

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

99 Gansevoort Street
New York City, NY 10014

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE



Installation view of *Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, November 21, 2020–March 28, 2021). Left: Anthony Barboza, *Kamoinge Portrait*, 1973. Photograph by Ron Amstutz

WHITNEY KICKS OFF 2021 WITH AN ARRAY OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS INCLUDING SERIES WITH KAMOINGE WORKSHOP PHOTOGRAPHERS

JULIE MEHRETU TO DELIVER WALTER ANNEBERG LECTURE ON APRIL 6, 2021

NEW YORK, January 12, 2021 – Today, the Whitney Museum announced a selection of its forthcoming virtual public programs through April 2021, including a new partnership with Aperture. Hosted online, these free talks and presentations will focus on current exhibitions *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945*, *Salman Toor: How Will I Know*, and *Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop* as well as the upcoming career survey of Julie Mehretu. Organized by the Museum's Education and Digital Content departments, these programs allow audiences to hear directly from artists, curators, and scholars, in keeping with the Whitney's commitment to providing continued opportunities for learning, engagement, and entertainment.

Programs surrounding *Working Together* offer audiences the opportunity to learn more about the collective's genesis in Harlem in the 1960s, its role in the Black Arts movement, and the

distinct, multifaceted practices of its members. Bringing together the artists with leading scholars and writers, these programs are organized in partnership with Aperture, a not-for-profit foundation that seeks to connect the photo community and its audiences with inspiring work and ideas and further photography's contributions to society and contemporary culture.

Among those contributing their voices and perspectives to these public programs are Kamoinge Workshop photographers Anthony Barboza, Adger Cowans, C. Daniel Dawson, Jimmie Mannas, Herb Robinson, Beuford Smith, Ming Smith, and Shawn Walker; writer, author and cultural critic Tanisha Ford; Getty Research Institute curator LeRon P. Brooks; filmmaker and writer RaMell Ross; musician and critic Greg Tate; and Whitney assistant curators Rujeko Hockley and Carrie Springer.

The Museum also announced today that the next Walter Annenberg Lecture will feature artist Julie Mehretu, whose midcareer career survey opens at the Whitney on March 25. Mehretu will speak with Adam D. Weinberg, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director. The conversation will delve into Mehretu's explorations of abstraction, architecture, landscape, and scale, as well as her more recent figurative work. The annual lecture is given in honor of the late Walter H. Annenberg, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and former ambassador. Past Annenberg Lecture participants include Jason Moran (2019), Kara Walker (2018), Catherine Opie (2017), Martha Rosler (2016), and Frank Stella (2015).

Additional offerings feature Whitney curators and educators leading conversations on the Museum's exhibitions as well as scholars Elizabeth Ferrer and Roberto Tejada coming together for a special program exploring the history and present of Latinx photography in the United States. All programs are free to the public. For updates and complete ticketing details, please visit whitney.org.

SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL EVENTS

JANUARY 2021

Ask a Curator: Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art 1925-1945

Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7 PM

With approximately 200 works by sixty American and Mexican artists, *Vida Americana* reorients art history, acknowledging the wide-ranging and profound influence of Mexico's three leading muralists – José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Diego Rivera – on the style, subject matter, and ideology of art in the United States made between 1925 and 1945. By presenting the art of the Mexican muralists alongside that of their American contemporaries, the exhibition reveals the seismic impact of Mexican art, particularly on those looking for inspiration and models beyond European modernism and the School of Paris. The exhibition is organized by **Barbara Haskell**, curator; **Marcela Guerrero**, assistant curator; **Sarah Humphreville**, senior curatorial assistant; and **Alana Hernandez**, former curatorial project assistant. For Ask a Curator, **Sofía Silva**, curatorial and education fellow in US Latinx Art, will present a brief overview of the landmark exhibition and moderate the discussion.

Ask a Curator is an ongoing virtual event series that provides audiences an intimate look into the realization of Whitney exhibitions and allows for open conversation with the curators at the helm of each show.

Latinx Photography in the United States: Elizabeth Ferrer in conversation with Roberto Tejada

Thursday, January 28, 2021, 6 PM

To celebrate the publication of Elizabeth Ferrer's *Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History* (University of Washington Press, 2020), this conversation between Ferrer and Roberto Tejada highlights some of the artists and movements that help to define the field of Latinx photography. This conversation is the culmination of a three-part yearlong series at the Whitney focused on new scholarship about Latinx art and culture.

Elizabeth Ferrer is a curator and writer based in Brooklyn. She is the chief curator of contemporary art at BRIC. **Roberto Tejada** is a translator, editor, essayist, photography historian, and critic. He is currently the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor at the University of Houston

Art History Course: Black Artists Working in Photography

Fridays, January 29, February 5, 12, 3-4 PM

This three-part course explores the work of the artists of the Kamoinge Workshop. It offers participants an overview of how the Kamoinge Workshop developed an approach to image-making that centers the technical production, study, and distribution of images to create an image archive of Black lives. The lectures also bring the photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop into dialogue with the history of Black photography in the United States, including the work of James Van Der Zee, Carrie Mae Weems, Lorna Simpson, Dawoud Bey, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Lyle Ashton Harris. An open Q&A and discussion follows each session. Registrants can access on-demand course recordings for the duration of the course.

The course will be taught by **Ayanna Dozier**, a Joan Tisch Teaching Fellow at the Whitney and a lecturer in the department of communication and media studies at Fordham University

FEBRUARY 2021

Harlem and the Kamoinge Workshop

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7 PM

Presented in partnership with Aperture

Artists **Anthony Barboza**, **C. Daniel Dawson**, and **Shawn Walker** discuss the importance of Harlem in the development of their work and as the ground for the Kamoinge Workshop. In sharing their individual practices, they will reflect on Kamoinge's role in the Black Arts movement as well as their efforts to preserve and share this history in their work.

Moderated by **Tanisha Ford**, writer, cultural critic and professor of history at the Graduate Center, CUNY. Ford is also a co-founder of TEXTURES, a pop-up material culture lab creating and curating content on Black design, material life, and the built environment. She co-edited, with Deborah Willis, *Kwame Brathwaite: Black is Beautiful* (Aperture, 2019).

Ask a Curator: Salman Toor: How Will I Know

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 7 PM

Christopher Y. Lew, Nancy and Fred Poses Curator, and **Ambika Trasi**, curatorial assistant, engage in an interactive discussion on the current exhibition of new and recent paintings by Salman Toor (b. 1983). Part of the Whitney's emerging artist program, *Salman Toor: How Will I Know* is the artist's first solo museum exhibition, which opened at the Museum on November 13, 2020. Known for his small-scale figurative works that combine academic technique and a quick, sketch-like style, Toor offers intimate views into the imagined lives of young, queer Brown men residing between New York City and South Asia. Recurring color palettes and references to art history heighten the emotional impact of Toor's paintings and add a fantastical element to his

narratives drawn from lived experience. Lew and Trasi will provide an overview of the exhibition and then take questions from the audience.

King Is Dead: Screening and Conversation

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7 PM

Presented in partnership with Aperture

Jimmie Mannas screens his film *King is Dead* (1968), an account of the reactions of his New York community to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The screening is followed by a conversation with filmmaker **RaMell Ross**, moderated by Whitney assistant curator **Carrie Springer**.

RaMell Ross is a visual artist, filmmaker, and writer based in Rhode Island and Alabama. His feature documentary *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* won a Special Jury Award for Creative Vision at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for an Oscar at the 91st Academy Awards.

MARCH 2021

Photography and Beyond in the Kamoinge Workshop

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 7 PM

Presented in partnership with Aperture

Artists **Adger Cowans**, **Herb Robinson**, and **Beuford Smith** discuss their interdisciplinary artistic influences and interests, from music and film to painting and publishing. The program is moderated by **LeRonn P. Brooks**, associate curator for modern and contemporary collections, Getty Research Institute.

The Sound She Saw: Ming Smith in conversation with Greg Tate

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7 PM

Presented in partnership with Aperture

Honoring the publication of *Ming Smith: A Monograph* (Aperture, 2020), this conversation brings **Ming Smith**, the first female member of the Kamoinge Workshop, into dialogue with critic and musician **Greg Tate**, one of the book's contributors. Presenting four decades of Smith's work, the publication celebrates her enduring vision and ongoing contributions to the medium of photography. The program will be introduced by **Rujeko Hockley**, assistant curator.

APRIL 2021

Walter Annenberg Lecture: Julie Mehretu

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 6 PM

Since the mid-1990s, **Julie Mehretu's** work has examined painting, history, geopolitics, and displacement. In her paintings and works on paper, she deploys abstraction, architecture, landscape, scale, and, most recently, figuration. For this Walter Annenberg Lecture, Mehretu speaks about her practice with **Adam D. Weinberg**, the Museum's Alice Pratt Brown Director.

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 Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg; the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; the Barker Welfare Foundation; and by members of the Whitney's Education Committee.



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 ninety 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.

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Adults: \$25. Full-time students, visitors 65 & over, and visitors with disabilities: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Public hours are 10:30 am–6 pm Thursday through Monday; with members-only hours on Monday from 5–6 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30–11:30 am. Pay-what-you-wish admission will be offered on Thursdays from 1:30–6 pm. Reserve timed-entry tickets in advance at whitney.org. For more information please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

###