

**PARK AVENUE  
ARMORY**



**Park Avenue Armory and Multidisciplinary Cohort of Cultural Institutions  
Announce the Women Commissioned to Create New Work in Response  
to the Centennial of the 19th Amendment**

**Armory to Host Showcase and Celebration of the Commissions Exploring  
the Complex Legacy of Women's Suffrage in America**

New York, NY – February 18, 2020 – At its fourth annual “Culture in a Changing America” symposium on Saturday, **Park Avenue Armory**, together with lead partner **National Black Theatre** and nine additional New York City-based cultural institutions, announced the lead group of artists they commissioned as part of the *100 Years | 100 Women* initiative. In addition to the Armory and National Black Theatre, the commissioning institutions are: **Apollo Theater; The Julliard School; La MaMa Experimental Theatre Company; The Laundromat Project; The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum of the Moving Image; National Sawdust; New York University (Department of Photography and Imaging, Tisch School of the Arts; Office of Global Inclusion, Diversity and Strategic Innovation; and Institute of African American Affairs & Center for Black Visual Culture);** and **Urban Bush Women.**

The discipline-spanning group of artists, who self-identify as women or gender non-binary, will create works in response to the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave some women the right to vote. The commissioned projects—spanning visual arts, music, dance, film, photography, and performance—will be showcased in a major event on May 16, 2020 in the Armory’s Wade Thompson Drill Hall and historic rooms. Commissioned artists include: **Sama Alshaibi, Murielle Borst-Tarrant/Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective, Zoë Buckman, Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi, Karen Finley, Ebony Noelle Golden, Chanon Judson, L’Rain, Shola Lynch, Meshell Ndegeocello, Toshi Reagon, Jaime Sunwoo, Sahar Ullah, Carrie Mae Weems, Deborah Willis,** and many more.

*100 Years | 100 Women* is part of the Armory’s **Interrogations of Form** conversation series, which unites artists, thought leaders, and social trailblazers for creative, multidimensional explorations of today’s social and cultural landscape. This year’s “**Culture in a Changing America**” symposium, also part of the series, included conversations, performances across artistic genres, and intimate salons reflecting on womanhood, citizenship, intersectional feminism, and the myriad ways in which artists navigate these issues.

*100 Years | 100 Women* is the latest Armory-hosted convening of creatives, cultural leaders, and community members, following Theaster Gates’ “Black Artists Retreat 2019: Sonic Imagination,” which brought together more than 300 black artists and allies for a weekend of conversations, performances, and reflections; a Lenape Pow Wow in 2018, the first gathering of Lenape leaders on Manhattan Island since the 1700s; and 2017’s “The Shape of Things,” a day-long creative reflection on the political and social climate in America, curated by former Armory Artist-in-Residence Carrie Mae Weems.

“The Armory is so pleased to be able to bring together artists and thought leaders to respond to the issues that shape our society. We, along with our dynamic group of partner organizations, are excited to see how these diverse artistic voices will respond to the realities and consequences of the 19th Amendment, passed a century ago,” said **Rebecca Robertson, Founding President and Executive Producer of Park Avenue Armory.**

“We are excited to work alongside Park Avenue Armory to empower these artists whose work will enrich and educate the public,” said **Sade Lythcott, CEO of National Black Theatre.** “As with the symposium, this

celebration helps place the spotlight on artists whose work is in keeping with NBT's tradition of using art and culture to help push forward messages of healing and liberation for all."

Together, this cohort of institutions has commissioned work from the following artists, some of whom are creating solo works, while others are collaborating with other artists, ensembles, and collectives. Additional artists will be named in the leadup to the event:

- Abdu Ali, Music & Literature
- Sama Alshaibi, Visual Art
- Ngozi Anyanwu, Theatre
- Armory Arts Education, Multi-disciplinary
- Zalika Azim, Visual Art
- Stefanie Batten Bland / SBB Company, Dance Theatre
- Stephanie Berger, Photography
- Hope Boykin, Dance
- Mahogany L. Browne, Poetry & Literature
- Zoë Buckman, Visual Art
- Rashida Bumbray, Performance & Visual Art
- Xu Cheng, Music
- Elizabeth Colomba, Visual Art
- Courtney Cook, Performance & Dance
- Renee Cox, Visual Art
- Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi, Performance Art & Literature
- Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Visual Art
- Helga Davis, Music
- Rose DeSiano, Visual Art
- LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, Multi-disciplinary
- Abby Dobson, Conceptual & Performing Art
- Nekisha Durrett, Visual Art
- Adama Delphine Fawundu, Visual Art
- Gayle Fekete, Dance
- Jingyi Feng, Dance
- Karen Finley, Performance Art
- Ebony Noelle Golden & Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative, Multi-disciplinary
- Jasmine Hearn, Performance & Dance
- Marguerite Hemmings, Dance
- Charlene Incarnate, Drag & Performance
- Val Jeanty and Risha Rox, Sound Art & Performance Art
- Chanon Judson, Dance
- Tendayi Kuumba, Dance
- L'Rain, Music
- Thapelo Masita, Music
- Muriel Miguel / Spiderwoman Theater, Theatre & Performance
- Vernice Miller / A Laboratory for Actor Training, Theatre & Performance
- Briana Del Mundo, Dance
- Love Muwakkil, Performance & Dance
- Meshell Ndegeocello & Staceyann Chin, Music & Poetry
- Lorie Novak, Visual Art
- Lindsay Phillips, Dance
- Toshi Reagon, Music
- Kyle Ritenauer, Music
- Yelaine Rodriguez, Visual Art
- Huang Ruo, Music
- Hannah Rosenzweig & Wendy Sachs, Film
- Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw / Split Britches, Theatre & Performance
- Karina Aguilera Skvirsky, Multi-disciplinary
- Dianne Smith, Visual Art
- Sonic and Womxyn Amplify Vibrations Collective, Music
- Samantha Speis, Performance & Dance
- Amy Rox Surratt / Mistakes Made Theatrical Co, Theatre & Performance
- Jaime Sunwoo, Multimedia & Performance
- Lourdes Kalichi'naru Lebron, Michelle Lopez & Kasibahagua Taíno Cultural Society, Ceremonial Taíno dance
- Murielle Borst-Tarrant/Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective, Theatre & Performance
- Cyrie Topete, Choreography
- Katherine Toukhy, Mixed Media
- Carmelita Tropicana, Performance Art
- Sahar Ullah, Theatre
- Imani Uzuri, Music
- Elaisa Van Der Kust, Performance & Dance
- Mikaila Ware, Performance & Dance
- Angela Wee, Music
- Carrie Mae Weems, Multi-disciplinary

- Mimi Lien, Architecture & Set Design
- Shola Lynch, Film
- Alicia Graf Mack, Dance
- Tsedaye Makonnen, Visual Art
- Deborah Willis, Visual Art
- Zhou Yi, Music
- Bora Yoon, Music
- Pamela Z performed by Amanda Gookin (Forward Music Project), Music

Tickets for the May celebration are available for purchase at [www.armoryonpark.com](http://www.armoryonpark.com).

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Citi and Bloomberg Philanthropies are the Armory's 2020 season sponsors.

Support for Park Avenue Armory's artistic season has been generously provided by the Charina Endowment Fund, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Foundation, the Marc Haas Foundation, the Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, the Richenthal Foundation, and the Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation. The artistic season is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Additional support has been provided by the Armory's Artistic Council.

*Interrogations of Form* are supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council.

## **ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY**

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York by enabling artists to create, students to explore, and audiences to experience, unconventional work that cannot be mounted in traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall—reminiscent of 19<sup>th</sup>-century European train stations—and an array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory offers a platform for creativity across all art forms. Together, these and other spaces within the historic building utilized for arts programming comprise the Thompson Arts Center, named in recognition of the Thompson family's ongoing support of the institution.

Since its first production in September 2007, the Armory has organized and commissioned immersive performances, installations, and cross-disciplinary collaborations in its vast Drill Hall that defy traditional categorization and challenge artists to push the boundaries of their practice. In its historic period rooms, the Armory presents small-scale performances and programs, including its acclaimed Recital Series, which showcases musical talent from across the globe within the intimate salon setting of the Board of Officers Room; and the new Artists Studio series in the newly restored Veterans Room, which features innovative artists and artistic pairings that harken back to the imaginative collaboration and improvisation of the original group of designers who conceived the space. The Armory also supports artists across genres in the creation and development of new work through its Artist-in-Residence program, which each year offers several artists space and resources to produce new works and present them as part of the Armory's programming. Theaster Gates is a current Armory Artist-in-Residence. Other current Artists-in-Residence include: Mimi Lien, Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and the D.R.E.A.M. Ring, Sara Serpa, Christine Jones, Steven Hoggett, Lynn Nottage, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and Carmelita Tropicana.

The Armory also offers robust arts education programs at no cost to underserved New York City public school students, engaging them with the institution's artistic programming and the building's history and architecture. These programs, which serve more than 5,000 students per year, include student-only performances and workshops for every production, commissioned works for family programming, school partnerships, and paid internships.

Programmatic highlights from the Armory include *The Let Go*, a site-specific immersive dance celebration by Nick Cave; a Lenape Pow Wow and Standing Ground Symposium, the first congregation of Lenape Leaders on Manhattan Island since the 1700s; Ernesto Neto's *anthropodino*, a large-scale, interactive sculpture and labyrinth comprising a 120 by 180-foot canopy extended across the Drill Hall and 60-foot aromatic fabric stalactites; *FLEXN*, an Armory-commissioned presentation of the Brooklyn-born street dance Flex, created by Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray and Director Peter Sellars; Julian Rosefeldt's *Manifesto*, a multi-channel cinematic installation featuring Cate Blanchett; eight-time Drama Desk-nominated play *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Bobby Cannavale; William Kentridge's *The Head & The Load*, a multidisciplinary tribute to the millions of African porters who served in WWI; Satoshi Miyagi's intercultural reimaging of *Antigone*, which unfolded within an 18,000-gallon pool of water in the Drill Hall; and Sam Mendes' critically acclaimed production of *The Lehman Trilogy*, starring Adam Godley, Ben Miles, and Simon Russell Beale.

Concurrent with its artistic program, the Armory has undertaken an ongoing \$215-million revitalization of its historic building, designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron.

[www.armoryonpark.org](http://www.armoryonpark.org)

### **ABOUT NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE**

Founded by visionary Dr. Barbara Ann Teer in 1968, National Black Theatre (NBT) is a nationally recognized cultural and educational institution. Dr. Teer pioneered "the healing art of Black theater as an instrument for wholeness in urban communities where entrepreneurial artists of African descent live and work." In 1983, Dr. Teer expanded the vision of NBT by purchasing a 64,000-square-foot building on 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue (renamed "National Black Theatre Way" by local law in 1994). This was the first revenue-generating Black arts complex in the country, an innovative arrangement through which for-profit businesses who shared NBT's spiritual and aesthetic values rented retail space to subsidize the arts. Out of her vision, NBT houses the largest collection of Nigerian New Sacred Art in the Western hemisphere and is considered the authentic representation of a model whose time has come. NBT is supported by grants from the Ford Foundation, New York Community Trust, Time Warner Corporation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Andrew Mellon Foundation, City Council of New York, City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, Columbia Service Society and private donations. Visit [www.nationalblacktheatre.org](http://www.nationalblacktheatre.org) or follow NBT on Facebook (@NationalBlackTheatre) and Twitter/Instagram (@NatBlackTheatre).

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