

416 **Artist's Choice: Yto Barrada—A Raft**

In this latest iteration of MoMA's Artist's Choice exhibition series, multidisciplinary artist Yto Barrada explores how artworks can provide models for reimagining relationships and ways of being in our world. Barrada has gathered works from the Museum's collection that resonate with the ideas and work of French social-work pioneer and writer Fernand Deligny (1913–1996). Barrada's exploration centers on Deligny's work from the late 1960s, when he lived with other volunteers and children with nonverbal autism in an informal network in rural France; this was an attempt to create a way of living "outside language." Deligny called this independent project "a raft," envisioning it as lightweight and maneuverable, and requiring constant maintenance—an alternative to the "cargo ships" of psychiatric institutions.

Deligny's emancipatory ideas are being rediscovered widely, by philosophers, psychoanalysts, anthropologists, filmmakers, and artists. Renewed interest in Deligny's life's work is largely due to his publishers, Sandra Alvarez de Toledo and Anaïs Masson, Barrada's longtime friends with whom she has collaborated closely on this exhibition. For Barrada, "Deligny's search for new maps and modes of being represent a vital heritage for artists." In bringing together selected artworks from MoMA's collection with films, maps, writing, and photographs that document Deligny's revolutionary project, Barrada invites us to consider art in relationship to language, chance, gesture, and space in ways that might inspire us elsewhere in our lives.

This exhibition continues in Gallery 518, the gallery just above this one, which can be reached via the stairs in this gallery or by using the elevator located across Gallery 415, through the glass doors.

Inaugurated in 1989, the Artist's Choice series invites artists to organize exhibitions drawn from MoMA's collection. Barrada is the fifteenth artist to participate in the series.

Organized by Yto Barrada with Lucy Gallun, Associate Curator, and River Encalada Bullock, Beaumont & Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, Department of Photography.

The Artist's Choice exhibition series is made possible through The Agnes Gund Artist's Choice Fund endowed by Iara Lee and George Gund III, Lulie and Gordon Gund, Ann and Graham Gund, and Sarah and Geoffrey Gund.

Major support is provided by The Modern Women's Fund.

Additional funding is provided by the Annual Exhibition Fund.

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