



PARTICIPANTS

KYLE ABRAHAM - ELIZABETH ALEXANDER - ERIC BERRYMAN
TANIA BRUGUERA - MAJORA CARTER - JAMES BURLING CHASE
EISA DAVIS - ELIZABETH DILLER - KIMBERLY DREW - JOHN EDMONDS
ADAM J. FOSS - MALIK GAINES - THEASTER GATES
TONY GERBER - REGGIE (REGG ROC) GRAY - DICK GRIFFIN
FRANCESCA HARPER - CRAIG HARRIS - NONA HENDRYX
BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS - ARTHUR Jafa - SHANI JAMILA - JAWWAAD
NAVID KHONSARI - VASSILIKI KHONSARI - JASON KING - GREGG LAMBERT
DAVID LANG - ERNIE LARSEN - LIZ LECOMPTE - SARAH LEWIS
SEAMUS MCGRAW - AJA MONET - JASON MORAN - FRED MOTEN
SHIRIN NESHAT - LYNN NOTTAGE - KENDALL R. PHILLIPS
JEREMY RICHMAN - CARL HANCOCK RUX - ALEXANDRO SEGADE
TANYA SELVARATNAM - MARVIN SEWELL - ANNA DEAVERE SMITH
HANK WILLIS THOMAS - CARMELITA TROPICANA - BASIL TWIST
ROBERTA UNO - IMANI UZURI - KATE VALK - CARRIE MAE WEEMS

PARK AVENUE
ARMORY
PRESENTS



CONVERSATION SERIES: INTERROGATIONS OF FORM

CARRIE MAE WEEMS THE SHAPE OF THINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017 FROM 12:00PM TO 10:00PM
THOMPSON ARTS CENTER AT PARK AVENUE ARMORY

As Armory artist-in-residence Carrie Mae Weems concludes her year-long residency, she continues to grapple with the history of violence in our country—personally and within her body of work. Weems curates this day-long convening of artists, writers, poets, musicians, thinkers and social theorists, inviting them to join her in a critique of our tumultuous political and social climate.

Audiences are invited to join participants in interrogating this complex topic through a series of readings, performances, conversations, and other artistic responses held throughout the day in the Armory's first and second floor historic rooms.



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Park Avenue Armory's Artist-in-Residence program is made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support for The Shape of Things has been provided by Jack Shainman Gallery; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and Gregg Lambert (co-founder), Perpetual Peace Project, CNY Humanities Corridor.

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Cover photo: Carrie Mae Weems

armoryonpark.org | @ParkAveArmory | #TheShapeofThings #PAAInterrogations

SCHEDULE

FIRST FLOOR

BOARD OF OFFICERS ROOM: MUSIC & PRESENTATIONS

12:00pm: Flatbush Avenue Film
12:30pm: Marvin Sewell Group
1:00pm: Readings
1:30pm: Dick Griffin & Carl Hancock Rux
2:00pm: Welcome by Carrie Mae Weems
2:15pm: Ink Stories: Navid & Vassiliki Khonsari
2:30pm: Shirin Neshat
3:00pm: Kendall R. Phillips
3:30pm: Roberta Uno
4:00pm: Majora Carter & James Burling Chase
4:30pm: Liz Diller
5:00pm: Fred Moten
5:30pm: David Lang
6:30pm: Theaster Gates
7:00pm: Carrie Mae Weems, with Craig Harris & Kyle Abraham
7:45pm: Elizabeth Alexander
8:00pm: Anna Deavere Smith
8:30pm: Craig Harris & band
9:00pm: Nona Hendryx
9:30pm: Jason Moran
9:55pm: Closing Remarks

VETERANS ROOM: MUSIC & CONTEMPLATIONS

12:30pm: Two from Breakneck Ridge
1:00pm: JAWWAAD
1:20pm: Hank Willis Thomas
1:30pm: Aja Monet
1:45pm: Arthur Jafa
2:00pm: Adam J. Foss
2:30pm: Reggie (Regg Roc) Gray
2:45pm: Seamus McGraw
3:30pm: Kimberly Drew
4:00pm: Tania Bruguera
4:30pm: Gregg Lambert
5:00pm: John Edmonds
5:15pm: Malik Gaines
5:30pm: Ernie Larsen
6:00pm: Sarah Lewis
6:30pm: Jeremy Richman
7:00pm: Imani Uzuri
7:30pm: The Wooster Group: Eric Berryman, Elizabeth LeCompte, & Kate Valk
8:00pm: Jason King

SCREENING ROOM

Films and content by Doug DuBois with Jim Goldberg, John Edmonds, Ink Stories, Mary Mattingly, Arthur Jafa, Shirin Neshat, Lynn Nottage & Tony Gerber, Fazal Sheikh, Hank Willis Thomas, and Carrie Mae Weems

COLONELS ROOM: LISTENING & CONVERSATIONS

1:15pm: Shirin Neshat & Jason King, moderated by Kendall Phillips
3:15pm: Liz Diller & David Lang, moderated by Sarah Lewis
5:15pm: Majora Carter & Theaster Gates, moderated by Avery Willis Hoffman
6:15pm: Nona Hendryx & Aja Monet, moderated by Kimberly Drew

GRAND STAIRCASE

READINGS & PERFORMANCES TO MARK THE HOUR

1:00pm: Francesca Harper
2:00pm: Dick Griffin
3:00pm: Eisa Davis
4:00pm: Aja Monet
5:00pm: JAWWAAD
6:00pm: Elizabeth Alexander
7:00pm: Carl Hancock Rux

SECOND FLOOR: OPEN STUDIOS

COMPANY A: MALIK GAINES

12:00-10:00pm: Readings and performances organized by artists Malik Gaines and Alexandro Segade

COMPANY B: LYNN NOTTAGE

12:00-10:00pm: Screening of *THIS IS READING* films, by Lynn Nottage & Tony Gerber
1:45pm: Q&A with filmmaker Tony Gerber

COMPANY C: CARRIE MAE WEEMS

12:00-10:00pm: Screening of projects by Carrie Mae Weems
2:00pm: Performance by Two from Breakneck Ridge (David A. Ross and Patrick Stanfield Jones)

COMPANY F: REGGIE (REGG ROC) GRAY

12:00-10:00pm: Open rehearsal and demos with Reggie (Regg Roc) Gray and the D.R.E.A.M. Ring

COMPANY I: TANIA BRUGUERA

12:00-10:00pm: An afternoon of art and activism with DACA students & performance artist Tania Bruguera

COMPANY K: BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS & CARMELITA TROPICANA

12:30-6:30pm: Marathon reading of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*

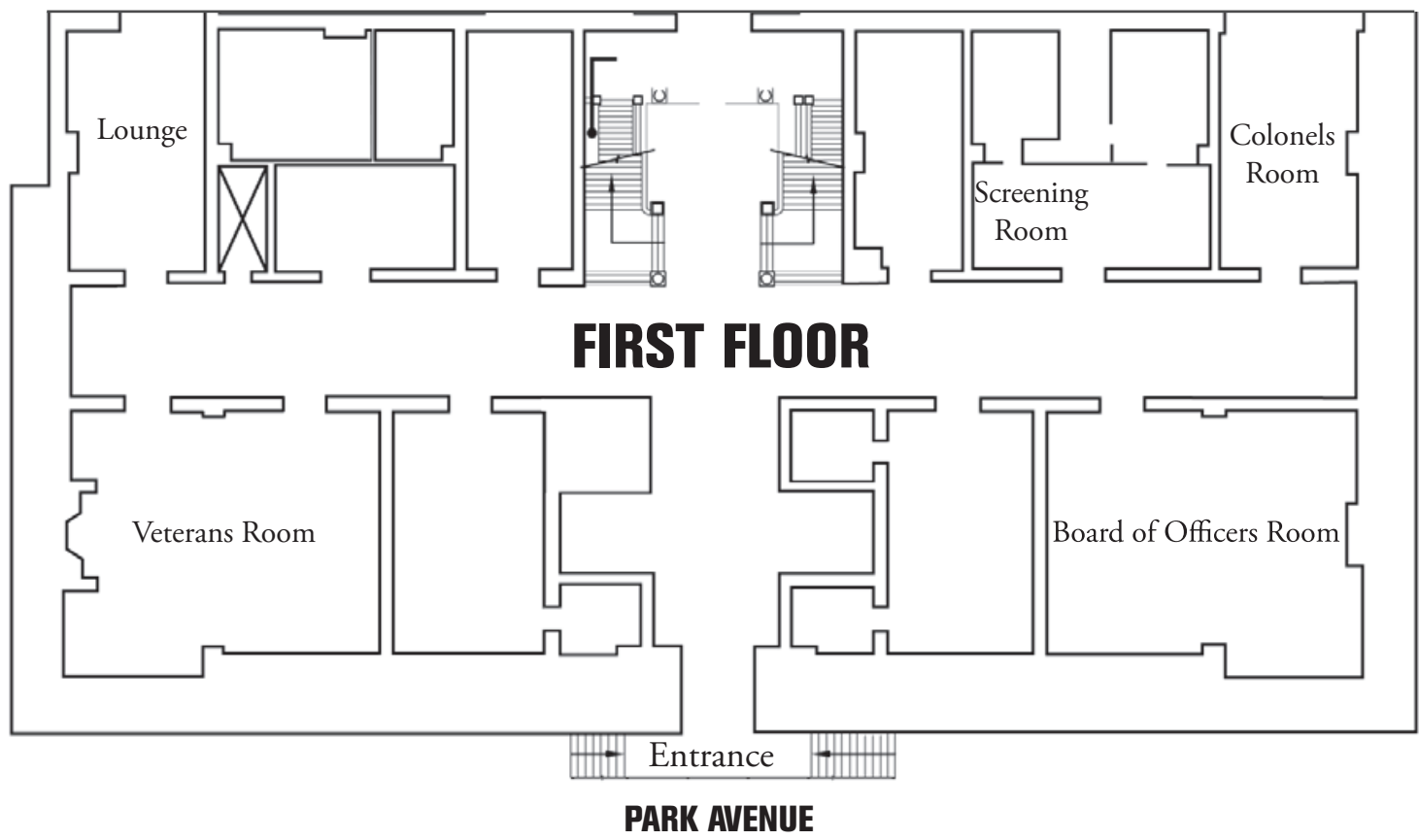
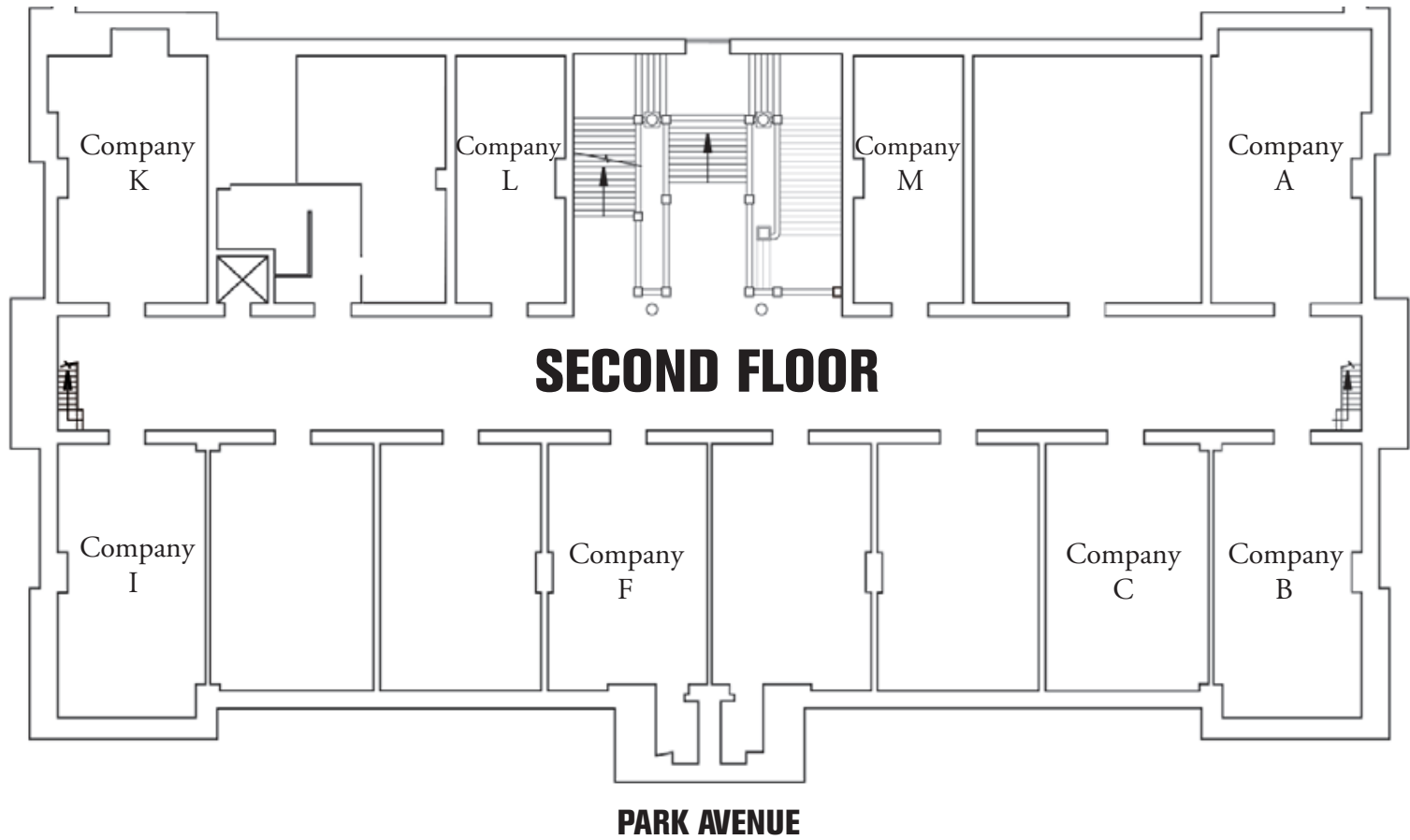
COMPANY L: MARVIN SEWELL

3:30-4:30pm: Performance with Marvis Sewell Group

COMPANY M: BASIL TWIST

12:00-10:00pm: Visiting hours with puppet Lee Nagrin
2:00pm, 4:00pm, and 6:00pm: Excerpts from *Behind the Lid*, created and performed by Basil Twist
Projection design by Daniel Brodie

Note: Participants and times subject to change



ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

KYLE ABRAHAM

In 2011, *OUT Magazine* labeled Kyle Abraham as the “best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama.” Abraham is the proud recipient of a 2016 Doris Duke Award, a 2012 United States Fellowship, and several coveted Princess Grace Awards. In 2013, he was named a MacArthur Fellow. Over the past several years, Abraham has created works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Wendy Whelan’s Restless Creature, and recently premiered his second work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater entitled *Untitled America*.

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

Elizabeth Alexander has shaped and directed Ford Foundation’s grant making in arts, media, and culture since 2015. She is the author of six books of poetry, including *American Sublime*, a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize, and *The Light of the World*, her critically-acclaimed memoir on love and loss, also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. In 2009, she wrote and delivered her poem “Praise Song for the Day” for President Obama’s first inauguration. Alexander was on the faculty of Yale University for 15 years and served as chair of Yale’s African American Studies Department. She was recently named the Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University and is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

TANIA BRUGUERA

Tania Bruguera is an installation and performance artist born in Havana, Cuba. A politically-motivated performance artist, Bruguera explores the relationship between art, activism, and social change in works that examine the social effects of political and economic power. By creating proposals and aesthetic models for others to use and adapt, she defines herself as an initiator rather than an author, and often collaborates with multiple institutions as well as many individuals so that the full realization of her artwork occurs when others adopt and perpetuate it. Bruguera is the first Artist-in-Residence of the New York Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and an Artist-in-Residence at Park Avenue Armory.

MAJORA CARTER

Majora Carter is an urban revitalization strategist, real estate developer, and Peabody Award-winning broadcaster. Her work is characterized by compassion for low-status communities with a focus on profitability and job creation. Her quote, “You don’t have to move out of your neighborhood to live in a better one,” hangs in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History, and she believes so-called “gentrification” starts when young people are told to measure success by how far they get away from “the hood.”

JAMES BURLING CHASE

James met Majora Carter after sailing a 43-foot boat from Curacao to Fiji, and returned to NYC in search of real adventure. They were soon married, and together they have combined his TV advertising experience with her crushing authenticity to create projects and messaging that is sometimes challenging for those in the Social Justice Industrial Complex, but that regular people can relate to and enjoy.

ELIZABETH DILLER

Elizabeth Diller is a founding partner of interdisciplinary design studio, Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R). The studio’s projects include: the High Line; the transformation of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts campus; The Shed; and the renovation and expansion of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Recent projects include the London Centre for Music, the 34-acre Zaryadye Park adjacent to the Kremlin in Moscow; the Museum of Image & Sound on Copacabana Beach in Rio; The Broad, a contemporary art museum in Los Angeles, and the Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center at Columbia University in New York. Diller is a Professor of Architecture at Princeton University.

KIMBERLY DREW

Kimberly Drew is a writer, curator, and activist. Her writing has appeared in *Glamour*, *W*, *Teen Vogue*, and *Lenny Letter*. She also serves as a board member for Recess Activities, Inc. and is currently the Social Media Manager at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was honored by AIR Gallery as the recipient of their inaugural Feminist Curator Award and was selected as one of Brooklyn Magazine’s “Brooklyn 100.” You can follow her at @museummammy on Instagram and Twitter.

JOHN EDMONDS

John Edmonds is an artist working in photography whose practice includes fabric, video, and text. He received his MFA in Photography from Yale University School of Art and his BFA in Photography at the Corcoran School of Arts and Design. Most recognized for his projects in which he focused on the performative gestures and self-fashioning of young black men on the streets of America, he is also known for his portraits of lovers, close friends, and strangers.

ADAM J. FOSS

Adam J. Foss is a former Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office (SCDAO) in Boston, MA, and a fierce advocate for criminal justice reform and the importance of the role of the prosecutor in ending mass incarceration. Foss believes that the profession of prosecution is ripe for reinvention, requiring better incentives and more measurable metrics for success beyond simply “cases won.” He is the founder Prosecutor Impact, a non-profit organization developing training and curriculum for prosecutors to reframe their role in the criminal justice system.

MALIK GAINES

Malik Gaines is a writer, performer, and teacher living in New York. He is the author of *Black Performance on the Outskirts of the Left* (NYU Press, 2017). His essays have appeared in journals, exhibition catalogues, and arts publications. Gaines has performed and exhibited extensively with the group My Barbarian, and makes performance work solo and in collaboration. He is Assistant Professor of Performance Studies in NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

THEASTER GATES

Theaster Gates's practice includes sculpture, installation, performance and urban interventions that aim to bridge the gap between art and life. Gates' work as an artist, curator, urbanist and facilitator attempts to instigate the creation of cultural communities by acting as catalysts for social engagement that leads to political and spatial change. His work has been displayed worldwide, from the Whitney to the National Gallery of Art to Documenta to the new Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Gates was recently named the recipient of the 2018 Nasher Prize, awarded by the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas to celebrate "a living artist who elevates the understanding of sculpture and its possibilities."

TONY GERBER

Tony Gerber is a two-time Emmy recipient and has written and directed over a dozen documentaries for *National Geographic*. He most recently directed American Television Academy Honored film, *We Will Rise*, chronicling former First Lady Michelle Obama's trip to Africa, featuring Meryl Streep, Isha Sesay, and Freida Pinto. His documentary, *Explorer: Battle for Virunga* was a 2017 recipient of a the Humane Society's top honor the Genesis Award. His feature article on Jane Goodall (*Becoming Jane*) was the October 2017 cover story in *National Geographic Magazine* and he is a producer on the Oscar short-listed film *Jane* (about Dr. Goodall's life and work.) He recently co-conceived (with Lynn Nottage) and created films for the multimedia installation in Reading, Pennsylvania, *THIS IS READING*.

REGGIE GRAY

Reggie (Regg Roc) Gray is a Brooklyn native and pioneer of an animated and cinematic Flexn dance style called "pauzn" influenced by the '90s Jamaican street dance styles "brukup" and "dancehall." Recently Gray choreographed his largest social justice themed production FLEXN (2015) and FLEXN EVOLUTION (2017) at the Park Ave Armory. Gray has toured with these productions internationally to cities such as Brisbane, Manchester, Marseille, Naples, Amsterdam, and Recklinghausen; universities such as Princeton and Dartmouth; and festivals including Jacob's Pillow. Gray founded a dance company called "The D.R.E.A.M. RING (Dance Rules Everything Around Me)" that strives to ignite social change and increase the popularity of the Flexn dance and culture.

DICK GRIFFIN

Composer, trombonist, and artist Dick Griffin was born in Fannin, Mississippi, and lives in New York. He has performed with the Sun Ra Arkestra and began a longtime collaboration with saxophonist Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Griffin has worked with many other musicians, including Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Marvin Gaye, and Michael Jackson. He has played at such prestigious events as the 1980 Olympics, and with symphony orchestras such as the Harlem Philharmonic and the Symphony of the New World. He has also performed in several Broadway shows, including *The Wiz*, *Me & Bessie*, *Raisin*, and *Lena*, starring Lena Horne.

CRAIG HARRIS

One of the more esoteric trombonists of the avant-garde, Craig Harris has been an original stylist throughout his career. He played in R&B bands early on and had stints with Sun Ra (1976-1978) and Abdullah Ibrahim (1979-1981). During the 1980s and '90s, he worked with the who's who of the avant-garde, including David Murray's octet and big band, Henry Threadgill, Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy, Olu Dara, Cecil Taylor, Sam Rivers, Muhal Richard Abrams, and Charlie Haden's Liberation Orchestra. Harris has also led his own groups (such as Tailgater's Tales and the R&B-ish Cold Sweat), and has recorded as a leader for several labels including India Navigation, Soul Note, and JMT.

NONA HENDRYX

Revolutionary art-rock, new-wave goddess Nona Hendryx is a celebrated vocalist, record producer, songwriter, musician, and author. Tackling social issues, love, and politics, Hendryx's legendary career spans decades of sound and style evolution. Longtime Nona Hendryx fans know her as a member of the groundbreaking group Labelle and their No.1 worldwide hit *Lady Marmalade (Voulez Vous Coucher Avec Moi C'est Soir?)*. Hendryx came into her own as a solo artist post-Labelle. On her 2012 album *Mutatis Mutandis* (changing those things which need to be changed), Hendryx lends the necessary gravitas to a striking rendition of Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit* with a smoky vocal tessitura somewhere between funk and the end of the stratosphere.

BRANDON JACOBS-JENKINS

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins is a Brooklyn-based playwright and Park Avenue Armory Artist-in-Residence. He is also an Associate Director of Hunter College Playwriting MFA Program. His credits include *War* (Yale Rep; forthcoming at Lincoln Center/LCT3), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre), *Appropriate* (Obie Award; Signature Theatre), *An Octoroon* (Obie Award; Soho Rep, Theatre for a New Audience) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). His recent honors include the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Benjamin H. Danks Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams award.

ARTHUR JAJA

Arthur Jaja has been working as a cinematographer, filmmaker, and visual artist since the early 1990s. His credits range from a cinematographer for Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut*, to the director of photography on Solange Knowles's video *Don't Touch My Hair*. He may be best known as the cinematographer of *Daughters of the Dust*, directed by Julie Dash. He participated in the 2000 Whitney Biennial, and had his first solo in the UK in 2017 at the Serpentine Galleries in London. He currently lives in New York.

NAVID KHONSARI

Navid Khonsari is the Founder and Creative Director of iNK Stories. Raised in Tehran, Khonsari is known for developing the cinematic look and feel for groundbreaking game franchises — from *GTA 3* to *Resident Evil Biobazard*. Visionary creator of *1979 Revolution: Black Friday*, garnering top industry honors from BAFTA, the Academy of Interactive Sciences nominations, UN. Upcoming releases include *Blindfold* (VR), *Fire Escape* (VR Cinematic Series) and *Hero* (VR 4D Installation premiering at Sundance). Khonsari is impassioned by the possibilities of immersive entertainment.

VASSILIKI KHONSARI

Vassiliki Khonsari is the Founder, Producer, and Director at iNK Stories — an entertainment studio that *Fast Company* calls an “innovation agent.” Vassiliki's work has broadcast in more than 20 locations internationally including Sundance, SXSW, MOMI, Phi Centre, FoST, among others. She has recently produced the genre-defining, BAFTA-nominated *1979 Revolution: Black Friday*. Advocating for inclusive storytelling, Khonsari is a PGA WIN's Culture Shift contributor, Fellow of the Sundance Institute, and recipient of support from the The Doris Duke Foundation, IFP, and MADE IN NY.

JASON KING

Jason King is Director of Global Studies at NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music. A journalist, author, playwright, musician, DJ, and producer, he writes for *Pitchfork*, *NPR*, *Billboard*, *RBMA*, *Buzzfeed*, *Slate*, and *Vice*. In 2016 and 2017 he was creative consultant for the Grammy- and Emmy-nominated PBS series *Soundbreaking*, the host and producer for NPR's video series *Noteworthy*, and the host of the CNN original podcast *Soundtracks: The B-Sides*. King is the founder, producer, and songwriter behind dance music “supergroup” Company Freak. @jasonkingsays

GREGG LAMBERT

Gregg Lambert is an American philosopher whose most recent work addresses the political concept of friendship in the 21st century. He is currently Dean's Professor in the Humanities Center at Syracuse University, and Lead Investigator of the Central New York Humanities Corridor, an initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

DAVID LANG

David Lang's composition *the little match girl passion*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall, was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for music. In 2016, Lang was nominated for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and several others, for his music in Paolo Sorrentino's film *YOUTH*. His opera *the loser* opened the 2016 Next Wave Festival at BAM. His opera *anatomy theater*, written in collaboration with visual artist Mark Dion, premiered at Los Angeles Opera and traveled to New York this past January. Lang is a Professor of Music Composition at the Yale School of Music and is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music festival Bang on a Can.

ERNIE LARSEN

Ernie Larsen, a novelist, filmmaker, media critic, and curator, will read from *The Trial Before the Trial*, the only book to risk detailing how this country's secret grand jury system works from the inside. This first-person factual exposé instructively dramatizes improvised modes of resistance to a system of racialized injustice that prosecutors routinely describe as “moving the meat along.” Soon to be published by Autonomedia, the book takes place in 2014, just months before the incendiary events in Ferguson, Missouri.

SARAH LEWIS

Sarah Lewis is a bestselling author, curator and an Assistant Professor at Harvard University Departments of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies. She is guest editor of the landmark “Vision & Justice” issue of *Aperture*, which received the 2017 Infinity Award. Her scholarship has been published widely, and she also authored the bestseller, *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery*. She is currently finishing her book project on race and photography under contract with Harvard University Press. A frequent keynote speaker at universities and conferences from the TED mainstage to SXSW, her work has been profiled in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

SEAMUS MCGRAW

Seamus McGraw is an award-winning journalist and the author of a few books, including the critically acclaimed *The End of Country: Dispatches from the Frack Zone, Betting the Farm on a Drought: Stories from the Front Line of Climate Change*, and the forthcoming *A Thirsty Land: The Making of an American Water Crisis*, to be released in spring 2018 from The University of Texas Press. He lives in the woods of Northeastern Pennsylvania with his wife, children, and local bear with boundary issues named Fardels.

AJA MONET

Aja Monet is an internationally established poet of Cuban-Jamaican descent. She is nominated for the 2018 NAACP Image Award with her latest collection of poems *My Mother Was A Freedom Fighter* (Haymarket Books 2017). Her craft is an in-depth reflection of emotional wisdom, skill, and activism. The youngest individual to win the legendary Nuyorican Poet's Café Grand Slam title, Monet is recognized for combining her spellbound voice and powerful imagery on stage.

JASON MORAN

Jason Moran has a rich and varied body of work that is actively shaping the current and future landscape of jazz. Having released 10 of his own albums in addition to over 30 recordings with others, Moran has garnered international acclaim including a Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Album in 2014. He has recorded with Cassandra Wilson, Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, Sam Rivers, Meshell Ndegeocello, and many others. Moran scored Ava DuVernay's Oscar-nominated film *Selma* as well as her film *The 13th*. Commissioning institutions of Moran's work include the Walker Arts Center, Chicago Symphony Center, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Monterey Jazz Festival among others.

FRED MOTEN

Fred Moten was born in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1962, and raised there and in Kingsland, Arkansas. He is author of *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition*, *Hughson's Tavern*, *B. Jenkins*, *The Feel Trio*, *The Little Edges*, *The Service Porch*, and *consent not to be a single being*. He is co-author, with Stefano Harney, of *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning* and *Black Study* and *A Poetics of the Undercommons* and, with Wu Tsang, of *Who touched me?* Moten lives in New York and teaches in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University.

SHIRIN NESHAT

Shirin Neshat is an Iranian-born artist and filmmaker living in New York. In her early photographic works, Neshat explored the question of gender in relation to Islamic fundamentalism and militancy. Her subsequent video works departed from overtly political content or critique in favor of more poetic imagery and complex human narratives. In 2009, Neshat directed her first feature-length film, *Women Without Men*, which received the Silver Lion Award for Best Director at the 66th Venice International Film Festival. Neshat continues to explore and experiment with the mediums of photography, video, and film. She is represented by Gladstone Gallery.

LYNN NOTTAGE

Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays include: *Sweat* (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize), *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, *Ruined*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Fabulation*, or *The Re-Education of Undine*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *POOF!*. Nottage is the recipient of a PEN/Laura Pels Master Dramatist Award, Doris Duke Artist Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, the MacArthur Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, Dramatists Guild Hull-Wariner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Obie Awards, Drama Desk Award, Lucille Lortel Award, NY Drama Critics' Circle Awards, among others. She's a member of The Dramatists Guild and the WGAE.

KENDALL R. PHILLIPS

Kendall R. Phillips is Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University. He studies the intersections of politics and popular culture with particular interest in popular American cinema. He is author of several books including, *A Place of Darkness: The Rhetoric of Horror in Early American Cinema* (2018), *Dark Directions: Romero, Craven, Carpenter and the Modern Horror Film* (2012), and *Projected Fears: Horror Films and American Culture* (2005).

JEREMY RICHMAN

Dr. Jeremy Richman has worked in the research and drug discovery arena for over two decades. He and his wife, Jennifer Hensel, started the Avielle Foundation, committed to preventing violence and building compassion through brain health research, community education, and engagement. The Avielle Foundation seeks a better understanding of the biological and environmental factors associated with violence and compassion. Once a deeper understanding has been established, we can apply these insights to educate the everyday citizen about how to identify the signs and symptoms of someone troubled or in crisis, how to responsibly advocate for those at risk of violence to themselves or others, and most importantly, how to foster healthy compassionate individuals connected to communities.

CARL HANCOCK RUX

Carl Hancock Rux is an award-winning poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, and recording artist. He is the former head of the MFA Writing for Performance Program at the California Institute of the Arts (2006–09); and currently teaches at Eugene Lang College at The New School. Rux is the author of the novel, *Asphalt*, the OBIE Award winning play, *Talk*, and the *Village Voice* Literary Prize-winning collection of poetry, *Pagan Operetta*. He is the recipient of several awards including the Fresh Poets Prize, the New York Press Club Journalism Award for Entertainment News, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, NYFA Prize, NYFA Gregory Millard Fellow, and NEA/TCG Artist-in-Residency Fellow.

MARVIN SEWELL

Marvin Sewell is a musician, composer, and producer whose distinct sound encompasses a “fantasy fusion” of jazz, blues, funk, alternative, and world music. From Chicago, Sewell began playing guitar in high school with the Malcolm X Community College Big Band. He went on to perform with such legendary Chicago musicians as Von Freeman, Ramsey Lewis, Billy Branch, Jody Christian, Big Time Sarah, and Barbara La Shore. After studying composition at Roosevelt University, Sewell moved to New York and soon joined Jack DeJohnette’s Special Edition. In 1995, Marvin began a 15-year collaboration with multiple Grammy Award-winning recording artists Cassandra Wilson—serving as lead guitarist, arranger, band leader, and musical director. He appears on over 50 recordings, including his ensemble’s debut CD, “The Worker’s Dance,” released in 2005.

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

Actress, playwright, and teacher, Anna Deavere Smith is said to have created a new form of theater. Her latest play, *Notes From the Field*, explores justice and opportunity through the lens of education. She appears in *The West Wing*, *Nurse Jackie*, and the forthcoming Shonda Rhimes show *For the People*. Awards include the National Humanities Medal presented by President Obama, the McArthur Award, and the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Award. She is University Professor at NYU.

JAWAAD TAYLOR

JAWWAAD is a trumpeter, composer, producer, educator, and social activist. He is a founding member of the group, Shape of Broad Minds, whose critically acclaimed album *Craft of the Lost Ark* brought him international attention. As co-founder and producer of the band The Young Mothers he merges jazz, improvisation, hip hop, indie rock, and caterwauling afro-grooves. This is JAWWAAD’s second collaboration with MacArthur Fellow Carrie Mae Weems. He performed in and composed a piece for her production, “Grace Notes: A Reflection for Now.” He is a Red Bull Music Academy alum, and teaches music to disadvantaged youth.

HANK WILLIS THOMAS

Hank Willis Thomas is a conceptual artist working primarily with themes related to identity, history, and popular culture. Thomas’s work is in numerous public collections including the Museum of Modern Art New York, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others. His collaborative projects include *Question Bridge: Black Males, In Search Of The Truth* (The Truth Booth), and *For Freedoms* which Thomas co-founded in 2016 as the first artist-run super PAC.

CARMELITA TROPICANA

Carmelita Tropicana has been performing in New York’s downtown arts scene since the 1980s, straddling the worlds of performance art and theater in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe with her irreverent humor, subversive fantasy and bilingual puns. She received an Obie for Sustained Excellence in Performance (1999) and is a recipient of the Performance and Activism Award from the Women in Theater Program / American Theater in Higher Education (2015). Notable and recent works include: *Schwanzge-Beast* (2015), a performance commissioned by Vermont Performance Lab; *Recycling Atlantis* (2014), a performance installation at 80WSE Gallery; *Post Plastica* (2012), an installation/vidео and performance presented at El Museo del Barrio; and the highly anthologized *Milk of Amnesia* (1994).

BASIL TWIST

Since coming to New York over 20 years ago, Basil Twist has garnered an international reputation as an audacious designer, director, and performer. He creates iconic, visionary puppetry worlds with a remarkable range of style and scope appearing in intimate nightclubs to large orchestra halls. He is a sought-after collaborator for theater, dance, opera, and film. His utterly unique approaches have been recognized with multiple awards and fellowships, critical acclaim, and have furthered contemporary artistry and the technical craft of puppetry.

ROBERTA UNO

Roberta Uno is a theater director and dramaturg. She founded the New WORLD Theater, dedicated to the work of artists of color in Amherst, Massachusetts, and served as Artistic Director from 1979-2002. An SDC member, she directed, produced, or dramaturged over 200 works at New WORLD Theater. She is currently directing the development of *Try/Step/Trip* by Dahlak Brathwaite. She also is the Director of Arts in a Changing America at the California Institute of the Arts.

IMANI UZURI

Imani Uzuri is a vocalist, composer, and cultural worker and was a 2015-16 Park Avenue Armory Artist-in-Residence. She is a recent MAP Fund grantee to compose her contemporary chamber opera *Hush Arbor*. In 2016 Uzuri made her Lincoln Center American Songbook debut and was also a featured performer on BET for *Black Girls Rock!*. She is a recent Jerome Foundation Composer/Sound Artist Fellow to support her research, travel, and composing of a large music work celebrating the Black Madonna.

CARRIE MAE WEEMS

MacArthur Fellowship winner Carrie Mae Weems is considered one of the most important artists of her generation. Through image, text, film, performance, and her many convenings with individuals across a multitude of disciplines, Weems has created a complex body of work that centers on her overarching commitment to helping us better understand our present moment by examining our collective past. Throughout her many bodies of work, including the celebrated Kitchen Table Series, Weems has consistently brought people together to examine the very things that keep them apart.

THE WOOSTER GROUP

Elizabeth LeCompte (director) and Kate Valk (associate director) are founding members of The Wooster Group, an experimental theater company based at The Performing Garage in NYC. For over forty years, the Group has made innovative theater that integrates classic texts, found material, autobiography, and documentary with visual media and technology. Recent work includes two pieces based on LPs: *EARLY SHAKER SPIRITUALS: A RECORD ALBUM INTERPRETATION* and *THE B-SIDE: "Negro Folklore from Texas State Prisons," A Record Album Interpretation*. In April they will open their newest work *A PINK CHAIR (In Place of a Fake Antique)* at The Performing Garage.

Eric Berryman is an NYC-based actor originally from Baltimore, MD. He was recently seen in *Steel Hammer* directed by Anne Bogart and *The Glory of the World* directed by Les Waters, both at BAM. Berryman graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts and holds a BFA in Acting from Carnegie Mellon University and is a Lessac Voice Practitioner. He has received the Arthur Kennedy Acting Award, the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship, and, in 2016, a Princess Grace Foundation-USA Honorarium to support his work with The Wooster Group on *THE B-SIDE: "Negro Folklore from Texas State Prisons," A Record Album Interpretation*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Spending a year in the hallowed halls of the Park Avenue Armory has been more than a notion. An extraordinary building with an extraordinary legacy and the perfect place to contemplate and unpack a history of violence. For this experience, I'm profoundly grateful. Over the years, I've produced any number of projects, and I've come to know, that even in my darkest hour, I've never produced a single one of them on my own; someone has always been there reaching out from the shadows to extend a helping hand. I would like to thank all of the participants for their remarkable contributions, and the president of the Park Avenue Armory, Rebecca Robertson, along with her entire staff for their support in making this convening possible. I'd like to thank Craig Harris for his unswearing support in always standing by me and making the music what it should be. I reserve a special thanks to Avery Willis Hoffman, my skilled collaborator on *The Shape of Things* for her enormous effort and tremendous energy. Neither this convening nor my residency would have been possible without her insightfulness, her generosity, and her courage.

—Carrie Mae Weems

Additional readers include:

Eisa Davis
Francesca Harper
Shani Jamila
Tanya Selvaratnam
Petra Szilagyi

Additional content from:

Doug DuBois
Mary Mattingly
Fazal Sheikh

Additional support provided by:

Daniel Brodie
Elizabeth Dashiell
Craig S. Harris
Leo A. Martin IV
Meghan Rose Murphy
Jenney Shamash
Bill Toles
James Wang
Yao Xu
Steinway & Sons

ABOUT THE ARMORY

Part American palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory is dedicated to supporting unconventional works in the visual and performing arts that need non-traditional spaces for their full realization, enabling artists to create, students to explore, and audiences to consume epic and adventurous presentations that can not be mounted elsewhere in New York City.

Since its first production in September 2007, the Armory has organized and commissioned immersive performances, installations, and cross-disciplinary collaborations by visionary artists, directors, and impresarios in its vast drill hall that defy traditional categorization and push the boundaries of their practice. In its historic period rooms, the Armory presents small-scale performances and programs, including its acclaimed Recital Series in the intimate salon setting of the Board of Officers Room and the Artists Studio series in the newly restored Veterans Room. 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.

Built between 1877 and 1881, Park Avenue Armory has been hailed as containing "the single most important collection of nineteenth century interiors to survive intact in one building" by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. The 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall, with an 80-foot-high barrel vaulted roof, is one of the largest unobstructed spaces in New York City. The Armory's magnificent reception rooms were designed by leaders of the American Aesthetic Movement, among them Louis Comfort Tiffany, Stanford White, Candace Wheeler, and Herter Brothers. The building is currently undergoing a \$210-million renovation designed by Herzog & de Meuron and Platt Byard Dovell White Architects as Executive Architects.

PARK AVENUE ARMORY YOUTH CORPS ADVISORY BOARD

The Youth Corps is a group of New York City public high school students and graduates who are immersed in the art and creative processes of the Armory's artists over multiple years. They advise the Armory staff and teaching artists, create events for peers and students, and preview productions, bringing their years of combined experiences in the arts to every endeavor. Today, the Advisory Board have introduced and welcomed the artists, activists, and community leaders participating in this symposium to the Armory. In addition, Youth Corps members are also working as production assistants and front of house staff for today's programming.

ABOUT ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Launched in 2010, the Armory's artist-in-residence program supports artists across genres in the creation and development of new work. Each artist sets up a studio in one of the Armory's period rooms, providing a unique backdrop that can serve as both inspiration and as a collaborator in their project development. Residencies also include participation in the Armory's arts education program. Current artists-in-residence include installation and performance artist Tania Bruguera; performance artists Malik Gaines and Alexandro Segade; choreographer and flexn dance pioneer Reggie (Regg Roc) Gray and his company the D.R.E.A.M. Ring; playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and performance artist Carmelita Tropicana; set designer and director Christine Jones and choreographer Steven Hoggett; playwright and screenwriter Lynn Nottage; composer and guitarist Marvin Sewell; and photographer and visual artist Carrie Mae Weems. The Artist-in-Residence Program is made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Previous Armory artists-in-residence have included inventive theater company 600 Highwaymen; theater artists Taylor Mac and Machine Dazzle; writer, director, and production designer Andrew Ondrejcek; vocalist, composer, and cultural worker Imani Uzuri; dancer and choreographer Wally Cardona; visual artist and choreographer Jason Akira Somma; soprano Lauren Flanigan; writer Sasha Frere-Jones; Trusty Sidekick Theater Company; vocalist-songwriter Somi; multidisciplinary performer Okwui Okpokwasili; choreographer Faye Driscoll; artist Ralph Lemon; visual artist Alex Dolan; musician Meredith Monk; sound artist Marina Rosenfeld; string quartet ETHEL; playwright and director Young Jean Lee; vocalist and artist Helga Davis; director, designer, and musician Julian Crouch; performance artist John Kelly; and Shen Wei Dance Arts; among others.