

BMOCA



Fall 2020 Present Box

Christina Battle: Notes to Self October 8 - October 25, 2020

Guest curated by
Rose van Mierlo

Christina Battle: Notes to Self

Christina Battle's practice looks at the role of the micro-gesture in order to consider how small, intimate actions might collectively foster change on a societal level. In light of the US 2020 centennial celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment, as well as the 2020 presidential election, this exhibition questions why and how our contemporary framing of elections manifest in a sense of political disengagement. Once we cast our votes, our consideration of how personal responsibility affects the greater collective often ends. Instead, Battle explores what political responsibility means by expanding our awareness of the micro-gesture. Her project seeks to slow down time; to think about conversation as a two-directional responsibility; and to ask how small actions have power to influence change on a larger scale. In doing so, Battle asks us to collectively imagine different futures: futures that are more diverse, more just, and more progressive.

In *Notes to Self*, a longstanding project that engages with the online poetics of Twitter, Battle asks for an offline engagement with how we sense, feel, and understand proximity, encouraging a collective visualization of how "the view from here" might one day be different. In *Exercises in Trust*, an online project commissioned especially for the exhibition, Battle explores participation, performance and the power of repetitive action in the form of prompts that can be acted out at home. These simple instructions help us engage with the intimate and the personal in ways that transform the notion of responsibility, challenge individual experience, and consider how small micro-gestures might in turn inform collective action. *Whisper*, printed on the gallery wall, encourages audiences to perform a micro-gesture in the gallery space, asking us: "What does care look like?"



EXERCISES IN TRUST

Above Image: Christina Battle, *Exercises in Trust* (detail), 2020, animated GIFs and online participatory performance. Courtesy of the artist. Cover Image: Christina Battle, *Notes to Self* (detail), 2014-ongoing, video still. Courtesy of the artist.



Christina Battle, *Exercises in Trust* (detail), 2020, animated GIFs and online participatory performance. Courtesy of the artist.

Artist and Curator Biographies

Christina Battle (Edmonton, Canada) considers the parameters of disaster in her research and artwork. She looks to disaster as action, as more than mere event, and as a framework operating within larger systems of power. Battle's research explores how disaster could be utilized as a tactic for social change and as a tool for reimagining how dominant systems might radically shift. She has a BS in Environmental Biology from the University of Alberta, a certificate in Film Studies from Ryerson University, an MFA from San Francisco Art Institute, and a PhD in Art & Visual Culture from the University of Western Ontario. Battle has exhibited internationally, most recently at Latitude 53 (Edmonton), Capture Photography Festival (Vancouver), Forum Expanded at the Berlinale (Berlin), Untitled Art Society (Calgary), 8-11 (Toronto), Galveston Artist Residency (Texas), Studio XX (Montreal), Casa Maaud (Mexico City), and SOMArts (San Francisco).

Rose van Mierlo is an independent international critic, curator, and lecturer working between the United Kingdom, United States, India, and the Netherlands.

She was a Critical Writing Fellow at Lokaal 01 (Belgium, 2011), and a post-academic fellow at DNA/GEMAK (the Netherlands, 2011). After completing a MA in Contemporary Art Theory at Goldsmiths (University of London, 2015), she was appointed as the Curator of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the Swiss Cottage Gallery (London, 2017). She is currently a director of the SquareWorks:Lab Fellowship in Mumbai and a part-time lecturer in critical art theory.

Van Mierlo has curated emerging and established international artists, such as Ronny Sen, Rithika Merchant, and Soghra Khurasani (*This burning land belongs to you*, 2017); Katarina Hruskova (*The Waning Yolk*, 2018); Caitlin Griffiths (*While we belong to ourselves, a part of us belongs to everyone*, 2018); and Tash Kahn and John Ros (*Citizen*, 2018) and has commissioned public art projects by Claudette Johnson, Sutapa Biswas, Elly Clarke, Ingrid Pollard, and Liz Hingley.

List of Works by Christina Battle *(All works are courtesy of the artist.)*

Notes to Self, 2014-ongoing, looped video.

Exercises in Trust, 2020, animated GIFs and online participatory performance.

Whisper, 2020, vinyl wall text.

Present Box is a series of temporary exhibitions that invite artists to transform BMOCA's lobby and front entrance into innovative installations, performances, and events that last less than a month. Presented two times per year, the site-specific projects are intended to encourage artists to create work outside their comfort zone and to foster interactive participation. The exhibitions encourage experimentation and urge artists to test ideas and explore different approaches. Present Box exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

BMOCA's 2020 Exploration on Themes Surrounding the Passage of the 19th Amendment
In 2020 to commemorate the centennial of women being guaranteed the right to vote in the United States, BMOCA will be bringing three contemporary women artists to reflect on the complexities of being a woman in our democracy today. A hundred years since the vote was won, the relation between gender and equality is still being negotiated daily. What does it mean to have a vote? To be a body? To use your voice?

In addition to Christina Battle, the artists who have exhibited work exploring the themes of women's voice in our society today include Nyeema Morgan and Candice Davis. Morgan's exhibition is currently open in the Union Works Gallery, and Davis' closed on March 22. Additional details on these exhibitions can be found at bmoqa.org.

Present Box Events

Virtual Opening Reception

October 8, 6 - 8pm

Free

Current Exhibitions

John Torreano: The Big Picture - Painting From The Universe

September 3 - January 17, 2021

Guest curated by Julie Augur

Nyeema Morgan: THE STEM. THE FLOWER. THE ROOT. THE SEED.

September 3 - January 17, 2021

Guest curated by Rose van Mierlo

InsideOut

Steven Frost: Helen & Alice at the Museum

February 6 - December 31, 2020

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Flash Photography Not Permitted

Boulder Museum of
Contemporary Art

BMOCA

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