

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE



Photo by Filip Wolak

THE WHITNEY HOSTS IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NIGHT

New York, April 19, 2018 – About sixty New Yorkers and visitors attended the Whitney’s second annual Immigrant Justice Night this past Wednesday, April 18th. Jointly organized with the Museum’s community partners – the LGBT Center and The Door with UnLocal Inc. – the event was dedicated to immigrant and undocumented communities, with a focus on resource-sharing and artmaking. Attendees participated in a “know your rights” training and explored and made art inspired by one of the Museum’s current exhibitions, *An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney’s Collection 1940–2017*. Participants also had the opportunity to meet exhibiting artist Juan Antonio Olivares, whose current exhibition *Juan Antonio Olivares: Moléculas* explores themes of family and immigration.

“This program is part of our mission to foster critical dialogue through the lens of American art and culture,” said Sasha Wortzel, the Museum’s Director of Access and Community Programs. “More than ever, we feel there’s an urgent need for museums to commit to responsive and creative engagement with the world at large. Along with other ongoing Whitney programs such as Art as a Second Language, which engages immigrant youth in a supportive bilingual art education environment, artmaking for adults who are English language learners, and our regularly scheduled Tours for Immigrant Families, we aim to create connections between the Museum and historically underserved audiences.”

One of the first exhibitions at the Whitney Studio (founded by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and precursor to the Whitney Museum) in 1915, *The Immigrant in America* showcased the work of 150 immigrant artists exploring the relationship between immigrants and America. Building from the Whitney’s history of engagement with themes of immigration, the Museum continues to serve and collaborate with immigrant communities through established community partnerships and ongoing multi-session programs. The Whitney Museum strives to ensure that every visitor can experience the richness, diversity and significance of American art and artists in an inclusive

environment. In addition to The Door and the LGBT Center, the Museum partners closely with Hamilton Madison, American Indian Community House, Hudson Guild, Fulton Houses, Visual AIDS, Westbeth, and senior centers across the city.

Here are just a few of the Whitney's upcoming community programs:

Friday, May 4, 7PM - Study Sessions: Samantha Box, Ted Kerr, and Traci C. West

For each Study Session, an artist, writer, or cultural worker selects a work of art on view in the Whitney's permanent collection galleries as a departure point for thinking through an urgent question in our contemporary political landscape.

Saturday, May 5, 5PM - ASL SLAM at the Whitney

Through the use of images and literary prompts, poet Douglas Ridloff celebrates the vernacular tradition of American Sign Language to create collaborative poetry and stories.

Saturday, May 12, 3PM - Last Address tribute Walk with Visual AIDS

Starting with a screening of Ira Sachs' *Last Address* (2010, 9 min.), the Last Address Tribute Walk moves to the streets of the Meatpacking District and Greenwich Village for a tribute walk in honor of artists and other communities who were lost to AIDS.

Friday, June 15, 7:30PM - Pride at the Whitney

In collaboration with Discwoman, celebrate Pride at the Whitney Museum with a performance by NIC Kay followed by a DJ set by Ziúr inspired by the Meatpacking District's rich queer history and current exhibitions on view such as *An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017* and *Zoe Leonard: Survey*.

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

Mary Corse	June 8 – November 25, 2018
Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art	July 13 – September 30, 2018
David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night	July 13 – September 30, 2018
Kevin Beasley	Opens Fall 2018
Andy Warhol – From A to B and Back Again	November 12, 2018 – March 31, 2019
Juan Antonio Olivares: Moléculas	Until June 10, 2018
Zoe Leonard: Survey	Until June 10, 2018
Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables	Until June 10, 2018
Nick Mauss	Until May 14, 2018
Between the Waters	Until July 22, 2018
An Incomplete History of Protest: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017	Until August 27, 2018
Flash: Photographs by Harold Edgerton from the Whitney's Collection	Ongoing
Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection	Ongoing

1900–1960

Christine Sun Kim: Too Much Future

Ongoing

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, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday and Saturday 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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