

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
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artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

For Immediate Release

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto and the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival co-present *Heave* by acclaimed American artist Carrie Mae Weems

(Toronto, April 25, 2019) Carrie Mae Weems' exhibition in five parts, sited at distinct locations across Toronto, represents the artist's first solo exhibition in Canada. Her work will be presented in two gallery exhibitions, including a new iteration of her recent project, *Heave*, curated by **Barbara Fischer** and **Sarah Robayo Sheridan**, at the **Art Museum at the University of Toronto** from **May 4 – July 27, 2019**. The spotlight on Weems continues at the [CONTACT Gallery](#) with a series of Weems' photographic works, and includes three major public art installations downtown, including on the exterior of the [TIFF Bell Lightbox](#), the headquarters of the Toronto International Film Festival.

Join the Art Museum at the University of Toronto for the opening reception on **May 4 from 6-8pm**. The artist will be in attendance.

Throughout her artistic trajectory, noted American artist **Carrie Mae Weems** has undertaken sustained investigations of social conflict. The multi-part installation *Heave* combines photography, video, news media sampling, as well as ephemera to probe the devastating effects of violence in our life and time. The complex installation explores the spectacle of violence in our contemporary lives relocating this present within sustained histories of conflict and uprising.

Each of the rooms forming the exhibition invokes a familiar interior to be explored—the classroom, the living room, and the entertainment complex. In each of these sites, Weems catalogues the exercise of power and full toll of human cruelty. In *Constructing History: A Requiem to Mark the Moment* (2008) dramatic tableaux revisit the political assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Benazir Bhutto. In *Heave: Part I – A Case Study (A Quiet Place)* (2018), a constructed domestic space contains everyday furnishings of American life, denoting both personal experience and structural violence.

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In *Heave: Part II* (2018), a theatrical space is adorned by red stanchions, illuminated only by the light of a projected stream of videos, projecting a detailed reckoning with the roots of violence in America. Among the most poignant material included is *People of A Darker Hue* (2016), which records the too palpable evidence of white supremacy at work and what it means to live day to day under constant fear of death for merely being in the world. In the unfinished hostilities of these moments, Weems exposes the underpinnings of today's extremism, hate crimes, and demagoguery.

Carrie Mae Weems: Heave

May 4 – July 27, 2019

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Opening Reception

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 6-8pm

Extended exhibition hours until 8pm

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Organized by the Art Museum at the University of Toronto and co-presented with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

Spotlight Lecture

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 4pm

Daniels Building, Main Hall, 1 Spadina Crescent

* Tickets required *

Presented by the Art Museum at the University of Toronto and CONTACT Photography Festival, in collaboration with the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Exhibition Tours

Tuesdays at 2pm (Beginning May 7, 2019)

About Carrie Mae Weems

Through photography, text, video, installation, and theatre, American artist Carrie Mae Weems has created a complex body of work that investigates family relationships, gender roles, racism, classism, and politics. Although her work addresses a wide array of issues, Weems' overarching commitment is to help us better understand the present moment by examining our collective past. Weems, a MacArthur grant recipient, is represented in public and private collections around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at major national and international museums including the Whitney Museum; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

About Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

CONTACT is the largest annual photography festival globally, and a major cultural experience in Canada, with over 200 exhibitions and events from May 1-31 in the Greater Toronto Area. CONTACT 2019 will showcase an outstanding selection of Canadian and international lens-based artists. The Festival's **Core Exhibitions** are comprised of collaborations with major museums, galleries, and artist-run centres as well as site-specific public art projects. These are cultivated through partnerships and commissions, and frame the cultural, social, and political events of our times. The **Featured** and **Open Call Exhibitions** present a range of works by local and international artists at leading galleries and alternative spaces across the city. The Festival also includes a wide range of **Programs** including a book fair, a symposium, lectures, talks, panels, and workshops.

About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto:

The Art Museum is comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House) and the University of Toronto Art Centre (University College). Located just a few steps apart, the two galleries were federated in 2014 and began operating under a new visual identity as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. Building on the two galleries' distinguished histories, the Art Museum originates and organizes an intensive year-round program of

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exhibitions and events that foster—at a local, regional, and international level—innovative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and knowledge of art and its histories befitting Canada’s leading university and the country’s largest city.

Our Supporters

The Art Museum gratefully acknowledge operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council.

The spotlight on Carrie Maw Weems is supported by Liza Mauer and Andrew Sheiner, Cindy and Shon Barnett, The Stonefields Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

For more information, please visit:

<https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/carrie-mae-weems-heave/>

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For high resolution images please visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ub5fau6uvh4nh9s/AADX1ttVBLsHaLaWZhS5PIZna?dl=0>