

**DERRICK ADAMS AND HELEN TOOMER
CURATE EXHIBITIONS HIGHLIGHTING EMERGING ARTISTS
FOR MIAMI ART WEEK**

***IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narrative* at the YoungArts Campus Features Works by 11 YoungArts Alumni Exploring Consumerism, Gender Roles, the Environment and Ceremonial Ritual**

***Searching* at PULSE Contemporary Art Fair Booth to Feature Works by 15 YoungArts Alumni**



MIAMI, FL (October 26, 2017) – During this year’s Miami Art Week, the National YoungArts Foundation will present two exhibitions of work by emerging artists, furthering their commitment to supporting the organization’s alumni as they establish themselves in the art world. At the YoungArts Gallery, *IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narrative*, curated by multidisciplinary artist and YoungArts master teacher **Derrick Adams**, will feature new and recent interdisciplinary works addressing consumerism, gender roles, the environment and ceremonial ritual. At PULSE Contemporary Art Fair, **Helen Toomer**, co-founder and artistic director of STONELEAF RETREAT and former director of PULSE, will curate a booth titled *Searching* exhibiting works by 15 YoungArts alumni.

“YoungArts is committed to providing a platform for tomorrow’s artists,” said Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts President & CEO. “By presenting two skillfully curated exhibitions during Miami Art Week, one by Derrick Adams, a YoungArts master teacher and fellow champion of emerging artists, and the other by Helen Toomer, former director of PULSE, we aim to propel emerging artists forward, and towards a successful career in the arts.”

IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narrative

YoungArts Gallery, 2100 Biscayne Boulevard

Curated by multidisciplinary artist and YoungArts master teacher **Derrick Adams**, *IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narrative* features works by 11 YoungArts alumni from the past five years. On view now through December 15, 2017, the exhibition includes video, sculpture, painting and performative works that explore how the mechanics of art production can reflect how we see ourselves as products of our surroundings.

"After mentoring winners during YoungArts' signature programs in Miami and New York, it is a privilege to support YoungArts alumni across disciplines and present their work to an international audience. As a working artist, I know firsthand the challenges of making the leap from student to professional," said Derrick Adams. "In curating the exhibition, what unfolded naturally was creating a meaningful dialogue between the works from these standout artists. They are each channeling the interests and concerns of their generation, in an effort to advance the conversation between generations in contemporary art."

Highlights on view include *And we were changed* (2016), a video performance by **Elle Cox** (2017 Winner in Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) addressing the implications of slavery tactics on modern perceptions of African Americans; *21st Century Pearls* (2012), *Baby's First Prescription* (2012), and *Served on a Silver Platter* (2012) by **Glenn Davis** (2013 Winner in Visual Arts) looking at the pharmaceutical industry in the United States and the relaxed nature with which our society takes potentially harmful medication; and *\$wagfuture 2812* (2017), a mixed media installation by SWAG Future Collaborative by **David Correa x Alberto Checa** (2017 Winners in Visual Arts) uses the projection of videos to create a satire of the intensely influential and media-influenced city of Miami.

Additional artists on view include **Su Wan Kim** (2015 Winner in Cinematic Arts and Visual Arts), **Mateo Nava** (2013 Winner in Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Mika Rosenberg** (2014 Winner in Visual Arts), **Sebastian Ruiz** (2014 Winner in Visual Arts), **Celia Shaheen** (2015 Winner in Visual Arts), **Cornelius Tulloch** (2016 Winner in Design Arts and Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and **Wade Winslow** (2016 Winner in Visual Arts).

Free and open to the public, the YoungArts Gallery has hosted exhibitions by YoungArts master teachers, winners and alumni—including Olafur Eliasson, Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas—since 2013.

For hours, please visit: youngarts.org/exhibitions.

Searching

PULSE Contemporary Art Fair, 4601 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach (Booth S-212)

At PULSE Contemporary Art Fair at Indian Beach Park, former PULSE Director and now co-founder and artistic director of STONELEAF RETREAT **Helen Toomer** will curate *Searching*, an exhibition of works by 15 YoungArts alumni. The YoungArts booth is one of over 70 galleries from five continents. The thirteenth edition of PULSE in Miami Beach will be held from December 7–10, 2017.

Artists include **Alyssa Ackerman** (2015 Winner in Visual Arts), **Walker Bankson** (2017 Winner in Photography), **Nikolas Bentel** (2012 Winner in Visual Arts), **Tracey Bullington** (2009 Winner in Visual Arts), **Arthur Cooke** (2014 Winner in Photography), **Cheryl Ellzysmith** (2007 Winner in Visual Arts), **Ilana Goldmeier** (2010 Winner in Photography), **Alex Mediate** (2016 Winner in

Photography), **Isabella Mellado** (2014 Winner in Visual Arts), **Sarah Miller** (2013 Winner in Photography), **Sue Montoya** (2009 Winner in Visual Arts), **Andrea Reyes** (2017 Winner in Photography), **Brenda Rodriguez** (2016 Winner in Visual Arts), **Cornelius Tulloch** (2016 Winner in Design Arts and Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and **Wade Winslow** (2016 Winner in Visual Arts)

“During my time at PULSE, I refocused the fair to engage with the greater community in Miami, and now having co-founded a residency program, I get to do what I love—work directly with artists. YoungArts presented a perfect opportunity to combine my past and present endeavors to bring artists, nurtured here in Miami, to a global audience that looks to discover up-and-coming artists at PULSE,” said Helen Toomer.

For tickets and hours, please visit: pulseartfair.com/visitors.

Support for *IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narrative* is provided by Visual Arts Discipline Partner Related Group; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

About the National YoungArts Foundation

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, performances, and partnerships with some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts’ signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

About PULSE Contemporary Art Fair

Founded in 2005, PULSE Contemporary Art Fair is an established part of the annual art calendar and is recognized for providing its international community of emerging and established galleries with a dynamic platform for connecting with a global audience. PULSE offers visitors an engaging environment in which to discover and collect the most compelling contemporary art being produced today. For further information about PULSE Contemporary Art Fair, please visit pulseartfair.com.

Image credits (L-R): Elle Cox (2017), *And we were changed*, Video performance, 2016; Brenda Rodriguez (2016), *Photograph*, Mixed media on wood, 2017

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