

## PRESS

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## THE ARMORY SHOW ANNOUNCES CURATORS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION

EVA RESPINI, CANDICE HOPKINS, AND ADRIENNE EDWARDS WILL LEAD  
THE 2023 CURATORIAL INITIATIVES



From Left: Eva Respini (Photo by Liza Voll), Candice Hopkins (Photo by Thatcher Keats), and Adrienne Edwards (Photo by Bryan Derballa)

The Armory Show announces its curators for the 2023 Platform and Focus sections and the Curatorial Leadership Summit. **Eva Respini**, Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Barbara Lee Chief Curator at the ICA/Boston, will curate the **Platform** section; **Candice Hopkins**, Director and Chief Curator of Forge Project, will curate the **Focus** section; and **Adrienne Edwards**, Engell Speyer Family Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Whitney Museum of American Art, will chair the sixth annual **Curatorial Leadership Summit**.

Expanding on the fair's thematically unified curatorial sections from the 2022 fair, The Armory Show 2023 brings together three exceptional women curators to examine historical narratives – practices of artists both emerging and established whose work is informed by structures of inclusivity and exclusivity. Focus and Platform will once again join Galleries, Solo, and Presents under one roof in a cohesive, integrated floorplan at the Javits Center.

Nicole Berry, Executive Director of The Armory Show, said:

“We are thrilled to bring together these important voices for The Armory Show 2023. Eva, Candice and Adrienne each possess distinct visions within their practices that will continue to elevate the fair’s curatorial projects. Through their lens, we hope to shed light on a vast array of artists who may have been under-appreciated, providing them a platform within New York’s cultural sector for discovery and exposure.”

Curated by **Eva Respini**, **Platform** will be dedicated to large-scale installations and site-specific works under the theme of **Rewriting Histories**. The section will center on artists who expand or challenge the canon of art, history, or culture. Platform will examine how artists respond to the limits of official archives and narratives by using storytelling and speculative narration as a means of addressing history’s erasures and omissions. Encompassing a polyphonic approach to sculpture and installation, this section considers artists and geographies previously overlooked or marginalized; artists thinking and working in communal dialogue; self-taught artists; artists working within traditions of craft and hand-made processes; and spiritual and healing-based practices.

Introduced in 2017, Platform has previously been curated by Eric Shiner, Director, Andy Warhol Museum (2017); Jen Mergel, former Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2018); Sally Tallant, Director, Liverpool Biennial (2019); Anne Ellegood, Executive Director, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2020); and Claudia Schmuckli, Curator-in-Charge of Contemporary Art and Programming, de Young Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (2021); and Tobias Ostrander, Estrellita B. Brodsky Adjunct Curator, Latin American Art at Tate, London (2022.).

Curated by **Candice Hopkins**, **Focus** will be dedicated to solo- and dual-artist presentations that center on emergent and established voices whose work is often decidedly outside the mainstream, including those who draw on cultural connections to tether material, image, and form in unexpected ways. The section will examine how artists have a way of uncovering hidden histories and little-known narratives. For many of these artists, history is a material like any other, one made malleable and porous, open to speculation as well as fabulation.

Previous curators of Focus have included Jarrett Gregory, Associate Curator, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2017); Gabriel Ritter, Curator, Minneapolis Institute of Art (2018); Lauren Haynes, Curator of Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville (2019); Jamillah James, Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2020); and Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2021); and Carla Acevedo-Yates, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago (2022).

**Adrienne Edwards** will chair the sixth annual **Curatorial Leadership Summit**. The curatorial convening will constellate and take as its points of departure the historical, conceptual, and material threads manifested in and developed in collaboration with Eva Respini's Platform section and Candice Hopkins's Focus section.

A public keynote presentation follows the closed-door session. In addition to the on-site summit, Edwards will be chairing the Virtual CLS event in the spring of 2023 leading up to the fair. Previous chairs of the CLS have included Naomi Beckwith, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2018); Dan Byers, John R. and Barbara Robinson Family Director, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University (2019); José Carlos Diaz, Chief Curator, The Andy Warhol Museum (2020); and Valerie Cassel Oliver, Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (2021); and Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2022).

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **The Armory Show**

The Armory Show is New York's art fair. An essential part of the city's cultural landscape since 1994, The Armory Show is a dedicated member of the art community and an active facilitator of discourse and exchange. The fair presents the world's leading international galleries who showcase an array of modern and contemporary art and artists.

The Armory Show 2023 will launch the fall arts season and bring the international art world to New York at the Javits Center in September. The VIP Preview for the 2023 fair will take place on September 7, with the fair opening its doors to the public from September 8 – 10.

### **Eva Respini**

Before joining the ICA as Barbara Lee Chief Curator in 2015, Respini was Curator at the Museum of Modern Art for over a decade. Respini was curator and co-commissioner for the 2022 U.S. Pavilion's historic presentation of Simone Leigh in the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. She is currently organizing the first mid-career survey of Simone Leigh's work, opening at the ICA in April 2023, before its tour across the country. Specializing in global contemporary art and image-making practices, Respini has organized at the ICA such critically acclaimed group exhibitions as *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today* (2018); *When Home Won't Let You Stay: Migration through Contemporary Art* (2019); and ambitious solo presentations such as *Deana Lawson* (2021); *Firelei Báez* (2021); *John Akomfrah: Purple* (2019) and *Huma Bhabha* (2019). Respini has been a visiting lecturer, critic, and speaker at a number of universities, and currently teaches at Harvard University's

Graduate School of Design. She has published numerous books and catalogues and her writing appears in museum publications and periodicals.

## **Candice Hopkins**

Candice Hopkins, a Carcross/Tagish First Nation citizen, is Director and Chief Curator of Taghkanic, New York's Forge Project, a Native-led initiative launched in 2021 and focusing on Indigenous art, decolonial education, and supporting leaders in culture, food security, and land justice. Her writing and curatorial practice explores the intersections of history, contemporary art and indigeneity. Hopkins was Senior Curator of both the inaugural Toronto Biennial of Art, in 2019, and its second iteration, in 2022. She served as a member of the curatorial teams organizing, respectively, the Canadian Pavilion at the Fifty-Eighth Venice Biennale, in 2019, and documenta 14, in 2017. She has co-curated a number of pathbreaking group exhibitions centered on Indigenous artists, including, for Independent Curators International, "Soundings: An Exhibition in Five Parts," which has traveled to seven venues since opening in 2019; "Art for a New Understanding: Native Voices, 1950s to Now," at Crystal Bridges Museum for American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas (2018); "Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art" at the National Gallery of Canada, Ontario (2013); and the multi-venue "Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years" in Winnipeg (2009). Hopkins' essays include "The Gilded Gaze: Wealth and Economies on the Colonial Frontier," for the documenta 14 Reader, "Outlawed Social Life" for *South as a State of Mind*, and "The Appropriation Debates (or The Gallows of History)", for MIT Press. She received the 2022 Leo Award from Independent Curators International for her curatorial practice, and the 2021 Noah Davis Prize from the Underground Museum.

## **Adrienne Edwards**

Adrienne Edwards is Engell Speyer Family Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. She co-curated the 2022 Whitney Biennial and was President of the International Jury of the 59th Venice Biennale. Previously, she served as curator of Performa in New York City and as curator at large for the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Edwards's curatorial projects have also included the exhibition and catalogue 'Blackness in Abstraction' at Pace Gallery, New York (2016); the traveling exhibition and catalogue 'Jason Moran' at Walker Art Center, ICA Boston, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus (2018-2019); 'Moved by the Motion: Sudden Rise' (2020), a series of performances based on a text co-written by Wu Tsang, boychild, and Fred Moten at the Whitney; Dave McKenzie's first solo museum exhibition in New York City 'The Story I Tell Myself' and its pendant performance commission 'Disturbing the View' (2021) at the Whitney; and the performance collective My Barbarian's twenty anniversary exhibition and catalogue (2021-2022) at the Whitney. She was part of the Whitney's core team for David Hammons's public art monument *Day's End*. Edwards has taught art history

# THE ARMORY SHOW

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023  
JAVITS CENTER

and visual studies at New York University and the New School, and is teaching at The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York in spring 2023.

## **Important Information for Media**

### **Fair Dates**

#### **VIP Preview Day (by invitation only)**

Thursday, September 7, 2023

### **Public Days**

Friday, September 8 – Sunday, September 10, 2023

### **Press Room**

<https://www.thearmoryshow.com/press-room>

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