

# PS1

## MoMA PS1 TO PRESENT EXHIBITION ON ART AND MASS INCARCERATION OPENING SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, August 26, 2020—As its first exhibition upon reopening to the public, MoMA PS1 will present a major exhibition exploring the work of artists within US prisons and the centrality of incarceration to contemporary art and culture, on view from September 12, 2020 through April 5, 2021. Featuring art made by people in prisons and work by nonincarcerated artists concerned with state repression, erasure, and imprisonment, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* highlights more than 35 artists, including American Artist, Tameca Cole, Russell Craig, Maria Gaspar, James “Yaya” Hough, Jesse Krimes, Mark Loughney, Gilberto Rivera, and Sable Elyse Smith. The exhibition has been updated to reflect the growing COVID-19 crisis in US prisons, featuring new works by exhibition artists made in response to this ongoing emergency. Alongside the exhibition, a series of public programs, education initiatives, and ongoing projects at MoMA PS1 will explore the social and cultural impact of mass incarceration.

On view across PS1’s first floor galleries, *Marking Time* features works that bear witness to artists’ experimentation with and reimagining of the fundamentals of living—time, space, and physical matter—pushing the possibilities of these basic features of daily experience to create new aesthetic visions achieved through material and formal invention. The resulting work is often laborious, time-consuming, and immersive, as incarcerated artists manage penal time through their work and experiment with the material constraints that shape artmaking in prison. The exhibition also includes work made by nonincarcerated artists— both artists who were formerly incarcerated and those personally impacted by the US prison system. From various sites of freedom or unfreedom, these artists devise strategies for visualizing, mapping, and making physically present the impact and scale of life under carceral conditions, underscoring how prisons and the prison industrial complex have shaped contemporary culture. The exhibition features work by Carole Alden; American Artist; Mary Enoch Elizabeth Baxter aka Isis the Saviour; Sara Bennett; Conor Broderick; Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick; Daniel McCarthy Clifford; Tameca Cole; Larry Cook; Russell Craig; Amber Rose Daniel; Halim Flowers; Nereida García-Ferraz; Maria Gaspar; Dean Gillispie; GisMo (Jessica Gispert and Crystal Pearl Molinary); Ronnie Goodman; Gary Harrell; Brian Hindson; James “Yaya” Hough; Ashley Hunt; Michael Iovieno; Jesse Krimes; Susan Lee-Chun; William B. Livingston III; Mark Loughney; Ojore Lutalo; Bob McKay, Donald, Kit, Charlie, and Lopez; Cedar Mortenson; George Anthony Morton; Jesse Osmun; Jared Owens; Rowan Renee; Gilberto Rivera; Billy Sell; James Sepesi; Welmon Sharlhorne; Sable Elyse Smith; Justin Sterling; Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli; Jerome Washington; Aimee Wissman; and Women on the Rise!.

*Marking Time* is organized by guest curator Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood, Professor of American Studies and Art History at Rutgers University, and reflects her decade-long commitment to the research, analysis, and archiving of the visual art and creative practices of incarcerated artists and art that responds to mass incarceration. The exhibition follows the release of Fleetwood’s new book, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* (Harvard University Press, 2020).

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The exhibition is accompanied by a dynamic series of public programs, performances, and education initiatives organized with a thought collective made up of artists, educators, activists, and academics: Russell Craig, Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood, Che Gossett, Michelle Jones, Jesse Krimes, Julia Lourie, Tyra Patterson, Jean-Michel President, Sable Elyse Smith, and Calder Zwicky. Program partners include the Carceral Studies Working Group at Rutgers University; Die Jim Crow; Institute of African American Affairs & Center for Black Visual Culture, New York University; the Justice Arts Coalition; The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Education; Mural Arts Philadelphia; Pens to Pictures; Young New Yorkers; and Worth Rises.

A number of programs will be presented in collaboration with Rutgers University and the Rutgers University Carceral Studies Working Group, including a carceral geographies initiative to develop a walking investigation of the impact of prisons on local communities and the environment in Long Island City. Developed in partnership with anti-prison organizations and activists, this project examines the impact of prisons on the local environment of Astoria, Long Island City, and the borough of Queens—from institutions such as the Queensboro Correctional Facility, the Queens Detention Center, and Elmhurst Hospital Prison Ward to carceral structures that exist throughout the public sphere. Extending beyond the exhibition, the project will also involve discussions focused on creating healthy communities and institutions that do not rely on imprisonment. Outcomes from this initiative will be presented and archived by MoMA PS1.

*Marking Time* continues MoMA PS1's commitment to examining the critical issue of mass incarceration through both exhibitions and VW Sunday Sessions, including recent presentations of *Redaction* (2019), a collaboration between Titus Kaphar and poet and lawyer Reginald Dwayne Betts focused on the issue of money bail; *No One Is Innocent* (2019), a day-long program of performances, panels, and workshops organized with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and Telfar; Titus Kaphar's *Jerome Project* (2015), which explored racial injustice and mass criminalization; and Taryn Simon's *The Innocents* (2003), which documented individuals wrongfully convicted of violent crimes.

*Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* is organized by Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood, Guest Curator; and Amy Rosenblum-Martin, Guest Assistant Curator; with Jocelyn Miller, former Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1; and Josephine Graf, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1.

We extend much gratitude to the American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program; Prisoner Express, Center for Transformative Action; and Women on the Rise!.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

All dates to be announced.

### Abolitionist Imaginaries Symposium

This day-long symposium will feature panel discussions and a new lecture-performance.

Over the course of the day, scholars, critics, artists, and activists will discuss the development and enacting of abolitionist structures.

Organized with Rutgers University and the Rutgers University Carceral Studies Working Group.

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## Die Jim Crow

A program with the record label Die Jim Crow, the first non-profit record label in the US for formerly and currently incarcerated musicians, with exhibition artist Tameca Cole and cofounder Fury Young.

## Pens to Pictures

An evening of screenings with Pens to Pictures, a pioneering project created by awardwinning filmmaker Chinonye Chukwu that teaches incarcerated women to make their own short films, and a panel discussion with the filmmakers.

## Talks Series

A series of discussions on key issues that underpin the exhibition—including the prison industrial complex and institutional responsibility—featuring experts who are actively committed to these subjects.

Additional programs to be announced.

## Past Programs

### *Marking Time* Book Launch Tue, Apr

28, 8:00 p.m.

A celebration of the publication of *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* (Harvard University Press) with author Nicole R. Fleetwood, in conversation with poet and scholar Fred Moten and artists Mary Enoch Elizabeth Baxter and Jesse Krimes live on Zoom. *Marking Time* reflects Fleetwood's decade-long dedication to researching, curating, and archiving the visual art and creative practices of incarcerated artists and art that responds to mass incarceration. Based on interviews with currently and formerly incarcerated artists, prison visits, and the author's own family experiences with the penal system, *Marking Time* shows how imprisoned artists turn ordinary objects into elaborate works of art. Working with meager supplies and in the harshest conditions—including solitary confinement—these artists find ways to resist the brutality and depravity that prisons engender. Full video available [here](#).

Organized in collaboration with Harvard University Press.

## SPONSORSHIP

Major support for *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* is provided by the Art For Justice Fund, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; the Office of the Provost and the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University—New Brunswick; and MoMA's Wallis Annenberg Fund for Innovation in Contemporary Art through the Annenberg Foundation.

Additional funding is provided by The Friends of Education of The Museum of Modern Art, Julia Lourie, Robert Lourie and Ivana Stolnik, Stardust Arts, NYU's Center for Black Visual Culture, and the MoMA PS1 Annual Exhibition Fund.

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## **ABOUT MoMA PS1**

MoMA PS1 champions how art and artists operate at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of their time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creative expression. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982, and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

**Hours:** Beginning September 17, 2020, MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit. Free admission for NYC residents is made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

**Directions:** MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

**Information:** For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit [moma.org/ps1](http://moma.org/ps1).

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