

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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# PRESS RELEASE



Photo by Whitney Browne

## **ADRIENNE EDWARDS APPOINTED CURATOR OF PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITNEY**

**NEW YORK, February 22, 2018** – Adrienne Edwards has been named Engell Speyer Family Curator and Curator of Performance at the Whitney Museum of American Art, where she will begin working in May. Edwards has served as curator of Performa since 2010 and as Curator at Large for the Walker Art Center since 2016.

Scott Rothkopf, Deputy Director for Programs and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator, remarked: “Adrienne has distinguished herself as one of the most innovative curators working in performance today by engaging artists across diverse disciplines and often challenging them to explore new genres and experimental forms. She brings to the Whitney a wonderful complement of scholarly rigor, social commitment, and a deeply humane understanding of artists and their audiences.”

Edwards remarked: “There could not be a more vital institution or more important time to foster artists’ cross-boundary work, as well as explore the histories and scenes that inspire them. The Whitney has long been a leading institution for artists’ experimentation in vanguard performance. I look forward to further expanding and driving forward this rich legacy in collaboration with colleagues, artists, and audiences in new and exciting directions.”

For Performa, Edwards realized new interdisciplinary projects with a wide range of artists, including Performa Commissions by Edgar Arceneaux, Yto Barrada, Juliana Huxtable, Rashid Johnson, Laura Lima, Julie Mehretu and Jason Moran, Wangechi Mutu, and Tracey Rose, in addition to projects and productions by Jonathas de Andrade, Teju Cole, Chimurenga, Kwani Trust, Benjamin Patterson, Pope.L, Ralph Lemon, Senga Nengudi, Lorraine O'Grady, Adam Pendleton, Dave McKenzie, Yvonne Rainer, Will Rawls, and Carrie Mae Weems. She developed and organized special thematic presentations within the biennial, including "AFROGLOSSIA" (Performa 17), "Babylon Brazil" (Performa 15), and "Three Duets, Seven Variations" on the occasion of the New York tour of *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* (Performa 13). Edwards also oversaw Performa's institutional partnerships and co-commissioning relationships with Anthology Film Archives, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, and The Studio Museum in Harlem.

At the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, over the course of the past two years, Edwards has worked within the Walker's visual arts department developing and implementing artist projects and exhibitions, and expanding interdisciplinary scholarship and research while making key contributions to the Walker's acquisitions planning. She is currently organizing Jason Moran's first-ever monograph and museum show, which will go on view at the Walker April 26–August 19, 2018, and will then travel to the ICA Boston and the Wexner Center for the Arts. Included will be a new sculpture commission, a stage commission created in collaboration with Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch, and monthly gallery performances. Edwards also co-led a Mellon Foundation Interdisciplinary Initiative, a multi-year effort to curate, produce, document, and contextualize new models of working between the visual and performing arts. She co-organized the current permanent collection exhibition, *I am you, you are too*.

Other curatorial projects have included the critically acclaimed exhibition and catalogue *Blackness in Abstraction*, hosted by Pace Gallery in 2016. The show featured works in photography, painting, sculpture, video, performance, and installation by twenty-nine international and intergenerational artists; one third of the artworks were newly commissioned. Edwards is also organizing Frieze's Artist Award and *Live* program, both of which are debuting in New York in 2018.

In addition to writing essays for numerous exhibition catalogues, Edwards has been a contributor to a variety of art publications, including *Aperture*, *Art in America*, *Artforum.com*, *Parkett*, and *Spike Art Quarterly*.

### **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**

Toyin Ojih Odutola: To Wander Determined	October 20, 2017–February 25, 2018
Experiments in Electrostatics: Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986	November 17, 2017–March 25, 2018
Juan Antonio Olivares: Moléculas	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018
Zoe Leonard: Survey	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018

Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables	March 2, 2018–June 10, 2018
Between the Waters	Opens March 9, 2018
Nick Mauss	March 16 – May 2018
Mary Corse	Opens June 2018
Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Building the Indigenous Present	Opens July 2018
David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night	Opens July 13, 2018
Kevin Beasley	Opens Fall 2018
Andy Warhol	Opens November 2018
An Incomplete History of Protest:	Ongoing
Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017	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](http://whitney.org).

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