

ART + PRACTICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/23/2018

Art + Practice and The Baltimore Museum of Art Present *Head Back and High: Senga Nengudi, Performance Objects (1976-2017)*

Art + Practice: 3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles, CA 90008

Dates of Exhibition: June 23 - August 25, 2018; Regular Hours: Mon - Sat, 12 - 6 p.m.

Exhibition Walkthrough: Saturday, June 23, 2018, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Public Opening Reception: Saturday, June 23, 2018, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.



"...when people are with my art I want them to have an experience—for it to be an event."

- Senga Nengudi

Los Angeles, CA; May 23, 2018 - Art + Practice (A+P) and The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) present a solo exhibition of work by the artist Senga Nengudi in Leimert Park, Los Angeles. *Head Back and High: Senga Nengudi, Performance Objects (1976-2017)*, on view at A+P from June 23 through August 25, 2018, brings together performance photographs and video from Nengudi's breakthrough moment of the mid-1970s with extraordinary examples of her early and most recent work in sculpture. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the BMA.

"A+P is pleased to welcome *Head Back and High* to Los Angeles. Nengudi's ability to infuse her career-long exploration of the ethics of friendship and collective creativity into her artistic practice is unprecedented," said A+P's Executive Director Allan DiCastro. "A+P is grateful to the BMA for its ongoing support and curatorial expertise in thoughtfully organizing an exhibition of artworks by an artist that A+P greatly admires".

In the 1970s, Senga Nengudi (American, b. 1943) emerged as a leader at the forefront of experimental art-making, bringing together abstract sculpture and performance art. Today, she continues to construct poetic environments out of pantyhose, sand, air conditioning parts, and other items salvaged from everyday use. In Nengudi's hands, these materials take on symbolic meanings that relate to the resilience and vulnerability of the human body and to the forces, both social and psychological, that shape our experiences of the world.

"Senga Nengudi's work is known for inviting viewers to participate and respond, and collectively the BMA and A+P welcome the opportunity to host the dialogue and discovery that's sure to come during *Head Back and High*," said BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director Christopher Bedford. "Collaborating with A+P on this exhibition presents yet another chance to redefine the meaning and impact of art."

Head Back and High is the second in a series of four exhibitions to be presented by the BMA and A+P, two vastly different institutions at opposite ends of the country who share a conviction that museum-curated contemporary art museum be made accessible to the broadest demographic.

An exhibition walkthrough with BMA Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art Cecilia Wichmann will take place at A+P on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The public opening reception for *Head Back and High* will take place at A+P on June 23, 2018 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at A+P's exhibition space. No RSVPs are required and street parking will be available.

Art + Practice Exhibition Space:

3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles, CA 90008

Free Admission | Regular Hours: Mon - Sat, 12 - 6 p.m.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS SERIES

On the occasion of *Head Back and High*, A+P will organize a series of four (4) public programs. Admission to all programs is free and no RSVPs are required.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS SPEAKER LIST:

- + **Saturday, June 23, 2:00 p.m.:** Exhibition Walkthrough with Cecilia Wichmann
- + **Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.:** Artist Talk: Rafa Esparza
- + **Thursday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.:** Artist Talk: May Sun with Juri Koll
- + **Wednesday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.:** In Conversation: Amanda Hunt and Gabrielle Civil

Art + Practice Public Program Space:

4334 Degnan Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90008 | Open for scheduled programs only.
Ample metered parking available.

ABOUT SENGA NENGUDI

Born in Chicago in 1943 and raised in Los Angeles, Senga Nengudi trained in art and dance and earned an MFA in sculpture at California State University. Her touring solo exhibition, *Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures*, originated at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver. Her work has also been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; White Cube, London; and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia. Group exhibitions include *Viva Arte Viva*, 2017 Venice Biennale; *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power*, Tate, London, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and Brooklyn Museum; *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85*, Brooklyn Museum; *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art*, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, and The Studio Museum in Harlem; *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960–1980*, Hammer Museum, MoMA PS1, and Williams College Art Museum; and *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and MoMA PS1.

Based in Colorado Springs, Nengudi is an advocate for cultural literacy and access to arts education. From 1998 to 2008, she was lecturer at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. In 2016, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Colorado College and a United States Artists Fellowship. She is recipient of the 2010 Women's Caucus on Art Lifetime Achievement Award, 2005–2006 Anonymous Was A Woman Award, and 2005–2006 Louis Tiffany Foundation Biennial Competition Award. Nengudi is represented by Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, and Lévy Gorvy Gallery, New York, London.

CREDIT

Head Back and High: Senga Nengudi, Performance Objects (1976–2017) is curated by Christopher Bedford, Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director of The Baltimore Museum of Art, and BMA Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art Cecilia Wichmann.

This exhibition is presented by Art + Practice and The Baltimore Museum of Art. Special thanks to the artist and to Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, and Lévy Gorvy, New York, London, for their generous support of the project.

ABOUT ART + PRACTICE

Conceived and founded by artist Mark Bradford, philanthropist and collector Eileen Harris Norton, and social activist Allan DiCastro, Art + Practice (A+P) is a private operating 501(c)3 foundation based in Leimert Park, Los Angeles. A+P has three areas of focus which together embody its commitment to supporting the needs of its local foster youth while also providing the community with access to contemporary art:

- + An exhibition space for museum-curated contemporary art
- + A space where foster youth may receive life-skills training, access to housing opportunities, and individualized education and employment support via its foster youth service collaborator, First Place for Youth

- + A public program space for moderated art lectures and discussions organized so as to coincide with museum-curated exhibitions

The organization occupies a nearly 20,000-square-foot campus in Leimert Park, from which it directs its programs and activities. Admission to all exhibitions and public programs is free and open to the public.

A+P INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and public programs is free and available to the public. To learn more visit www.artandpractice.org.

Hours: Monday-Saturday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

A+P's exhibition space is located at 3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles, CA 90008. Ample metered parking available.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA's internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation's finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The museum is located three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor in a park-like setting in the heart of Charles Village, adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

BALTIMORE MUSUEM OF ART INFORMATION

General admission is free; some exhibitions and programs may be ticketed. To learn more, visit www.artbma.org.

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ART + PRACTICE

Exhibition Space

3401 W. 43rd Place

Los Angeles CA 90008

Monday - Saturday

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Public Program Space

4334 Degnan Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90008

Open for scheduled programs
starting at 6:00 p.m.

artandpractice.org

CREDITS

Senga Nengudi, *Masking It*,
1978-1979. Silver gelatin prints.
Triptych. Courtesy of the artist;
Thomas Erben Gallery, New York;
and Lévy Gorvy, New York, London.

Portrait of Rafa Esparza. Photo by
Hedi Slimane.

Portrait of May Sun. Photo by Todd
Gray.

Video still from "Yawo's Dream" by
Gabrielle Civil. Image courtesy of
the artist. Videography by Ellen
Marie Hinchcliffe.

Portrait of Amanda Hunt. Photo by
Ian Spanier.