

**BARD GRADUATE CENTER PRESENTS  
NEW WORKS FROM ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE IN SPRING 2019**

**The Multi-Media Artists–Native Art Department International–Respond to  
Exhibition on Anthropologist Franz Boas and his Indigenous Co-author George  
Hunt**

**Brooklyn-Based Artists JoAnne McFarland and Rachel Selekmán to Create New  
Work Drawing Inspiration from Bard Graduate Center’s Extensive Library  
Collection**

**New York, NY – March 20, 2019** – This spring Bard Graduate Center (BGC) will present new work by artists participating in its Exhibition Artist in Residency and its Library Artist in Residency programs. The programs are designed to bring artists into conversation with BGC’s exhibitions and to invite visual or performance artists whose work is grounded in research to use the BGC Library Collection as an incubator for new work.

Native Art Department International—the Brooklyn-based multimedia artist team of Maria Hupfield and Jason Lujan—has been selected as Bard Graduate Center’s Exhibition Artist in Residence. Their work will be in dialogue with the exhibition [The Story Box: Franz Boas, George Hunt and the Making of Anthropology](#), which highlights the role of George Hunt—the Indigenous co-author of anthropologist Franz Boas’ seminal text *The Social Organization and the Secret Societies of the Kwakiutl Indians* (1897)—as well as the ongoing cultural traditions of the Kwakwaka’wakw people of Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada. The public can see Native Art Department International’s work in-progress beginning on May 1. Their work and the exhibition, curated by Bard Graduate Center associate professor Aaron Glass, will be on view through July 7, 2019.

During their residency, Hupfield and Lujan will turn their studio space at BGC into a television studio where they will shoot a program dramatizing sequences from the life of Boas. The aesthetic of their project is loosely based on [Potato Wolf TV](#), a series of fictional news segments and satirical takes on mainstream media developed by Lower East Side activist-artist collective Collaborative Projects (Colab) in the early 1970s.

“In selecting Native Art Department International for this residency, I wanted to invite more contemporary Indigenous voices into the exhibition to destabilize the notion that Native American cultures are static and to provide space for playful critical commentary,” said Emily Reilly, Director of Public Engagement for Bard Graduate Center and Associate Director of the Bard Graduate Center Gallery. “The work of these artists—and all our Exhibition Artists in Residence—animate the BGC Gallery as a living space and draw connections between the exhibitions and contemporary art making.”

BGC’s Library Artists in Residence will be poet, painter, and curator JoAnne McFarland, and visual artist Rachel Selekmán—both of whom are based in Brooklyn. The Library’s

reference staff is on hand to support their research. McFarland and Selekman's works are in development and in late spring they will make public presentations on their research and discuss their projects.

"Artists are avid researchers, just as scholars are," said Emily Reilly, Director of Public Engagement for Bard Graduate Center and Associate Director of the Bard Graduate Center Gallery. "The Library Artist in Residence program is designed to place creative research on the same plane with scholarly research—to broaden the types of inquiry and inspiration happening in our library."

Bard Graduate Center launched its Artist in Residency Programs in January 2017 with Mark Dion serving as BGC's first Artist in Residence. For his residency, which was closely tied to BGC's [Cultures of Conservation](#) program, Dion created "[The Conservator's Cupboard](#)", a work that explores the mental and material landscape of the conservator. Referencing the traditions of the artist's studio and the alchemist's workshop, Dion constructed a sculptural installation in the form of a working cupboard filled with raw materials, apparatuses, and books, located in Bard Graduate Center's lobby in 38 West 86th Street. Dion also participated in and co-organized public programs around the central themes of his work. In February 2018, BGC partnered with Textile Arts Center to turn a space in the Gallery into a [MakerSpace](#), which hosted workshops and a rotating artist residency. The 2018 artists in residence were fiber artists [Chi Nguyen](#), [Neil Goss](#), and [Natalie Stopka](#). Also in 2018, BGC launched its Library Artist in Residence program with two artists, [Karen Mainenti and Spencer Merolla](#).

## About Bard Graduate Center

As the leading research institute in the United States dedicated to the study of decorative arts, design history, and material culture, Bard Graduate Center and its Gallery have pioneered the studying objects as a means to better understand the cultural history of the material world. Offering experiences for scholars, students, and the general public alike—Bard Graduate Center is built on multidisciplinary study and the integration of research, graduate teaching, and public exhibitions.

Since its founding in 1993, Bard Graduate Center has established a network of more than 400 alumni who work in leading museums, universities, and institutions worldwide to advance new ways of thinking about material culture.

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, Bard Graduate Center is presenting a series of exhibitions and events that showcase the institution's groundbreaking research and approach to the study of tangible 'things.' Beginning in Fall 2018 and continuing through 2020, the 25th Anniversary celebration includes exhibitions on a diverse range of subjects including *Agents of Faith: Votive Objects in Time and Place*, September 14, 2018 through January 6, 2019; *French Fashion, Women, and the First World War*, September 5, 2019 through January 5, 2020; and *Eileen Gray: Designer Artist*, Spring 2020—an in-depth examination of the work and contributions of the iconic modernist designer and architect, presented in collaboration with the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Other initiatives during the anniversary years will also advance research and scholarship, recognize leaders in the field, present engaging programs for the public, and foster a new generation of students and scholars. For more information, visit [bgc.bard.edu](http://bgc.bard.edu).

# About the Bard Graduate Center Library

The Bard Graduate Center Library is a non-circulating research collection with the primary mission of supporting the scholarly activities of its community of students, faculty, staff, and members of the wider academic and design world. This collection of more than 50,000 volumes encompasses all aspects of the decorative arts, design history, and material culture. The subject scope of the library has closely followed the evolution of Bard Graduate Center's academic curriculum and Bard Graduate Center Gallery's wide-ranging exhibition history, resulting in a collection that is uniquely designed to support new ways of thinking about the cultural history of the material world.

## About the Artists in Residence

[Native Art Department International](#) is a Brooklyn-based collaborative project from the wife-and-husband pair of artists, [Maria Hupfield](#) (b. 1975) and [Jason Lujan](#) (b. 1971). Together they curate group exhibitions in which they show and make work together as a way to counter the pigeonholing of contemporary art by Native Americans and people of First Nations descent.

[JoAnne McFarland](#) is a poet, painter, and curator from Brooklyn. She is the former Exhibitions Director of A.I.R. Gallery and the founder of Artpoetica, a project space in Gowanus Brooklyn that links literary and visual expression. Her latest poetry collection, *Identifying the Body*, was published in 2018 by The Word Works. Her artwork is part of many public and private collections, including the Library of Congress and the Columbus Museum of Art. In her practice, McFarland treats violence and creativity as diametrically opposed: each act of making thwarts violence's aim to destroy.

[Rachel Selekman](#) is a visual artist based in Brooklyn. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA, and group exhibitions at the Invisible Dog Art Center, Brooklyn; Marc Straus Gallery, NYC; Brooklyn Academy of Music; Galerie Aurel Scheibler, Berlin; Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA; and Lesley Heller Workspace, NYC. Selekman's work is in numerous public and private collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, Microsoft, the US State Department, and Montefiore Medical Center. Commissioned pieces can be found at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and the Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. Her catalogue, *Rachel Selekman: Making Connections*, which surveys her sculpture and works on paper, was published in 2014. Selekman received her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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