



**Park Avenue Armory in Collaboration with
The Studio Museum in Harlem Present**
Culture in a Changing America

**Toshi Reagon, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Tantoo Cardinal, Eisa Davis,
Murielle Borst-Tarrant, Diana Oh, Becca Blackwell,
Julie Mehretu, Saidiya Hartman, Tania Bruguera, Theaster Gates,
Bill T. Jones, Lileana Blain-Cruz, and Tunde Wey**
Participate in the Third Annual Symposium

Sunday, February 17, 2019

(New York—Updated February 11, 2019) – On Sunday, February 17, 2019, Park Avenue Armory launches its 2019 *Interrogations of Form* conversation series with the annual [Culture in a Changing America](#) symposium. This year marks the third iteration of the symposium, which invites an interdisciplinary group of artists, thinkers, activists, academics, and cultural trailblazers from across the city and beyond to gather and explore the state of culture in America today. The 2019 event is presented in collaboration with **The Studio Museum in Harlem** and will be the museum's first year partnering in the symposium.

Artistic explorations and multi-disciplinary conversations will take place in the Armory's historic period rooms, including the Board of Officers Room, Veterans Room, and second-floor Company Rooms. The symposium will offer three Sessions throughout the day; Session One and Two feature two simultaneous tracks of keynote conversations and artist salons exploring the themes of **Art & Identity** and **Art & Activism**. Moderated by The Studio Museum in Harlem's Director and Chief Curator **Thelma Golden**, Session Three offers a special keynote conversation with choreographer, director, and dancer **Bill T. Jones**, the Kennedy Center's **Marc Bamuthi Joseph**, visual artist **Julie Mehretu**, and musician **Toshi Reagon** centered on the state of American culture in the age of Trump, followed by a *Music For Your Life* performance by **Toshi Reagon** and **BIGLovely**.

The Art & Identity track explores how artists' creative practices and individual identities reflect or respond to societal concerns, and will feature discussions on topics such as artistic use of ever-evolving technology, shifting notions of gender, and courageous responses to the impact of racism on art. The Art & Activism track focuses on the power of artists to affect change in their communities and will feature artist-activists from the film, television, and food industries, architecture practices, and artists working in partnership with New York City agencies.

Following the keynote conversations in each track, audiences are invited to visit salons and open studios featuring intimate performances, interactive workshops, and discussions hosted or curated by select artists and other special guests.

Additional symposium participants include: "Owned: A Tale of Two Americas" filmmaker **Giorgio Angelini**; interdisciplinary artist **American Artist**; social practice artist and New York City's Public Artist in Residence **Rachel Barnard**; playwright and actor **Becca Blackwell**; executive director of the Edible Schoolyard NYC **Kate Brashares**; theater director **Lileana Blain-Cruz**; Barnard College professor **Tina Campt**; actress, playwright, and human rights activist **Murielle Borst-Tarrant**; curator, professor, and writer **LeRonn Brooks**; film actress **Tantoo Cardinal**; artist and archivist, New York City's Public Artist in Residence paired with Department of Correction, Rikers Island **Onyedika Chuke**; actress and playwright **Liza Colón-Zayas**; actress, playwright, and singer-songwriter **Eisa Davis**; New School professor and Corbin Hill Food Project founder

Dennis Derryck; Professor of Digital Media, Stony Brook University and transdisciplinary artist **Stephanie Dinkins**; Director of Digital, Jewish Museum, **JiaJia Fei**; food activist **Ron Finley**; CUNY School of Public Health professor **Karen Flórez**; “Strong Island” filmmaker **Yance Ford**; artist and cultural strategist, New York City’s Public Artist in Residence **Ebony Golden**; choreographer **Jonathan González**; Professor of English Literature, Columbia University, **Saidiya Hartman**; visual artist **Leslie Hewitt**; landscape architect **Walter Hood**; theatre artist, singer, and educator **Daniel Alexander Jones**; True Colors Theatre Company (Atlanta) artistic director **Jamil Jude**; founder and co-director of Disability/Arts/NYC **Simi Linton**; singer-songwriter and theatre-maker **Diana Oh**; performer, choreographer, and writer **Okwui Okpokwasili**; visual artist and interactive designer **Ayodamola Okunseinde**; musician and song-writer **Toshi Reagon**; Columbia University Community Scholar **John Reddick**; dancemaker and interpreter **Barak adé Soleil**; BUFU founder **Tsige Tafesse**; filmmaker and choreographer **Yara Travieso**; multidisciplinary artist **Korde Arrington Tuttle**; “Hijabi Monologues” co-founder and Columbia University Public Humanities Fellow **Sahar Ullah**; performer and musician **Imani Uzuri**; the High Line’s **Diya Vij**; chef and food activist **Tunde Wey**; artist and architect **Amanda Williams**; and professor and architect **Mabel O. Wilson**, among others. Sessions and participants are subject to change.

Now in its fourth year, the *Interrogations of Form* series is part of the Armory’s expanded public offerings, which include day-long symposia, artist talks, keynotes, installations, performances, and salons that draw together artists, scholars, cultural leaders, and social visionaries to explore cultural and civic issues and ideas; use Armory productions as springboards for examining contemporary interests and concerns; and provoke audiences to think beyond conventional interpretations and perspectives of art. The 2019 *Interrogations of Form* season features a series of Sunday Salons on performance art, poetry, and dance with visual artist and Armory artist-in-residence **Tania Bruguera**, **Nuyorican Poets Café**, and **Dance Theatre of Harlem**; the return of **Confrontational Comedy**; Theaster Gates’ renowned **Black Artist Retreat**; along with Artist Talks featuring artists, directors, and collaborators from the Armory’s Drill Hall productions including director **Sam Mendes**, artist and composer **Heiner Goebbels**, visual artist **Hito Steyerl**, director **Satoshi Miyagi**, and director **Richard Jones**.

“Showcasing an impressive range of leaders from the social and artistic spectrum, this series presents opportunities to address some of the most pressing issues of our time,” said **Rebecca Robertson**, Founding President and Executive Producer of Park Avenue Armory. “The Armory is committed to providing a platform in New York to explore how our community incorporates culture in today’s societal climate, while deepening engagement and understanding with our audiences.”

Additional upcoming programs at Park Avenue Armory include: *The Lehman Trilogy*, Ben Power's electrifying adaptation of Stefano Massini's vast and poetic play directed by Sam Mendes following the story of the three Lehman brothers from their immigration to America through the collapse of the firm bearing their name; *Everything That Happened and Would Happen*, a groundbreaking new Armory commission which poetically explores the re-enactment of history from director and composer Heiner Goebbels; *Drill*, a new installation from artist Hito Steyerl highlighting the world's power structures, inequalities, obscurities, and delights; *Antigone*, a new vision of Sophocles’ fabled mythology through the prism of Japanese culture from director Satoshi Miyagi; *Black Artists Retreat 2019: Sonic Imagination*, artist Theaster Gates’ first retreat held outside of Chicago that bridges the gap between fine art and social activism; *Judgment Day*, a new adaptation of Ödön von Horváth's play by playwright Christopher Shinn and directed by Richard Jones; and an annual series of eclectic and intimate concerts and conversations held in the Armory’s head house spaces.

[Culture in a Changing America](#)

Sunday, February 17, 2019

12:00-8:00 PM

Sessions and participants are subject to change

SESSION ONE

12:00-3:00 PM

Art & Identity (Veterans Room)

12:00-1:00 PM

Race & Performance

Lileana Blain-Cruz (Theater Director), Murielle Borst-Tarrant (Playwright & Artistic Director, Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective), Sahar Ullah (Founder, Creative Director, *Hijabi Monologues*), Korde Arrington Tuttle (Writer, Interdisciplinary Maker), and moderator Jamil Jude (Associate Artistic Director, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company) reflect frankly on the complex ways their creative practices and theatrical work rise above the blows of racism. Traditional Welcome by Chief Harry Wallace (Unkechaug Nation)

1:00-2:00 PM

The Poetics of Resilience

LeRonn P. Brooks (Art Historian, Curator), Saidiya Hartman (Professor, Columbia University), Leslie Hewitt (Visual Artist), Okwui Okpokwasili (Performer, Choreographer, & Writer), and moderator Tina Campt (Claire Tow and Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Africana & Women's Studies, Barnard College) discuss how they interrogate the constructs of race, gender, culture, and identity through their written and performed works of art.

Art & Activism (Board of Officers Room)

12:00-1:00 PM

The Structures of Justice

Giorgio Angelini (Director), Walter Hood (Professor, UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design & Creative Director, Hood Design Studio), Amanda Williams (Artist, Architect), Simi Linton (Co-Director, Disability/Arts/NYC (DANT)), and moderator Mabel O. Wilson (Professor, Columbia University) explore the myriad ways in which architects and artists create physical and conceptual space as a response to the inequalities they perceive in American society. Excerpt from the *Mile High Opera* performed by Pamela R. Babb.

1:00-2:00 PM

Food (In)Justice

Kate Brashares (Executive Director, Edible Schoolyard NYC), Dennis Derryck (Corbin Hill Food Project, New School), Ron Finley (Head TroubleMaker), Tunde Wey (Cook, Writer) and moderator Karen Flórez (Assistant Professor, City University of New York, School of Public Health & Health Policy) deliberate the unique role of chefs, sustainable food pioneers, and community change-makers in efforts to combat inequity.

1:00-3:00 PM

Screening: *Owned: A Tale of Two Americas*

Owned: A Tale of Two Americas unravels the complicated, painful, and often disturbing history of housing policy in America, challenging perceptions about the value of home and the role it plays in the "American Dream."

Screening followed by a Q & A with director Giorgio Angelini.

Salons & Open Studios

2:00-3:00 PM

Following the keynote conversations, audiences are invited to visit salons and open studios. Session One salons include performances and intimate interactive discussions with dancemaker & interpreter Barak adé Soleil, "Don't Feed the Indians" Ensemble, "The Jumpsuit Project" with performance artist and activist Sherrill Roland, and Park Avenue Armory Youth Corps Advisory Board, with various films screened and hosted by The Flaherty Seminar. Armory artists-in-residents Tania Bruguera, Theaster Gates, Reggie 'Regg Roc' Gray, My Barbarian, and Lynn Nottage will open their Armory studios to audiences for special presentations.

SESSION TWO

3:00-6:00 PM

Art & Identity (Board of Officers Room)

3:00-4:00 PM

The New Normal

American Artist (Interdisciplinary Artist), Ayodamola Okunseinde (Visual Artist, Interactive Designer), JiaJia Fei (Director of Digital, The Jewish Museum), Tsige Tafesse (Founder, BUFU), and moderator Stephanie Dinkins (Artist & Professor, Stony Brook University) discuss technology as a shaper of identity and artistic practice.

4:00-5:00 PM

Identity & Art

Becca Blackwell (Performer, Writer), Diana Oh (Generative Artist, Performer, Songwriter, & Creative Director), Barak adé Soleil (Contemporary Artist, Consultant) reflect on the intersections of race, disability, sexuality, and gender, as it emerges in their respective practices. Daniel Alexander Jones (Artist & Associate Professor of Theatre, Fordham University) moderates.

Art & Activism (Veterans Room)

3:00-4:00 PM

Shifting the Lens on Historical Erasure

Tantoo Cardinal (Actress), Liza Colón-Zayas (Actress, Playwright), Yance Ford (Filmmaker, Academy Award nominee), Yara Travieso (Director, Filmmaker, Choreographer), and moderator Eisa Davis (Writer, Performer) share personal stories about theater, TV, and film projects they believe are shifting status quo narratives and bringing previously un-told stories to the stage and big and small screens.

4:00-5:00 PM

Art & the City

Rachel G. Barnard (Public Artist in Residence, NYC Department of Probation & Founder, Young New Yorkers), Onyedika Chuke (Public Artist in Residence, Rikers Island) Ebony Noelle Golden (CEO, Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative), and John Reddick (Columbia University Community Scholar) share their experiences as artists and historians working city agencies to meaningfully respond to pressing societal issues. Diya Vij (Associate Curator of Public Programs at the High Line) moderates.

Salons

5:00-6:00 PM

Following the keynote conversations, audiences are invited to visit salons and open studios. Session Two salons include: Performances and intimate, interactive discussions with Sahar Ullah and "Hijabi Monologues," Eisa Davis and "The Essentialism't" project, choreographer Jonathan González, Soul Series L.A.B. at The National Black Theatre, and Park Avenue Armory Youth Corps Advisory Board, with a screening of "The Violence of a Civilization without Secrets" followed by discussion with filmmaker Zack Khalil, collaborator Jackson Polys, and moderated by Dessane Lopez Cassell, and various films screened and hosted by The Flaherty Seminar. Armory artists-in-residents Tania Bruguera, Theaster Gates, Reggie Gray, and Lynn Nottage will open their Armory studios to audiences for special presentations.

SESSION THREE

6:30-8:00 PM

Culture in a Changing America

A debate on the state of American culture in the age of Trump with **Thelma Golden** (Director & Chief Curator, The Studio Museum), **Bill T. Jones** (Artistic Director, New York Live Arts), **Marc Bamuthi Joseph** (Vice President & Artistic Director of Social Impact, The Kennedy Center), **Julie Mehretu** (Artist), and **Toshi Reagon** (Singer, Composer, Musician, Producer, Curator). Traditional Traveling Song performed by **Kevin Tarrant** (Hopi/HoChunk). The Symposium concludes with a special *Music For Your Life* performance by **Toshi Reagon** and **BIGLovely**.

TICKETS

Tickets: \$25 per Session

Tickets can be purchased at armoryonpark.org or by phone at (212) 933-5812.

SPONSORSHIP

Citi and Bloomberg Philanthropies are the Armory's 2019 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. Additional support has been provided by the Armory's Artistic Council.

About The Studio Museum Harlem

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of artists of African descent. As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Studio Museum is preparing to construct a new home at its longtime location on Manhattan's West 125th Street, designed by internationally renowned architect David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates in collaboration with Cooper Robertson. The first building created expressly for the institution's program, the new building will enable the Studio Museum to better serve a growing and diverse audience, provide additional educational opportunities for people of all ages, expand its program of world-renowned exhibitions, effectively display its singular collection and strengthen its trailblazing Artist-in-Residence program.

While the Studio Museum is currently closed for construction, the Museum has opened Studio Museum 127, a temporary programming space located at 429 West 127th Street, and is working to deepen its roots in the community through inHarlem, a dynamic set of collaborative programs in our neighborhood. The Museum's groundbreaking exhibitions, thought-provoking conversations, and engaging art-making workshops continue at a variety of partner and satellite locations in Harlem and beyond.

About the 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 19th-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 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.

Programmatic highlights from the Armory's first 10 years include Bernd Alois Zimmermann's harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved "through the music"; *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton; the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company across three separate stages; *WS* by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess, and dystopia; an immersive *Macbeth* set in a Scottish heath and henge by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh; a profound and radically inclusive staging of

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* staged by Peter Sellars and performed by Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker; Louis Andriessen's *De Materie* in a highly imaginative staging by director Heiner Goebbels that included floating zeppelins and a flock of 100 sheep; *Circle Map*, two evenings of immersive spatial works by internationally acclaimed composer Kaija Saariaho performed by the New York Philharmonic with mise-en-espace by Armory Artistic Director Pierre Audi; eight-time Drama Desk nominated play *The Hairy Ape*, directed by Richard Jones and starring Bobby Cannavale; Pierre Boulez's masterwork *Répons*, performed twice each evening by Ensemble intercontemporain and IRCAM under the baton of Matthias Pintscher with the audience changing seats in between to get a new sonic perspective; Simon Stone's award-winning *Yerma*, starring Billie Piper in a devastating and modern exploration of Federico Garcia Lorca's tale of a woman's desire to have a child; Nick Cave's *The Let Go*, a complete transformation of the Wade Thompson Drill Hall into an immersive, multi-sensory dance-based town hall; and Ivo van Hove's adaptation of Luchino Visconti's screenplay of *The Damned*, starring Comedie-Française in a chilling and topical rumination on political depravity.

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.

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