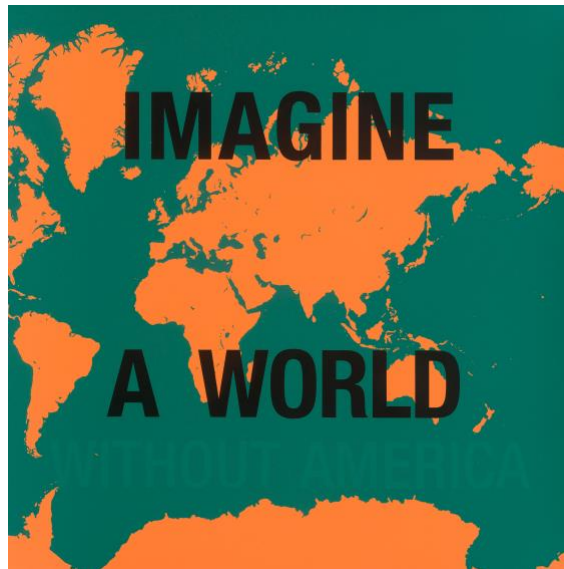


THE SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Revolution from Without...



Dread Scott, *Imagine a World Without America*, 2006.

The 8th Floor, 17 West 17th Street, NYC

January 17 – May 4, 2019

**Opening Reception, Thursday, January 17
from 6 to 8pm**

New York, New York, November 20, 2018 -- The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation is pleased to present *Revolution from Without...*, the first in a two-year series of exhibitions under the larger title *Revolutionary Cycles*, at the Foundation's exhibition space, The 8th Floor, in New York City. Each of the six installments will be organized around a single theme, including labor, gender, the media, surveillance, and family. Through each exhibition, *Revolutionary Cycles* will focus on different modes of resistance, emphasizing how revolutionary gestures are manifest in the contexts of art and life.

Opening on January 17, 2019, the inaugural exhibition *Revolution from Without...* will feature five artists and two collectives – **Tania Bruguera, Tony Cokes, Chto Delat, Raqs Media Collective, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, Dread Scott, and Mark Wallinger** – whose practices engage structures of power that determine who is entitled to, and excluded from, access to human rights and positions of privilege.

The title suggests that social and political change can come from the margins of the polity, motivated by conditions of being without: without rights, without capital, without representation. Each artist specifically addresses key political and historical moments in

which the articulation of rights has been advanced. The artworks in the exhibition provide historical context for understanding current political conditions, with specific projects signaling activist methodologies involving research, education, critique, and more radical forms of protest.

A sculptural rendering of **Mark Wallinger**'s large-scale public artwork *Writ in Water* (2018) which commemorates the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, revisits foundational documents outlining human rights.

Each known for touchstone works pointing to the limits of free speech and freedom of expression, **Tania Bruguera** and **Dread Scott** present works that serve as prompts for participation. Their contributions to the exhibition elaborate on the legacy of artworks like Scott's *What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag* (1988), and Bruguera's *Tatlin's Whisper* (2009), amplifying individual agency and collective efforts in making political change happen.

Kameelah Janan Rasheed's large-scale associative installations assemble material culture from African American history, making visible the structural conditions that determine how rights are granted, and to whom, with an emphasis on the right to education. Synthesizing archival footage, animated text, and popular music, **Tony Cokes**' research-based video installations analyze and reinterpret the media's construction of collective knowledge, with video projects like *Black Celebration* (1988) and his ongoing *Evil* series.

The exhibition will also include **Raqs Media Collective** whose work reflects on borders and the right to mobility – a heavily contested issue in the United States, as immigration policies continue to interfere with the right to asylum. Russian collective **Chto Delat**, whose name translates to *What is to be done?*, creates sites for strategy, education, and activism through the production of textile-based banners and signs that examine and conflate activist histories, cultural theory, and political iconography.

With specially commissioned artworks, as well as restaged installations, *Revolution from Without...* will lay a foundation for the central themes which will be expanded upon in the subsequent exhibitions in *Revolutionary Cycles*, ultimately questioning how art spaces can be sites for organizing.

The exhibition is curated by **Sara Reisman**, Executive and Artistic Director of the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, with a brochure essay by writer **Rehan Ansari**. A program of events will be organized in conjunction with the exhibition and details will be announced soon.

About The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

The Foundation believes in art as a cornerstone of cohesive, resilient communities and greater participation in civic life. In its mission to make art available to the broader

public, in particular to underserved communities, the Foundation provides direct support to, and facilitates partnerships between, cultural organizations and advocates of social justice across the public and private sectors. Through grantmaking, the Foundation supports cross-disciplinary work connecting art with social justice via experimental collaborations, as well as extending cultural resources to organizations and areas of New York City in need. sdrubin.org

About The 8th Floor

The 8th Floor is an exhibition and events space established in 2010 by Shelley and Donald Rubin, dedicated to promoting cultural and philanthropic initiatives, and to expanding artistic and cultural accessibility in New York City. The 8th Floor is located at 17 West 17th Street and is free and open to the public. Schools groups are encouraged. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. the8thfloor.org

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#The8thFloor

#ArtandSocialJustice

#RevolutionfromWithout

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