

INFORMATION

CURATOR BIOGRAPHIES:

WASSAN AL-KHUDHAIRI, CURATOR, FOCUS

Wassan Al-Khudhairi is the Chief Curator at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, where she has organized *Derek Fordjour: SHELTER*, *Stephanie Syjuco: Rogue States*, *Bethany Collins: Chorus*, *Paul Mpagi Sepuya*, *Lawrence Abu Hamdan: Eartwitness Theatre*, *Guan Xiao: Fiction Archive Project*, *Hayv Kahraman: Acts of Reparation*, *Trenton Doyle Hancock: The Re-Evolving Door to the Moundverse* and *SUPERFLEX: European Union Mayotte*. Prior to her position at CAM, Al-Khudhairi was the Hugh Kaul Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art where she organized the first large-scale exhibition of the museum's contemporary collection, *Third Space / shifting conversations about contemporary art* and the accompanying publication which received the 2019 AAMC Curatorial Award for Excellence. She was invited to be a Curator for the 6th Asian Art Biennial in Taiwan in 2017 and Co-Artistic Director for 9th Gwangju Biennial in South Korea in 2012. Serving as the Founding Director of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Qatar, Al-Khudhairi oversaw the opening of the Museum in 2010 and co-curated *Sajjil: A Century of Modern Art* and curated *Cai Guo-Qiang: Saraab*. In 2020, Art Table awarded Al-Khudhairi the New Leadership Award.

VALERIE CASSEL OLIVER, CHAIR, CURATORIAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Valerie Cassel Oliver is the Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Prior to her position at the VMFA, she was Senior Curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston where worked from 2000 - 2017. She has served as director of the Visiting Artist Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1995-2000) and a program specialist at the National Endowment for the Arts (1988-1995). In 2000 she was one of six curators selected to organize the Biennial for the Whitney Museum of American Art.

During her tenure at the CAMH, Cassel Oliver organized numerous exhibitions including the acclaimed *Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970* (2005); *Cinema Remixed & Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image Since 1970* with Dr. Andrea Barnwell Brownlee (2009); a major retrospective on Benjamin Patterson, *Born in the State of Flux/us* (2010) and *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* (2012). She has also mounted significant survey exhibitions for Donald Moffett, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Jennie C. Jones, Angel Otero and Annabeth Rosen.

Her 2018 debut exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was a 50-year survey of work by Howardena Pindell entitled *Howardena Pindell: What Remains to be Seen*. The exhibition co-organized with Naomi Beckwith, the Manilow Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, was named one of the most influential of the decade. Most recently, Cassel Oliver organized the exhibition, *Cosmologies from the Tree of Life* that featured over thirty newly acquired works from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation. She is currently developing the group exhibition, *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture and the Sonic Impulse*, scheduled to open at the VMFA May, 2021.

Cassel Oliver is the recipient of a Getty Curatorial Research Fellowship (2007); the High Museum of Art's David C. Driskell Award (2011); the Arthur and Carol Kaufman Goldberg Foundation-to-Life Fellowship at Hunter College (2016) and the James A. Porter Book Award from Howard University (2018). From 2016-17,

she was a Senior Fellow in Curatorial Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and, in Spring, 2020 she participated in the University of Texas at Austin's View Points series with Hamza Walker.

Cassel Oliver holds a M.A. in art history from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and, B.S. in communications from the University of Texas at Austin.

CLAUDIA SCHMUCKLI, CURATOR, PLATFORM

Claudia Schmuckli is the inaugural Curator-in-Charge of Contemporary Art and Programming at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Since joining in the fall of 2016, she has developed a dynamic program of exhibitions, commissions, and acquisitions in dialogue with the institution's sites, buildings, and collections in view of a self-critical reassessment of the Museums' histories and identities.

Most recently she curated *Specters of Disruption*, an exhibition drawn from the Museums' Collections connecting the geological and colonial underpinnings of the de Young Museum to the current conditions in Northern California, and *Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI*, the first major museum exhibition in the United States to reflect on the political and philosophical stakes of artificial intelligence from an artistic perspective. Forthcoming exhibitions in 2021 include *Wangechi Mutu: I am Speaking, Are You Listening?* at the Legion of Honor and *Judy Chicago: A Retrospective* at the de Young in August 2021. Other projects include interventions at the Legion of Honor by Alexandre Singh, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Sarah Lucas and Urs Fischer, and projects by Lisa Reihana, Leonardo Drew, Ranu Mukherjee, Matt Mullican, and DIS at the de Young.

Previously, Schmuckli was Director and Chief Curator of the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston, where she organized over thirty exhibitions including solo shows dedicated to The Propeller Group, Matthew Ronay, Analia Saban, Slavs and Tatars, Candice Breitz, Tony Feher, Johan Grimontprez, Gabriel Kuri, Chantal Akerman, and Amy Sillman among many others. Schmuckli began her career in New York as a Curatorial Assistant at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and an Assistant Curator at the Museum of Modern Art. She is a Swiss citizen and holds a Master of Arts degree in art history from the Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany.