

# First Major U.S. Museum Exhibition of Sondra Perry Opens at ICA Miami this July

*Typhoon Coming On* Features Newly Commissioned and Recent  
Work by the Rising Artist



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Sondra Perry, *Graft and Ash for a Three Monitor Workstation*, still, 2016. Video, bicycle workstation. 9 minutes, 5 seconds. Courtesy the artist. Installation view of *Eclogue* for [in]HABITABILITY at Seattle Art Museum, 2017, photo: Natali Wiseman.

## **Sondra Perry: *Typhoon Coming On* July 13 – November 4, 2018 Second Floor, Special Exhibition Galleries**

**Miami, FL — Updated June 6, 2018** — The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICA Miami) will present the country's first solo exhibition by rising American artist Sondra Perry. Featuring work recently shown at Serpentine Gallery in London in a completely new exhibition design for ICA Miami, *Typhoon Coming On* explores Perry's use of video, media, installation and performance to create powerful narratives that explore the intersection of black identity, digital culture and power. The exhibition is set to open this summer at ICA Miami on July 13.

Perry creates work about blackness, black femininity and African American heritage. Through her use of digital tools and platforms—from blue-screen technology and 3D avatars to found footage from the Internet—her works reflect on the ways digital technology can shape identity and representation. Net neutrality and principles of open access are key to Perry's practice. Promoting ideas of collective production and action, she uses open source software to edit her work and leases it digitally for use in galleries and classrooms, while also making all her videos available for free online. As viral imagery of black deaths in the US are sensationalized, Perry aims to use this digital space to privilege black life, to democratize access to art and culture, and to offer a critical platform offering alternative narratives to the portrayal of blackness in

mainstream media. Perry has said: “I’m interested in thinking about how blackness shifts, morphs, and embodies technology to combat oppression and surveillance throughout the diaspora. Black is agile.”

“Sondra Perry’s innovative work vividly explores some of the most imminent topics of our time, using digital media and technology to reflect upon themes in black identity, power and culture,” said Alex Gartenfeld, Artistic Director of ICA Miami. “Presenting the world’s most innovative talents and fostering the exchange of art and ideas is at the core of ICA Miami’s mission.”

The title work *Typhoon coming on*, 2018, is an immersive large-scale video and sound installation visually referencing the J.M.W. Turner painting *The Slave Ship*, 1840. The exhibition will also include examples of Perry’s innovative approach to sculpture, such as *Graft and Ash for a Three-Monitor Workstation* (2016), an interactive exercise machine mounted with monitors displaying renderings of the artist’s 3-D avatar as she questions the current productivity and efficiency culture. Featured in the exhibition are additional sculptures as well as the video installation *TK (Suspicious Glorious Absence)*, 2018, featuring Perry’s iconic Chroma key blue walls along a large video projection of an extreme close-up of the artist’s skin. The accompanying video shown in the installation combines found footage of the artist’s family, protests and body cams .

Curated for the Serpentine Galleries by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director , and Amira Gad, Curator, at ICA Miami, the exhibition is realized by Alex Gartenfeld, Artistic Director, and Stephanie Seidel, Associate Curator, and includes newly organized immersive experiences.

For approved images, please [download here](#).

### **About Sondra Perry**

Sondra Perry (b. 1986, Perth Amboy, New Jersey) is an interdisciplinary artist who works with video, computer-based media and performance to explore the digital abstraction of identity. Her videos and performances foreground the tools of digital production as a way to critically reflect on new technologies of representation and to remobilize their potential. Her work revolves around blackness and black American history and ways in which technology shapes identity, often with her own personal history as a point of departure.

Recent solo exhibitions include *flesh out*, at Squeaky Wheel Film and Media Art Center in Buffalo, New York (2017); *Resident Evil* at The Kitchen, New York (2016) and at the Institute for New Connotative Action (2017). Group exhibitions include *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a*

*Weapon*, New Museum, New York (2017); *Sick Time, Crip Time: Against Capitalism's Temporal Bullying*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York (2017); *Disguise: Masks and Global African Art*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn New York, previously shown in Seattle's Art Museum, Seattle, and Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles (both 2015); *Greater New York* exhibition at MoMA/PS1, New York (2015); *Of Present Bodies*, Arlington Arts Center, Arlington VA (2014); and *Young, Gifted, & Black: Transforming Visual Media*, The Camera Club of New York (2012). She performed *Sondra Perry & Associate Make Pancakes and Shame the Devil* at the Artist's Institute, New York, in 2015. Perry's video work has been screened at Tribeca Cinemas in New York, Les Voutes in Paris, France, LuXun Academy of the Fine Arts Museum in Shenyang, China, and at the LOOP Barcelona Media Arts Festival.

### **About the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami**

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICA Miami) is dedicated to promoting continuous experimentation in contemporary art, advancing new scholarship, and fostering the exchange of art and ideas throughout the Miami region and internationally. Through an energetic calendar of exhibitions and programs, and its collection, the ICA Miami provides an important international platform for the work of local, emerging, and under-recognized artists, and advances the public appreciation and understanding of the most innovative art of our time.

Launched in 2014, ICA Miami opened its permanent home in Miami's Design District on December 1, 2017. The museum's central location positions it as a cultural anchor within the community and enhances its role in developing cultural literacy throughout the Miami region. The museum offers free admission, providing audiences with open, public access to artistic excellence year-round. [www.icamiami.org](http://www.icamiami.org)

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