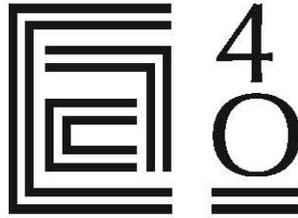


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The Contemporary Arts Center Announces
CECILIA VICUÑA: ABOUT TO HAPPEN &
SENGA NENGUDI: IMPROVISATIONAL GESTURES
Exhibitions On View March 16–June 18, 2017

Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen
Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures
Exhibitions On View March 16–June 18, 2017
Opening Reception March 16, 6–9pm

The Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans (CAC) is pleased to announce the opening of two exhibitions, *Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen* and *Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures*, on March 16, 2017 in its newly-expanded first and second floor gallery spaces.

“It is with great intention and excitement that we open our new galleries with the work of two women who have so enormously anticipated and informed contemporary practice, but whose work—until this time—had not received full critical consideration. And, we are honored to present these exhibitions just months before the artists’ presentations in two of the most prestigious international art events—Cecilia Vicuña’s installation in Documenta 14 (both in Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany) and Senga Nengudi’s in the Venice Biennale. This attention is long-overdue and the CAC is proud to lead these conversations...about cast-away materials, the artists who reanimate them, and the communities that rediscover them.”

—Andrea Andersson
The Helis Foundation Chief Curator of Visual Arts
Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans

There will be an opening reception on March 16 from 6–9pm that will feature music by Yulene Velásquez Band and on-site poems by Cubs the Poet. Activities will include a conversation at 6:30pm with artists Senga Nengudi and Maren Hassinger, along with Joan Mitchell Center Director Gia Hamilton, that will be centered on the female body, performance, and the artists’ collaborative friendship that has spanned four decades.

Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans
900 Camp Street New Orleans, LA 70130
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Additionally, at 7:30pm, experimental poet, playwright, and labor activist, Rodrigo Toscano will read a special piece in response to *Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen*. The reception is free and open to the public.

ABOUT TO HAPPEN

Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen, the first major U.S. solo exhibition of the influential Chilean-born artist is comprised of Vicuña's multidisciplinary work in performance, sculpture, drawing, video, text, and site-specific installations over the course of the past 40 years. Reframing dematerialization as both a formal consequence of 1960s conceptualism and radical climate change—the exhibition examines a process that shapes public memory and responsibility. Operating fluidly between concept and craft, text and textile, Vicuña's practice weaves together disparate disciplines as well as communities—with shared relationships to land and sea, and to the economic and environmental disparities of the 21st century.

Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen is co-organized by Andrea Andersson, The Helis Foundation Chief Curator of the CAC and Julia Bryan-Wilson, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

IMPROVISATIONAL GESTURES

In 1975, artist Senga Nengudi began a series of sculptures, entitled *R.S.V.P.*, which evoke the elasticity and durability of the human body. Made of everyday materials, such as pantyhose and sand, the works invite viewers to not only respond but to engage with them physically. Stretched and twisted, knotted and looped, the works occupy their space in the gallery much as a figure does—by projecting outward and reaching into the space of the viewer in unexpected ways. *Improvisational Gestures* includes works from the 1970s to the present, and is the first museum presentation to examine these sculptures together and in such depth.

Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver and the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Gallery of Contemporary Art.

ABOUT CECILIA VICUÑA

Cecilia Vicuña is a poet, visual artist, and filmmaker born in Santiago de Chile. The author of more than twenty books of poetry, she exhibits and performs internationally. Her multi-dimensional works begin as an image that becomes a poem, a film, a song, a sculpture, or a collective performance.

Her work is included in the collections of The Tate Gallery (London); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Chile (Santiago de Chile); MoMA, the Museum of Modern Art in New York. She was appointed Messenger Lecturer 2015 at Cornell University, an honor bestowed on authors who contribute to the "Evolution of Civilization for the special purpose of raising the moral standard of our political, business, and social life." She lives in New York, where she co-founded oysi.org, a site for the oral cultures and poetics of the world. Cecilia Vicuña's work is represented by England & Co Gallery in London.

ABOUT SENGA NENGUDI

Senga Nengudi was born in 1943 in Chicago. She lives and works in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her work has been featured in the recent group exhibitions *Blues for Smoke* (2012) at the Whitney Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* (2012) at the Contemporary Art Museum Houston; the Grey Art Gallery, and the Studio Museum of Harlem; *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960–1980* (2011) at the Hammer Museum, MoMA PS1, and the Williams College Art Museum. She has been the subject of solo presentations at the Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art.

ABOUT THE CAC

The Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) is a multidisciplinary arts center dedicated to the presentation, production, and promotion of the art of our time. Formed in 1976 by a passionate group of visual and performing artists when the movement to tear down the walls between visual and performing arts was active nationwide, the CAC expresses its mission by organizing world class curated exhibitions, performances, and public programs that educate and enlarge audiences for the arts while encouraging collaboration among diverse stakeholders composed of artists, institutions, communities, and supporters throughout the world.

**Visit cacno.org for information about tours, talks,
films, & other related events.**