



Book design by Barbara Glauber, Heavy Meta; Cover image © Glenn Ligon, *For Comrades and Lovers*, 2015 (detail); photograph by Nicholas Calcott. Distributed by Duke University Press.

Book Launch: An Evening of Performances and Readings at Three Sites

A collaborative project between The New School Art Collection and Parsons Curatorial Design Research Lab (CDRL)

October 2, 2019

www.thenewschoolartcollection.org

I Stand in My Place with My Own Day Here: Site-Specific Art at The New School is edited by Frances Richard and conceived and produced by Silvia Rocciolo, Lydia Matthews, and Eric Stark as a collaboration between The New School Art Collection and the Parsons Curatorial Design Research Lab (CDRL). It features essays by more than 50 renowned authors considering thirteen monumental works commissioned by The New School between 1930 and the present for its university campus.

The nucleus of The New School's Art Collection, these works—ranking among the finest site-specific pieces in New York City—range from mural commissions by José Clemente Orozco to installations by Agnes Denes, Kara Walker, Alfredo Jaar, Glenn Ligon, Sol LeWitt, and Martin Puryear + Michael Van Valkenburgh. The book's suggestive title is taken from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, as quoted by Glenn Ligon in his artwork *For Comrades and Lovers* (2015). Alluding to the ways in which a piece's meaning shifts according to a viewer's perspective, this title—and the book as a whole—suggest that each generation has an opportunity to redefine a work's meaning.

Providing a kaleidoscopic view onto major works by celebrated global artists, this richly illustrated volume explores each installation through three to four essays. Contributed by critics, poets, and scholars from diverse fields including anthropology, mathematics, art history, media studies, and design, these polyvocal texts are complemented by three longer essays reflecting on the art-historical significance of the site-specific commissions, the architectural contexts in which the works reside on the university's campus, and the history of The New School and its relationship to adventurous art practice.

Tonight's roving program includes readings and performances staged across three campus buildings: the sites of commissioned works by José Clemente Orozco, Kara Walker, and Agnes Denes.

JOSÉ CLEMENTE OROZCO

A Call to Revolution and Table of Universal Brotherhood, 1931

Location

Johnson/Kaplan Building
66 West 12th Street, 7th Floor

Time

6:30-7:20 PM

Vocal performance by **Red Ink: Ivan Anderson, John Del Cueto, Tina Owens, Gina Pemberton**

Introductions by **Silvia Rocciolo** (Director/Chief Curator, The New School Art Collection) and **Lydia Matthews** (Professor of Visual Culture, Parsons/ Director of CDRL)

Video Postcard from **Carl Hancock Rux**, *Eavesdropping on a Cyclical Rumination* (2019)

Readings by **Julia Foulkes** and **Otto von Busch**

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 and 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*.

Julia Foulkes, Professor of History, Bachelors Program for Adults/ Schools of Public Engagement (SPE), investigates interdisciplinary questions about the arts, urban studies, and history in her research and teaching. Professor Foulkes' most recent book, *A Place for Us: West Side Story and New York* (2016), examines what this legendary musical and film reveal about mid 20th century New York.

Otto von Busch is Associate Professor of Integrated Design at Parsons School of Design. In his research he explores how the powers of fashion can be bent to achieve a positive personal and social condition with which the Everyperson is free to grow to their full potential. He has for over 15 years examined fashion beyond consumerism, aesthetic decrees and arbitrary authority.

KARA WALKER

Event Horizon, 2005

Location

Arnold Hall
55 West 13th Street, Lobby Staircase

Time

7:30-8:15 PM

Performance of *THREE RITES: Liberty* by **Edisa Weeks**, an excerpt from a work-in-progress, *THREE RITES: Life, Liberty, Happiness*

Edisa Weeks is a choreographer, educator and founder of DELIRIOUS Dances. She creates multimedia interdisciplinary works that merge theater with dance to explore our deepest desires, darkest fears and sweetest dreams. Described by The New York Times as having, "a gift for simple but striking visual effects," her work has been performed in a variety of venues including The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum, as well as in storefront windows, senior centers, sidewalks, and living rooms.

She's had the joy of performing with Annie-B Parsons Big Dance Theater, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., Dance Brazil, Homer Avila, Jane Comfort, Jon Kinzel, Muna Tseng, Reggie Wilson Fist & Heel Performance Group, Sally Silvers, and Spencer/Colton Dance, among others.

Week's work *THREE RITES: Life, Liberty, Happiness* interrogates why life, liberty and happiness were included in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, what these rights mean, for whom these rights are protected, and how they manifest in the body.

AGNES DENES

*Perfect Probability Pyramid & the People Paradox—The Predicament
(PPPPPPP), 1980-2016*

Location

University Center
63 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Dining Hall

Time

8:30-9:30 PM

Readings by **Aruna D'Souza** and **Andrea Geyer**

Debut of *Parables* (2019), a commissioned, site-specific composition by **Dave Douglas**, with text from the poem 'Possibilities' by Wislawa Szymborska, workshopped and performed with students from The New School's College of Performing Arts (CoPA):

Dave Douglas - trumpet

Sushmita Suresh - voice

Yukiko Kuhara - violin

Luisa Bressan - flute

Ariel Bart - harmonica

Benjamin Huff - bass clarinet

Alain Metrailler - tenor saxophone

Nitsan Kolko - piano

Arturo Valdez - acoustic bass

Orian Rosenzweig - drum set

Dave Douglas is a prolific trumpeter, composer, educator and entrepreneur from New York City known for the stylistic breadth of his work and for keeping a diverse set of ensembles and projects active simultaneously. Douglas' career spans more than 50 unique original recordings as a leader and more than 500 published works.

Aruna D'Souza writes about modern and contemporary art; intersectional feminisms and other forms of politics; and how museums shape our views of each other and the world. Her most recent book, *Whitewalling: Art, Race, and Protest in 3 Acts* (Badlands Unlimited), was named one of the best art books of 2018 by the New York Times.

Andrea Geyer is a multi-disciplinary artist un-sensing the construction and politics of time. Her works use performance and video to activate the lingering potential of specific events, places, or biographies as lived in woman identified bodies. She materializes the entanglement of presence and absence of such bodies due to ideologically motivated omissions in archives and memories. Geyer is Associate Professor of New Genres at Parsons School of Design.

THE NEW SCHOOL ART COLLECTION

The New School Art Collection was established in 1960 with a grant from the Albert A. List Foundation. Albert List and his wife Vera, a life trustee, were dedicated patrons of the arts and of The New School. In addition to their generous donation of art, the Lists endowed the university with a commitment to art, both as a means of intellectual and aesthetic experimentation and as an agent in addressing the salient social and political issues of our time.

The collection, now grown to approximately 2,500 postwar and contemporary works of art, includes examples in almost all media by some of the most innovative and creative artists of our time. Installed throughout the university campus, the collection transforms public spaces into lively forums for examining contemporary art, offering students and faculty a rare opportunity to engage with art on a daily basis, making it a distinctive component of their educational experience.

www.newschool.edu/artcollection

THE CURATORIAL DESIGN RESEARCH LAB (CDRL)

Parsons Curatorial Design Research Lab is a community of practice that acts as a critical sounding board for individual projects, curatorially-related courses and potential collaborations within and beyond the Lab. Its mission is to create new opportunities for The New School community to engage in research towards designing innovative curatorial platforms that generate trans-disciplinary learning opportunities, provoke critical and cross-cultural public dialogues about the function of visual and material culture in contemporary daily life, and ultimately inspire projects that aim to produce knowledge and effect change within local and global communities.

www.cdrlab.parsons.edu

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals who supported this evening's book launch event:

Book launch presenters: Ivan Anderson, John Del Cueto, Tina Owens, and Gina Pemberton of Red Ink; Carl Hancock Rux, Julia Foulkes, Otto von Busch, Edisa Weeks, Aruna D'Souza, Andrea Geyer, Dave Douglas, Ariel Bart, Luisa Bressan, Benjamin Huff, Nitsan Kolko, Yukiko Kuhara, Alain Metrailler, Orian Rosenzweig, Sushmita Suresh, Arturo Valdez

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Artists + Writers

Saul Anton — Daniel A. Barber — Stefano Basilico
Carol Becker — Naomi Beckwith — **Thomas Hart Benton**
Omar Berrada — Gregg Bordowitz — Tisa Bryant
Holland Cotter — Mónica de la Torre — **Agnes Denes**
Aruna D'Souza — **Camilo Egas** — Elizabeth Ellsworth
Gonzalo Fonseca — Julia L. Foulkes — Andrea Geyer
Kathleen Goncharov — Jennifer A. González — Michele Greet
Randall Griffey — Victoria Hattam — Pablo Helguera
Jamer Hunt — Anna Indych-López — **Alfredo Jaar**
Luis Jaramillo — Jeffrey Kastner — Robert Kirkbride
Lynda Klich — Carin Kuoni — Sarah E. Lawrence — **Sol LeWitt**
Glenn Ligon — Tan Lin — Lucy R. Lippard — Laura Y. Liu
Reinhold Martin — Shannon Mattern — Lydia Matthews
Rita McBride — **Dave Muller** — Maggie Nelson
Olu Oguibe — **José Clemente Orozco** — G. E. Patterson
Martin Puryear — Hugh Raffles — Claudia Rankine
Jasmine Rault — Heather Reyes — Frances Richard
Silvia Rocciolo — Carl Hancock Rux — Luc Sante — Mira Schor
Eric Stark — Radhika Subramaniam — Edward J. Sullivan
Roberto Tejada — **Brian Tolle** — **Michael Van Valkenburgh**
Otto von Busch — **Kara Walker** — Wendy S. Walters
Jennifer Wilson — Mabel O. Wilson

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