

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA ANNOUNCES *PROJECTS: GARRETT BRADLEY, THE ARTIST'S FIRST SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK*

**NEW YORK, February 11, 2020 [Updated September 10, 2020]**—The Museum of Modern Art will present *Projects: Garrett Bradley*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition in New York, in the Museum's street-level galleries from November 21, 2020, through March 21, 2021. This exhibition, presented as part of a multiyear partnership between The Museum of Modern Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem, will feature a multichannel video installation, *America* (2019), a work organized around 12 short black-and-white films shot by Bradley and set to a score by Trevor Mathison and Udit Duseja. Among her original short vignettes, Bradley intersperses footage from *Lime Kiln Club Field Day*, an unreleased 1914 film believed to be the oldest surviving feature-length film with an all-Black cast. With *America*, Bradley imagines and pictures Black figures whose lives have been lost to history. *Projects: Garrett Bradley* is organized by Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, the Studio Museum in Harlem, with Legacy Russell, Associate Curator, the Studio Museum in Harlem.

The Library of Congress has estimated that 70 percent of the feature-length films made in the US between 1912 and 1929 have been lost. It is in these years that Bradley's *America* finds its footing. Her evocative vignettes cite historical events, ranging from African American classical composer and baritone singer Harry T. Burleigh's publication of the iconic spiritual "Deep River" in 1917, to the murder of popular jazz bandleader James Reese Europe in 1919, to the founding of baseball's Negro National League (NNL) in 1920, and more. By including borrowed footage from *Lime Kiln Club Field Day*, Bradley also shines light on the history of a film radically progressive for its time. *Lime Kiln Club Field Day* evokes Black intimacy and a convivial sharing of space that celebrates Black vernacular movement and expression. This film had never been seen publicly until 2014, after it was rediscovered and restored by MoMA. By revisiting the recovery of this lost work and by giving lost stories visual life, Bradley considers how film impacts our ability to imagine history's relationship to contemporary life. Bradley has said of her work, "I see *America* as a template for how visual storytelling and the assembly of images can serve as an archive of the past and a document of the present."

Bradley's *Projects* exhibition will occur in New York at a time when the status of early-20th-century racial representations has become a matter of discussion and debate. As a multichannel installation, Bradley's *America* constructs a physical space of invention in which turn-of-the-20th-century Black people and their ordinary lives are made present in ways that exceed the confines of what is available in an official archive.

## **ARTIST BIO**

Garrett Bradley (born 1986) is an artist and filmmaker born and raised in New York City. Working across narrative, documentary, and experimental modes of filmmaking, Bradley's work addresses themes such as race, class, familial relationships, social justice, Southern culture, and the history of film in the US. Her collaborative, research-based approach to filmmaking is often inspired by the real-life stories of her subjects. For Bradley, this research takes multiple forms—deep dives into historical archives, in-depth dialogues prompted by Craigslist want-ads, or an extended engagement with the communities and individuals she seeks to represent—and results in works that combine both scripted and improvisatory scenes. Bradley's films explore the space between fact and fiction, embracing modes of working and of representing history that blur the boundaries between traditional notions of narrative and documentary cinema.

Garrett Bradley received her MFA from University of California, Los Angeles, and a BA from Smith College. Her short films and feature-length projects have been exhibited internationally at museums and festivals including the New Orleans Museum of Art; Whitney Biennial 2019, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah; Tribeca Film Festival, New York; Festival du Nouveau Cinema, Montreal; Rotterdam Film Festival, The Netherlands; and SXSW, Austin, Texas; among many others. In 2020 Bradley became the first African American woman to win the Directing Award: U.S. Documentary at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, and she has received numerous awards and honors, including a 2019–20 Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, and the 2017 Sundance Jury Prize for her short film *Alone*, which was released by the *New York Times* OpDocs and became an Oscar contender for short nonfiction filmmaking, included in Academy Shortlist. Bradley was second unit director on Ava DuVernay's *When They See Us*, and in December 2019 she opened her first museum solo exhibition, *Garrett Bradley: American Rhapsody* at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, curated by Rebecca Matalon.

## **PARTNERSHIP: The Studio Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1**

The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1 have joined in a multiyear partnership with the Studio Museum in Harlem. Together, these museums have developed a series of programs and exhibitions building on existing affiliations and shared values. At the core of this partnership is a joint fellowship for rising professionals in the arts. Founded in 2015, this [fellowship program](#) for the development of museum staff is aimed at mentoring and diversifying the next generation of art professionals. The two-year fellowship provides participants with the opportunity to spend a year at each institution, gaining experience in the curatorial or public programming departments.

In the second year of collaboration across institutions, the Studio Museum will present its annual Artist-in-Residence exhibition at MoMA PS1 this summer, from May 31, 2020, through August 23, 2020. The exhibition will feature new work by the 2019–20 cohort of the Studio Museum's foundational residency program, artists Naudline Pierre (born Leominster, MA, 1989), Elliot Reed (born Milwaukee, WI, 1992) and E. Jane (born Bethesda, MD, 1990).

## **SPONSORSHIP:**

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