

LAXART

LAXART RECEIVES AWARDS FROM THE EMILY HALL TREMAINE FOUNDATION AND ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS FOR 2021 EXHIBITIONS

LOS ANGELES (July 23, 2019) – LAXART is pleased to announce it is the recipient of two awards from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation. The awards will enable LAXART to research and present original, timely exhibitions in 2021, including a show focusing on ecofeminist art from 1979 to the present curated by LAXART Deputy Director and Curator **Catherine Taft**, and **MONUMENTS**, curated by LAXART Director **Hamza Walker** and artist **Kara Walker**. In continuing its mission to promote developments in contemporary culture, LAXART will present these exhibitions and related public programs in multiple locations across Los Angeles, including the nonprofit's existing space in Hollywood.

A \$30,000 award from **The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts** will provide critical research support in preparation for Taft's spring 2021 exhibition surveying four decades of ecofeminist art. An early intersectional movement that identified critical connections between gender oppression and the exploitation of natural resources, ecofeminism evolved out of the environmental, feminist, and anti-nuclear movements of the early 1980s. It was taken up by politically active artists of the time, however, it has been conspicuously absent from historical surveys of the period. In advance of the exhibition, Taft will organize a related symposium at LAXART, bringing together scholars, artists, activists and art historians around the topic.

Made possible by the **Emily Hall Tremain Exhibition Award** in the amount of \$150,000, the exhibition **MONUMENTS** will feature recently decommissioned statues from throughout the United States sited in public spaces. While their appearance as a form of public commemoration represents the persistence of racist and tragically outmoded ideologies, these statues also raise questions around free speech, censorship, and American history. Working with local and national municipalities, curators Walker and Walker will create a context for a robust series of conversations, lectures, and events while questioning the geographically-specific appearance of such statues. This exhibition is planned for September of 2021.

For more information, please visit laxart.org

About Catherine Taft

Catherine Taft is a Los Angeles-based curator and writer, and is deputy director of LAXART. Since joining LAXART in fall of 2015, Taft has organized the group exhibitions *Protuberances* (September 2016), *Reconstitution* (March 2017, co-curated with Hamza Walker), and *Remote Castration* (July 2018), as well as exhibitions and programs with numerous artists including Hilton Als, Jibade-Kahlil Huffman, Tony Lewis and Karl Haendel, Regan Moss, and Raphael Montanez Ortiz. Prior to joining LAXART, Taft served as Assistant Curator on the Whitney Museum of American Art's exhibition *America is Hard to See* (2015) and as Curatorial Associate and Project Specialist on the J. Paul Getty Museum's exhibitions *Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Painting and Sculpture, 1950–1970* (2011) and *California Video* (2008). She is a regular contributor to publications such as *Artforum*, *Art Review*, *Kaleidoscope*, and *Modern Painters*, and she has contributed essays to monographic catalogs on artists including Yayoi Kusama, Carroll Dunham, and Matthew Barney.

About Hamza Walker

Hamza Walker is the Director of LAXART, an independent nonprofit art space in Los Angeles. From 1994–2016, he was the Director of Education and Associate Curator at the Renaissance

Society at the University of Chicago, a non-collecting museum devoted to contemporary art. In 2017 he co-curated (with Catherine Taft) "Reconstitution", a group exhibition mounted at LAXART. In 2016 he co-curated (with Aram Moshayedi) "Made in L.A." at the Hammer Museum, and in 2015 he curated "A Painting is a Painting isn't a Painting" at the Kadist Foundation in San Francisco. His 2008 Renaissance Society exhibition "Black Is, Black Ain't" was a previous winner of the Emily Hall Tremain Exhibition Award.

About Kara Walker

Born in Stockton, California in 1969, Walker studied at the Atlanta College of Art (BFA, 1991) and the Rhode Island School of Design (MFA, 1994). She is the recipient of many awards, notably the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Achievement Award in 1997 and the United States Artists, Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship in 2008. In 2012, Walker became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2015, she was named the Tepper Chair in Visual Arts at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Her work can be found in museums and public collections throughout the United States and Europe including The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Tate Gallery, London; the Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo (MAXXI), Rome; and Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt. Walker's major survey exhibition, *Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love*, was organized by The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis where it premiered in February 2007 before traveling to ARC/ Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris; The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles; and the Museum of Modern Art in Fort Worth. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented at the Art Institute of Chicago; Camden Arts Centre in London; and Metropolitan Arts Center (MAC) in Belfast. During the spring of 2014, Walker's first large scale public project, a monumental installation entitled *A Subtlety: Or... the Marvelous Sugar Baby an Homage to the unpaid and overworked Artisans who have refined our Sweet tastes from the cane fields to the Kitchens of the New World on the Occasion of the demolition of the Domino Sugar Refining Plant*, was on view at the abandoned Domino Sugar refinery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Commissioned and presented by Creative Time, the project – a massive sugar covered sphinx-like sculpture – responded to and reflected on troubled history of sugar. As a special project of the 2015 Venice Biennale, Walker was selected as director, set and costume designer for the production of Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* at Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy. *Read more on Kara Walker at www.karawalkerstudio.com*

About the Emily Hall Tremain Exhibition Award

The Exhibition Award was created in 1998 to honor the talent and artistic vision of our founder, Emily Hall Tremain. Her passion for art and support of living artists inspired, challenged, and brought joy to those around her. The Exhibition Award continues to reflect Emily Hall Tremain's trailblazing spirit by supporting thematic exhibitions of contemporary art that are fresh and experimental in nature.

About The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the foundation has given over \$200 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

All communications-related requests related to The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts should be sent to Maria Villafranca maria@warholfoundation.org or 212-387-7555. For more information please visit <https://warholfoundation.org/>



Andy Warhol at

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

About LAXART

LAXART is a nonprofit visual art space that promotes developments in contemporary culture through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. Founded in 2005, it was established in recognition that the Los Angeles art community was underserved by its institutions and galleries; at that time, there were few venues operating under non-commercial auspices where risk-taking was an explicit part of the mission. In the past 14 years, LAXART has produced over 400 exhibitions, newly commissioned works, public art initiatives, performances and publications. Expanding its influence, LAXART has made significant contributions to the exploration of contemporary art movements in Southern California by undertaking key institutional partnerships. In 2011, LAXART co-produced the *Performance and Public Art Festival* for the Getty Foundation's 2011 initiative *Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945- 1980*. With the Hammer Museum, LAXART co-organized *Made in L.A. 2012*—the first biennial for Los Angeles. In 2017, LAXART produced the *Video Art in Latin America* with the Getty Research Institute in conjunction with *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA*.

LAXART opened its 10th Anniversary in 2015 in a new Hollywood location—a 1928 recording studio that has been into an experimental arts institution. With the appointment of Hamza Walker as Executive Director in 2016, LAXART has come unto its own as an independent artistic center that seeks to produce programming that matches and reaches the vast diversity of Los Angeles. LAXART remains a platform for emerging and under-recognized artists; however, LAXART has expanded its mission to undertake thematic exhibitions that engage with key issues of our time. Recent projects have included a new site-specific mural on the exterior of the building by Barbara Kruger; a new piano destruction performance by octogenarian performance artist Raphael Montanez Ortiz; a group exhibitions around the topics of constitutionality and immigration (*Reconstitution*, 2017), and feminism and abuse of power (*Remote Castration*, 2018), among many other programs.

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