2014. Deeply invested in reassessing and complicating the relationship between music and language, Moran's extensive efforts in composition, improvisation, and performance challenge the status quo while respecting the accomplishments of his predecessors.

His recording and performing activity has included collaborations with masters of the jazz form, including Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, and the late Sam Rivers. His work with his acclaimed trio The Bandwagon (with drummer Nasheet Waits and bassist Tarus Mateen) has resulted in a profound discography for Blue Note Records. Moran has a long-standing

collaborative practice with his wife, the mezzo-soprano and composer Alicia Hall Moran. For the 2012 Whitney Biennial, together they organized *BLEED*, a five-day performance gathering that featured more than ninety performers, including Rashida Bumbray, Bill Frisell, Joan Jonas, Lorraine O'Grady, Esperanza Spalding, and Kara Walker. In 2016, Moran and Hall Moran formed the indie label YES RECORDS. Releases include Moran's critically-acclaimed live solo piano recording, *The Armory Concert* (2016), as well as *Thanksgiving at the Vanguard* (2017), and *BANGS* (2017). Moran, who teaches at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, has produced several film scores and soundtracks, including the scores for Ava DuVernay's films *Selma* and *13th*.

Moran's work has been presented by institutions including the Walker Art Center, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Park Avenue Armory, the Dia Art Foundation, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Harlem Stage, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. His visual work was also featured in the 2015 Venice Biennale. His first solo museum exhibition *Jason Moran* premiered in Minneapolis at the Walker Art Center and traveled to the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. The exhibition is currently on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Walter Annenberg Lecture

In honor of the late Walter H. Annenberg, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and former ambassador, the Whitney Museum of American Art established the Walter Annenberg Annual Lecture to advance this country's understanding of its art and culture. Support for this lecture and for public programs at the Whitney Museum is provided, in part, by GRoW @ Annenberg, a philanthropic initiative led by Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, a Vice President and Director of the Annenberg Foundation; the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; the Barker Welfare Foundation; and by members of the Whitney's Education Committee.



Exhibition Support

Jason Moran is organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. The exhibition is made possible with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Piano by Steinway & Sons.

In New York, the exhibition is sponsored by



Generous support for *Jason Moran* is provided by Erin and Peter Friedland, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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Additional support is provided by Lisa and Dick Cashin.



About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney's Collection: Selections from 1900 to 1965
Jason Moran
Order and Ornament: Roy Lichtenstein's Entablatures
Pope.L: Choir

Ongoing
Through January 5, 2020
Through April 2020
Through Winter 2020

Rachel Harrison Life Hack	Through January 12, 2020
Alan Michelson: Wolf Nation	Through January 12, 2020
Making Knowing: Craft in Art 1950–2019	November 22, 2019–January 2021
fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad	January 15–February 16, 2020
Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945	February 17–May 17, 2020
Salman Toor	March–July 2020
Agnes Pelton: Desert Transcendentalist	March 13–June 21, 2020
Julie Mehretu	June 26–September 20, 2020
Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop	July–October 2020
Around Day's End: Downtown New York, 1970–1986	July–October 2020
Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day's End	Opens Fall 2020
Jasper Johns	Opens Fall 2020
Dawoud Bey: An American Project	Opens November 2020

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday. Adults: \$25. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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