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For Immediate Release:

November 28, 2018



EXPO CHICAGO NAMES NAIMA J. KEITH AS 2019 EXPOSURE CURATOR

LACMA Vice President of Education and Public Programs to Select Solo and Two-Artist Presentations Highlighting Emerging Gallery Programs at 2019 Exposition

CHICAGO—EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art, today named **Naima J. Keith**, newly appointed Vice President of Education and Public Programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and Co-Artistic Director of Prospect.5 as the Curator for EXPO CHICAGO’s 2019 **EXPOSURE** section. The EXPOSURE section, installed on the main floor of the exposition, features solo and two-artist presentations from galleries eight years and younger. As the exposition enters its eighth edition (September 19 – 22, 2019), Keith will curate a presentation focused on highlighting emerging artists and exhibition programs, with council from the Selection Committee and exposition Directors. Applications for the 2019 EXPOSURE section are now available.

“The appointment of an institutionally-affiliated curator to our EXPOSURE section, which provides an international commercial platform for emerging galleries, has been integral to supporting our participating exhibitors,” said EXPO CHICAGO Artistic Director **Stephanie Cristello**. “We are very proud to be working alongside Naima J. Keith for our next edition—her

respected international perspective on artists and galleries, as well as her unique understanding of what it means to exhibit within an American context, highlights the exposition's commitment to supporting our exhibitors through curatorial initiatives."

Naima J. Keith is the newly appointed Vice President of Education and Public Programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Prior to joining the institution, Keith most recently served as the Deputy Director and Chief Curator at The California African American Museum (CAAM). Previously, Keith worked as Associate Curator at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and has organized influential exhibitions featuring Nicole Miller, Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle, Genevieve Gaignard, Rodney McMillian, Samuel Levi Jones, Titus Kaphar and more. Keith's exhibition, entitled *Charles Gaines: Gridwork 1974-1989* (2014), was nominated by the International Association of Art Critics for the Best Monographic Museum Show in New York in 2014. Upcoming projects include curating Prospect.5, New Orleans' contemporary art triennial opening fall of 2020.

Keith follows 2017–2018 EXPOSURE Curator Justine Ludwig, who was recently appointed the Executive Director of Creative Time.

"My experience working in art institutions in New York and Los Angeles, and familiarity with New Orleans and other cities throughout the southern United States, has acquainted me with a wide range of emerging galleries, all worthy of spotlight at an international art fair like EXPO CHICAGO," said **Naima J. Keith**, Deputy Director and Chief Curator at The California African American Museum (CAAM). "I am looking forward to working with the dynamic team at EXPO CHICAGO, who are committed to bringing international attention to lesser-known spaces, and am grateful for the opportunity to build upon my own curatorial practice which is oriented around highlighting programs that are diverse in origin, size and artist representation."

About Naima Keith

Naima J. Keith is the newly appointed Vice President of Education and Public Programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Prior to joining the institution, Keith most recently served as as Deputy Director and Chief Curator at The California African American Museum (CAAM). Previously, she was Associate Curator at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Recent exhibitions include *Nicole Miller: Athens, California* (2018), *Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle: The Evanesced* (2017), *Genevieve Gaignard: Smell the Roses* (2016), *Rodney McMillian: Views of Main Street* (2016), *Artists in Residence 2014–2015* (2015), *Samuel Levi Jones: Unbound* (2015), *Titus Kaphar* (2014), *Glenn Kaino* (2014), *Robert Pruitt* (2013), *The Shadows Took Shape* (co-curated with Zoe Whitley, 2013) and *Fore* (co-curated with Lauren Haynes and Thomas J. Lax, 2012). Her historical survey, *Charles Gaines: Gridwork 1974–1989* (2014), traveled to the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles spring 2015 and was nominated in 2014 for a "Best Monographic Museum Show in New York" award by the International Association of Art Critics (AICA-USA). She has lectured at the Zoma Contemporary Art Center, Columbia University, The Museum of Modern Art, LACMA, USC, MCA Denver and Brooklyn Museum. Her essays have been featured in publications for The Studio Museum in Harlem, Hammer Museum, Pérez Art Museum Miami, LAXART, MoMA PS1 and NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art. Keith holds degrees from Spelman College and UCLA and is a proud native of Los Angeles. She is the 2018 ArtTable New Leadership Awardee and the 2017 recipient of the David C. Driskell Prize in recognition of her contributions to the field of African American art history.

About EXPO CHICAGO

Opening the fall art season each September, **EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art features leading international galleries alongside one of the highest quality platforms for contemporary art and culture. Hosted within Navy Pier's Festival Hall, EXPO CHICAGO's eighth edition will take place September 19 – 22, 2019, in alignment with the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020). EXPO CHICAGO presents a diverse program, including **/Dialogues** (presented in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago) and **Exchange by Northern Trust**, an unrivaled talks program for both public and VIP audiences; **IN/SITU**, dynamic on-site installations highlighting large-scale sculpture, film, and site-specific work; and major public art initiatives, including **IN/SITU Outside**, public art installed throughout Chicago Park District locations, and **OVERRIDE**, a curated selection of international artists throughout the city's digital billboard network. The EXPO CHICAGO program also features an unprecedented commitment to host curatorial initiatives during the exposition, including the **Curatorial Forum** in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI), and the **Curatorial Exchange**, which partners with international consulates to expand the exposition's global outreach. EXPO CHICAGO is the publisher of **THE SEEN**, Chicago's only international journal of contemporary and modern art criticism, online and in print.

EXPO CHICAGO is presented by Art Expositions, LLC. Under the leadership of President and Director **Tony Karman**, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts community and inspiring its collector base. For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (September 16 – 22, 2019) visit expochicago.com.

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