

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

NEWS

211 Mesa Arts Building
Irvine, California 92697-2775

MEDIA CONTACT: Jaime DeJong, (949) 824-2189, idejong@uci.edu

UC IRVINE'S CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS "THE WARPLANDS" SOLO EXHIBITION FEATURING THE LATEST WORK BY CAULEEN SMITH

IRVINE, Calif. (December 20, 2016) -- The University Art Gallery (UAG) at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts is proud to present *The Warplands*, Cauleen Smith. The solo exhibition will open Saturday, January 14, 2017 with a reception open to the public from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and will exhibit through Saturday, March 25, 2017.

How – right now, today – can we care for U.S. everyday social life? This exhibition combines two areas of recent work by filmmaker Cauleen Smith. A film drawn from Smith's research on the influence of the music and life of Alice Coltrane (1937-2007), with recordings from signal Coltrane compositions, joins three works drawn from an area of Smith's work best described as activist response, a multiplicity of work rooted in Chicago, where Smith has lived since 2011. These works differ in their effects, taking on the locations (public, the street, the worldwide web) and functions of activism (being loud, using your body, making informal networks for self-education and information dissemination). These include *LESSONS IN SEMAPHORE* (2013), a digitized 16mm film and *HUMAN_3.0 READING LIST* (2016), an iPhone film of Smith's essential readings as drawings. Smith's *GWENDOLYN BROOKS BANNERS* for *The Black Love Procession: Conduct Your Blooming* (2016) took a part of a poem by Gwendolyn Brooks and mobilized it as a renegade procession that took place in Bronzeville, a historically black neighborhood. This procession responded to a controversial exhibition by an artist whose work about the death of Michael Brown was presented at a gallery in Bronzeville.

Smith was awarded the 2016 Alpert Award in visual art and was the first recipient of The Ellsworth Kelly Award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, given to the artist for *Give It Or Leave It*, a solo exhibition linked to *The Warplands* through research and a book. *Give It Or Leave It* is forthcoming at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania in 2018.

Smith is known for a group of influential films and videos, moving image installations and objects with connections to experimental film and third world cinema, structuralism and science fiction. A California native, Smith was born in Riverside, grew up in Sacramento and was educated at San Francisco State University (BA) and the University of California, Los Angeles (MFA, Film). Recent films, such as *Crow Requiem* and *The Way Out Is the Way To*, move between Smith's active study of multiple sources and archives (avant-garde, African-American histories and improvisational



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music), and Smith's personal and political response to recent and ongoing violence against people of color at the hands of the state.

This exhibition is curated by Rhea Anastas and presented in the Contemporary Arts Center Gallery.

As UCI's creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit <http://uag.arts.uci.edu/>.

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THE WARPLANDS, CAULEEN SMITH

Fact Sheet

Exhibition:

The Warplands, Cauleen Smith

Curated by Rhea Anastas

January 14 – March 25, 2017

Opening Reception: Jan. 14, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location:

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Contemporary Arts Center Gallery

Description:

How – right now, today – can we care for U.S. everyday social life? This exhibition combines two areas of recent work by filmmaker Cauleen Smith. A film drawn from Smith's research on the influence of the music and life of Alice Coltrane (1937-2007), with recordings from signal Coltrane compositions, joins three works drawn from an area of Smith's work best described as activist response, a multiplicity of work rooted in Chicago, where Smith has lived since 2011.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Free Admission. Public is Welcome

Parking:

Mesa Parking Structure, 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

More Info:

www.arts.uci.edu

<http://uag.arts.uci.edu/exhibit/warplands-cauleen-smith>

Note to editors:

Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from

[Google Drive](#)

(key to images attached)



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About the Curator and Artist

Anastas Bio:

Rhea Anastas is an art historian who teaches in the Department of Art at the University of California, Irvine, and is one of the founding members of Orchard, an artist-run gallery on New York's lower east side with a predetermined life span of three years (2005-2008).

Smith Bio:

Cauleen Smith (born Riverside, California, 1967) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work reflects upon the everyday possibilities of the imagination. Operating in multiple materials and arenas, Smith roots her work firmly within the discourse of mid-twentieth-century experimental film. Drawing from structuralism, third world cinema, and science fiction, she makes things that deploy the tactics of these disciplines while offering a phenomenological experience for spectators and participants.

Her films, objects, and installations have been featured in group exhibitions at the Studio Museum of Harlem; the Contemporary Art Museum Houston; Yerba Buena Center for Art; the New Museum, New York; D21 Leipzig and Decad, Berlin. She has had solo shows for her films and installations at The Kitchen, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and Threewalls, Chicago. Upcoming, Smith will be included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial and will have a solo exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago (2017) and the ICA Philadelphia (2018). She is represented by Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago and Kate Werble Gallery, New York. Smith is the recipient of several grants and awards including the inaugural Ellsworth Kelly Award from the Foundation for Contemporary Art in 2016, the 2016 Herb Alpert Award for Film/Video, Rockefeller Media Arts Award, Creative Capital Film /Video, Chicago 3Arts Grant, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Artadia, and a Rauschenberg Residency in 2015.

Smith was born in Riverside, California and grew up in Sacramento. Smith earned a B.A in Cinema from San Francisco State University in 1991 and an M.F.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1998. Smith studied with Trinh T. Minh Ha, Angela Davis, and Lynn Hershman-Gleeson at San Francisco State University. She attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2007. Smith lives in Chicago and is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Illinois, Chicago.



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University Art Gallery, Claire Trevor School of the Arts
The Warplands, Cauleen Smith
Curated by Rhea Anastas

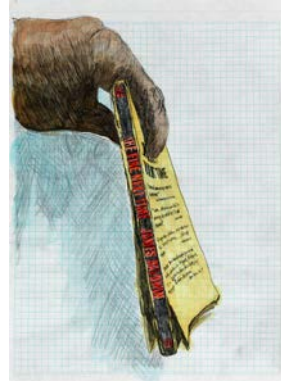
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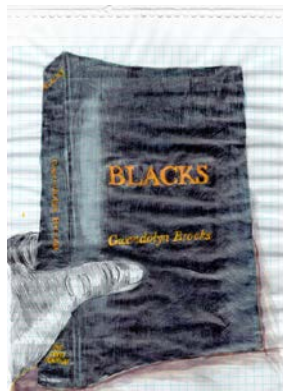
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1. Cauleen Smith, *Processional Declaration*, 2015.
(Courtesy Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago and Kate Werble Gallery, New York.)
2. Cauleen Smith, *Black Love Procession: Conduct your Blooming*. Bronzeville, Chicago, September 5, 2015.
(Courtesy Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago and Kate Werble Gallery, New York.)
3. Cauleen Smith, *The Fire Next Time*, 2015, graphite, watercolor on paper, 12 x 8 1/2 in.
4. Cauleen Smith, *Blacks*, 2015, graphite, watercolor and acrylic on paper, 12 x 8 1/2 in.
(Courtesy Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago and Kate Werble Gallery, New York.)
5. Cauleen Smith, *The Black Interior*, 2015, graphite and watercolor on paper 12 x 8 1/2 in.
(Courtesy Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago and Kate Werble Gallery, New York.)

The images are approved only for publication in conjunction with promotion of the exhibition ***The Warplands***. Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing.

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