DARREN BADER’S EDIBLE EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT THE WHITNEY ON JANUARY 15

NEW YORK, NY, December 18, 2019—From January 15 to February 17, 2020, the Whitney's eighth floor gallery will be the site of fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad. The exhibition is comprised of an untitled work by Darren Bader from the Whitney's permanent collection—acquired in 2015 and never before presented at the Museum—featuring a selection of fruits and vegetables presented as sculptures on pedestals. Through this organizing principle, Bader calls attention to the formal properties of the objects’ colors, shapes, lines, and textures.

At scheduled times throughout the week—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays from 3 pm–6 pm, and Fridays from 7:30 pm–10 pm—museum staff will remove the ripened fruits and vegetables from the pedestals. Rather than disposing of the produce, Bader has instructed that a fruit and vegetable salad should be created. While the gallery sits empty, the washing, slicing, dicing, and chopping of the produce in the Museum’s Studio Cafe kitchen will be captured on video and projected in the gallery for visitors to observe. The fruit and vegetable salad will then be served in the gallery and visitors will be invited to eat it. Museum staff will refresh the artwork with a new selection of produce, and the process will repeat.

Scott Rothkopf, Senior Deputy Director and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, remarked, “Rigorous, funny, and strangely uncanny, Bader’s work tests not only what an artwork can be but also what a museum can collect and how we display it. We’re thrilled to show this recent acquisition for the first time, though we recognize it might not taste as good as it looks.”

In fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad, Bader creates a visual and participatory experience from everyday objects. The sculpture continues the artist's ongoing examination of art's possibilities, as well as his investigation of art as concept, language, and commodity.

“fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad is an opportunity to be nimble in showcasing a work from the Whitney’s collection, and to collaborate with an artist the Museum first showed in the 2014 Biennial. This work’s absurdist yet sincere premise is particularly apropos in our current climate, and I hope viewers will engage through close looking, questioning, and salad-consumption,” said Christie Mitchell, senior curatorial assistant.
Curatorial Credit
This exhibition is organized by Christie Mitchell, senior curatorial assistant.

About the Artist

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 Through January 5, 2020
Jason Moran Through April 2020
Order and Ornament: Roy Lichtenstein’s Entablatures Through March 8, 2020
Pope.L: Choir Through January 12, 2020
Rachel Harrison Life Hack Through January 12, 2020
Alan Michelson: Wolf Nation November 22, 2019–January 2021
fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad February 17–May 17, 2020
Cauleen Smith: Mutualities February 17–May 17, 2020
Jill Mulleady March 20–July 5, 2020
Salman Toor: How Will I Know March 13–June 21, 2020
Agnès Pelton: Desert Transcendentalist April–May 2020
Dave McKenzie: The Story I Tell Myself June–September 2020
Prints from Everyday Objects June 26–September 20, 2020
Julie Mehretu July–October 2020
Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop July–October 2020
My Barbarian Opens September 2020
Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day’s End Opens October 28, 2020
Jasper Johns Opens November 2020
Dawoud Bey: An American Project

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 except in July and August. Adults: $25. Full-time students, visitors 65 & over, and visitors with disabilities: $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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