

2019/20

# THE CENTER FOR ART AND...



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YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS



## Welcome from **Deborah Cullinan**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Welcome to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts! We are so happy to have you and hope you'll accept our invitation to be involved as often and as deeply as you can.

At YBCA, our work spans the realms of contemporary art, performance, and film; civic and community engagement; and policy and public life. YBCA's diverse perspectives, aesthetics, and experiences are rooted in a deep commitment to inclusivity. Not just a center for some, YBCA strives to be a center for all.

As we move into 2020, we are focused on YBCA's unique ability to bring the arts into critical conversations and collaborations across sectors, to inspire civic participation and creatively improve the health and well-being of our communities.

As artists and nonprofit organizations of all kinds face the challenges of surviving and thriving in the Bay Area, YBCA is evolving its strategies and increasing its commitment to providing opportunities and support for our creative communities.

To help lead us forward, we are thrilled to introduce our new Chief of Program, Meklit Hadero. Meklit—a renowned San Francisco-based cultural activist, composer, curator, singer, and songwriter—will work to make YBCA an even more impactful and creative hub for the Bay Area.

Building on the resounding success of the YBCA Fellows, we are also pleased to introduce a new Senior Fellows program with artist and educator Brett Cook and choreographer, writer, and teacher Liz Lerman. With this program, we aim to strengthen meaningful relationships with artists, curators, and leading thinkers that simultaneously catalyze their work and evolve our organization.

YBCA aspires to be your creative home as well. We are hosting events, performances, exhibitions, and screenings. We are sharing our spaces, incubating new coalitions, sending out calls for ideas, and introducing new fellowship and residency opportunities. We hope you will continue to engage, let us know what you think, and help us persist in centering art in our changing world.



## A note from **Meklit Hadero**

**CHIEF OF PROGRAM**

Friends...

Art is how we get strong at transformation—at truly seeing the world differently, then building collective power from that place of clear vision. And you can do this with us all year long. The creators featured throughout our season will move you and shake you, and in many cases will inspire you to action beyond these walls. We are deepening our commitment to placing artists' voices at the epicenter of all that we do. Here's a taste of 2020 at YBCA.

From three very different lenses, Embodiment Project's *X Rated Planet*, Dohee Lee's *MU/Ⅸ: 9 Goddesses*, and Rafael Casal's *The Limp* all start with gender as a place of interrogation. *X Rated Planet* is a street dance/choreo-poetry work examining how we repair ourselves after gender-

based sexual trauma, with the voices of powerful women as our guideposts. Dohee Lee's ritual theater work grounds us in myth, as nine goddesses take us through a multidisciplinary odyssey while inhabiting present-time social struggles. In *The Limp*, actor, writer, and producer Rafael Casal brings us musical theater in hip-hop verse, excavating paradigms of toxic masculinity that can lead to violence and abuse.

We're thrilled to be headquarters for Art+Action's 2020 Census project, as they harness the power of arts and artists to inspire San Francisco's participation in the 2020 Census. We count when we are counted.

*The Body Electric*, currently in our galleries, looks at 50 years of artists using technology to examine our relationship to the body and sense of self.

Two open calls round out our visual arts program. We invited proposals for a public art mural on our Third Street wavy wall and curatorial projects for our Second Floor Galleries.

Behind each of these programs, you'll find powerful artists, global citizens, and engaged culture makers asking questions that generate social movement, just as we are doing today. You, my friends, are essential parts of this process. You are reasons for hope. In each of us, possibility is overflowing. We are so glad you are here. We'll be seeing you again soon.



# DISCOVER + ENGAGE

YBCA strives to be a creative home to the people in our community. We offer many ways to connect with us and our growing network of artists, change makers, and world builders. We invite you to get involved and we hope you will invite others to be inspired, connect, and act together on the issues that matter most.



# CIVIC + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Voter Engagement

As a creative home for civic action, YBCA activates people to engage in the electoral process. To support the upcoming elections we will open up our public spaces at 701 Mission Street to register, educate and be a polling place for San Francisco communities.

### **Municipal election:**

November 5, 2019

### **Presidential primary election:**

March 3, 2020

### **United States presidential election:**

November 3, 2020

## 2020 Census

YBCA is a lead partner for Art+Action's citywide arts-based 2020 Census campaign. As part of the first-ever San Francisco coalition for civic participation across sectors, Art+Action is focused on mobilizing all San Franciscans to participate safely in the census, so that our communities get their fair share of resources and representation. As headquarters for Art+Action, we will offer opportunities to participate in public programming, town halls, exhibitions, performances, and open calls for art. For ongoing information, visit [artandaction.us](http://artandaction.us).





## YBCA Fellows

The YBCA Fellows program brings together creative individuals from across the Bay Area—artists and everyday people alike—to engage in a yearlong process of inquiry, dialogue, and project generation.

The 2019–20 cohort is made up of artists and community organizers examining the question: How do we uplift and mobilize our public participation? Through an open call, we selected 10 individuals whose work is deeply rooted in community practice, and whose proposals consider timely themes such as the 2020 Census, the upcoming federal elections, and how to safely participate in democracy while also uplifting our collective voices.

## CultureBank

CultureBank's mission is to create a new investment paradigm with culture at the core of investment strategy. An initiative of YBCA, CultureBank recognizes that artists can be the first investors in communities and significant contributors to health and well-being.

CultureBank's approach is collaborative and replicable, and pilots have launched in Dallas, Kansas City, and Oakland. Cohorts of artists are leading conversations about collaborative community investment and are invited and equitable outcomes. Gratitude to funders Surdna Foundation and Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and to Bay Area partner Zoo Labs.

# EXHIBITIONS

## THE *Body* ELECTRIC

On view now through  
January 26, 2020

YBCA presents the West Coast debut of *The Body Electric*, an expansive array of more than seventy works revealing the ways that technology changes our collective understanding of the body, everyday life, and sense of self. Looking across the past 50 years, *The Body Electric* presents works by an intergenerational and international group of artists who have seized upon the screen as a place to rethink the body and identity. Featuring video, sculpture, photographs, virtual reality, and beyond by nearly 50 artists and collectives, the exhibition places a particular emphasis on gender, sexuality, race, and class.

*The Body Electric* is organized by the Walker Art Center and made possible by generous support from the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation.

Lead Image: Juliana Huxtable, *Lil' Marvel*, 2015.  
Color inkjet print, ed. AP of 3. Courtesy the artist and JTT, New York.



# EXHIBITIONS



## Open Call Exhibition

Opening June 18, 2020

In fall 2019, YBCA announced an open call inviting local artists and curators to submit works and exhibition proposals for our Second Floor Gallery spaces. Opening in June 2020, the first exhibition marks YBCA's continuing initiative to support, cultivate, and exhibit Bay Area artists who are working to propel societal movement.



# PERFORMANCES

## Embodiment Project's *X Rated Planet*

April 16–18, 2020

YBCA presents a new documentary dance theater production, *X Rated Planet*, which explores gender-based sexual violence through a fusion of street dance forms, verbatim theater, choreo-poetry, live song, and interactive video art. The production delves into healing from sexual trauma, including the reclamation of authority over one's body, and how different forms of storytelling can challenge pervasive rape culture. *X Rated Planet* features interviews with formidable women fighting gender-based sexual violence, including Joan Morgan, who coined "hip-hop feminism"; theorist Kim Crenshaw, who introduced intersectionality to feminism; 'me too.' movement founder Tarana Burke; and Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza.



# PERFORMANCES

## Dohee Lee's *MU/巫: 9 Goddesses*

May 21–23, 2020

YBCA presents a new ritual theater performance by Bay Area–based Korean artist Dohee Lee. Commissioned by YBCA, *MU/巫: 9 Goddesses* offers an immersive shamanic experience where ancestral traditions are transmuted through dance, singing, drumming, electronic soundscapes, and community participation. By transforming into nine goddesses from the past, present, and future, Lee transports audiences on a mythological journey of ancestral legacies and indigenous resistance. The performance features Dohee Lee in solo sections interspersed with movements incorporating as many as fifty community performers onstage.



A close-up portrait of Rafael Casal, with an orange overlay on the left side of the image. The text is positioned within this overlay.

# Rafael Casal's *The Limp*

June 11–14, 2020

YBCA presents *The Limp*, a new performance piece commissioned by YBCA combining musical theater and hip-hop-driven storytelling by Bay Area writer, performer, and producer Rafael Casal, co-creator and star of the 2018 film *Blindspotting*. *The Limp* invites both artists and audiences to reflect on—and talk honestly about—our culture's constricting paradigms of male identity and how they give rise to harassment, abuse, and violence. Drawing on the urgent poetry, sharp humor, and musicality of Casal's work, *The Limp* combines the heightened language of spoken-word performance with music and theater in a manner that evokes Shakespeare.

# PERFORMANCES

ODC/Dance presents

## ***The Velveteen Rabbit***

November 29–  
December 8, 2019

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom  
Band presents

## ***2019 Dance-Along Nutcracker®: Nutcrackers in Space***

December 7–8, 2019

Smuin Contemporary Ballet presents

## ***The Christmas Ballet***

December 12–23, 2019

The Nocturnists present

## ***Transitions***

January 16, 2020

Lamplighters Music Theatre presents

## ***Gilbert and Sullivan's Princess Ida***

February 1–2, 2020

San Francisco Performances presents

## ***Paul Taylor Dance Company***

February 19–23, 2020

San Francisco Girls Chorus and  
Berkeley Ballet Theater present

## ***Rightfully Ours***

February 29, 2020

ODC/Dance presents

## ***Dance Downtown***

March 26–April 5, 2020

Alonzo King LINES Ballet presents

## ***Spring Season***

April 10–19, 2020

Smuin Contemporary Ballet  
presents

## ***Dance Series 2***

April 24–May 2, 2020

Opera Parallèle presents

## ***Harvey Milk***

May 15–17, 2020

San Francisco Ballet School  
presents

## ***2020 Spring Festival***

May 20–22, 2020





# PARTNERSHIPS

## ***The New York Times* and YBCA conversation series**

*The New York Times* and YBCA have partnered to create conversations that connect our subscribers and members to artists, activists, and journalists focused on addressing the most pressing issues of our time. Together we bring those truths to light on stage through a dynamic series of talks and panels offering diverse perspectives about ideas and cultural shifts shaping our world today.

### **Endangered Spaces: San Francisco**

November 7, 2019

Join *The New York Times* architecture critic Michael Kimmelman and blink!LAB design principal and YBCA 100 honoree June Grant in a conversation inspired by *The New York Times*' ongoing feature "Endangered Spaces." Focusing on threatened places and the people who care for them, Kimmelman and Grant address the politics of public space and how they have affected the city of San Francisco.

### **The New York Times**



## SF CINEMATHEQUE

### ***Something Between Us***

**Films by Jodie Mack**

October 24, 2019

The flickering, post-structuralist, quasi-animated films of Jodie Mack beguile with scintillating color and gloss. Obsessively animated from cast-off and recycled materials these cinematically kinetic pop-art gems reach for the stars and aspire to the ecstatic while blurring the boundaries between fine-art abstraction and mass-produced consumer kitsch.

### ***Everywhere at Once***

**Films by Sylvia Schedelbauer**

November 7, 2019

Assembled largely from deeply researched archival footage and radically edited, Sylvia Schedelbauer's films present a strikingly visual space of interiority in which dreams, personal biography, collective memories and family histories fuse to form a complicated vision of fragmented transnational identity in the context of twentieth century history.

### ***Celebrating Jonas***

***Mekas 2: Walden***

**Film by Jonas Mekas**

December 8, 2019

Jonas Mekas (1922–2019) was without a doubt the world's foremost advocate for avant-garde cinema. Ever the drifting romantic, Mekas'

introspective *Walden* (1964–1969) is an epic tour-de-force of diaristic filmmaking, intimately embodying cinematic reaction to events of daily life—"situations, friends, seasons of the year"—in mid to late 1960s New York City.

## CURATORIAL RESEARCH BUREAU

*Presented by the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice in partnership with the MFA in Design at California College of the Arts.*

### **Na Kim**

October 24, 2019

Graphic designer and curator Na Kim talks about the role of large-scale wall graphics, immersive environments, and site-specific installations in her dynamic design practice.



# CONNECT TO ARTISTS, ORGANIZATIONS, & MOVEMENTS CHANGING THE WORLD



## **BECOME A MEMBER AND RECEIVE**

Members-only access to events

Free gallery admission

20% off YBCA programs

Waived ticketing fees

And more!

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for more information**