

PRESS RELEASE



Andrea Carlson, *Red Exit*, 2020. Oil, watercolor, opaque watercolor, ink, acrylic, colored pencil, ball-point pen, fiber-tipped pen, and graphite pencil on paper, sixty sheets, 115 x 183 in. (292.1 x 464.8 cm) overall. Collection of the artist; courtesy Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis. Photograph by Rik Sferra

THE WHITNEY TO DEBUT PUBLIC ARTWORK BY ANDREA CARLSON ON JANUARY 25

New York, January 13, 2021 – A new work by Andrea Carlson (b. 1979, Grand Portage Ojibwe) will be the next project in a series of public art installations presented by the Whitney Museum and High Line Art on the facade of 95 Horatio Street. *Red Exit* (2020) – an ambitious multi-part work on paper reproduced as a 17-by-29-foot vinyl print – will go on view on January 25 on the southwest corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets, located directly across from the Whitney and the High Line.

Through painting and drawing, Carlson creates large-scale compositions with densely layered references that bring visibility to Native spaces and histories. In *Red Exit*, she presents a panoramic seascape informed by ideas of re-creation and renewal. Vibrant, prismatic motifs – some drawn from the land of the artist’s ancestral home, and others from effigies, petroglyphs, and navigational signs – pulsate and collide across a series of horizons. The composition is anchored by a loon, known in the Ojibwe re-creation narrative as an Earth-Diver, who alongside other surviving animals, helps remake the world. Carlson also incorporates the infinity sign from the flag of the Métis People and the silhouetted figure of “Man Mound,” a destroyed earthwork – fractured by a road – that appears here to rise up from the land. Through her images, which take shape as a continuous wake pattern, she invokes moments of resistance and empowerment. Symbols of Native advocacy come together in a gesture of reclamation, creating new narratives of Indigenous experience in North America.

While *Red Exit* confronts the ongoing erasure of Indigenous cultures, it is, in the artist's words, a celebration of "the place we (Native People) reserve for ourselves . . . places of joy amidst removal, exclusion, and attempted assimilation."

Melinda Lang, senior curatorial assistant and organizer of the project, remarked, "Carlson's highly intricate images coalesce into disorienting scenes that often evoke futuristic and, at times, apocalyptic worlds. With its dizzying sense of movement, *Red Exit* yields and eludes legibility, playing up moments of visual confusion while inviting viewers to seek different vantage points as they take in the work – an experience that will be heightened through its presentation on the billboard."

"At this time when we are frequently kept apart, Carlson's engagement with public space raises so many compelling questions about belonging, landscape, and the boundaries between the public and private. These are concerns we all share, but they are concerns that Carlson and Indigenous artists have centered and foregrounded in their respective practices. As a museum located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape, the Whitney is honored to live with Carlson's visualization of Indigenous histories and space," said David Breslin, Director of Curatorial Initiatives.

Andrea Carlson: Red Exit is part of a series of public art installations begun in 2015, organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art in partnership with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art, that has previously featured works by key American artists, including Alex Katz (2014), Michele Abeles (2015), Njideka Akunyili Crosby (2015–16), Torbjørn Rødland (2016–17), Puppies Puppies (2017), Do Ho Suh (2017–18), Christine Sun Kim (2018), Derek Fordjour (2018), Lucas Blalock (2019), and Jill Mulleady (2020).

About the Artist

Alongside her works on paper, Carlson (b. 1979, Grand Portage Ojibwe) produces multidisciplinary projects and writes cultural criticism. She is based in Chicago and grew up in Minnesota where she has spent most of her career. Carlson holds an MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and a BA from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Her work is currently on view in *Don't let this be easy* at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and was recently featured in two major traveling group exhibitions: *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*, Minneapolis Institute of Art (2019–20) and *Art for a New Understanding: Native Voices, 1950s to Now*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR (2018–20). Solo exhibitions include Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis (2020, 2014, and 2011); Minneapolis Institute of Art (2016); and Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, New York (2009–10). Her work is in numerous museum collections including the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Minneapolis Institute of Art; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario; Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND; and The British Museum, London. Carlson was a 2008 McKnight Fellow, a 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant recipient, and in 2020, she was awarded a residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans and a 3Arts Make a Wave fellowship.

Curatorial Credit

Andrea Carlson: Red Exit is organized by Melinda Lang, senior curatorial assistant.

Exhibition Support

Andrea Carlson: Red Exit is part of Outside the Box programming, which is supported by a generous endowment from The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation.

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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 May 2022
Making Knowing: Craft in Art 1950–2019	Through February 2022
Cauleen Smith: Mutualities	Through January 31, 2021
Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945	Through January 31, 2021
Jill Mulleady: We Wither Time into a Coil of Fright	Through January 2021
Salman Toor: How Will I Know	Through April 4, 2021
Nothing Is So Humble: Prints from Everyday Objects	Through April 2021
Working Together: The Photographers of the Kamoinge Workshop	Through March 28, 2021
Andrea Carlson: Red Exit	On view January 25, 2021
Julie Mehretu	March 25–August 8, 2021
Madeline Hollander: Flatwing	March 25–August 8, 2021
Dawoud Bey: An American Project	Opens April 17, 2021
Public Art Project: David Hammons, Day's End	Spring 2021
Dave McKenzie: The Story I Tell Myself	Opens May 1, 2021
Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror	September 29, 2021–February 13, 2022
My Barbarian	Opens October 22, 2021
Martine Gutierrez	On view September 2021
2022 Whitney Biennial	Opens Spring 2022

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. Current 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.

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