

BMOCA

ABOUT THE
MPTRESS.

ABOUT THE
NED MAIDEN
OUT OF SERVI-

ABOUT THE GIRL
RIED THE SKY

ABOUT THE
MAN WHO
MAN.

ABOUT THE
RELENTLESSLY
UNTO HER UN-
LATH.

ABOUT THE
GODDESS OF

ABOUT THE
GIRL'S EXISTEN-
CE IN THE
ENOCIDAL

THE ONE ABOUT THE
IMPRISONED BEAUTY
WITH LONG HAIR.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
WOMAN'S NOBLE HERI-
TAGE VERIFIED BY HER
DELICATE SENSIBILITY.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
PALLID, VIRGIN QUEEN.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
WOMAN WHOSE BABY WAS
EATEN BY A DINGO.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
ILL-FATED CHIEFTAIN'S
DAUGHTER HELD CAPTIVE
AND FORCED INTO ASSIM-
ILATION.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
ENTRANCING FEMME
FATALE.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
TRAGIC POP DIVA WHO
DIED IN A BATHTUB.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
LAUDED COMMUNIST
TURNED SOCIALIST ACTIV-
IST WANTED BY THE FBI.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
WICKED WITCH OF THE
WEST.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
JADED POP STAR WHO
HAD A PUBLIC MENTAL
BREAKDOWN.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
QUEEN BEHEADED FOR
TREASON.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
STOIC QUEEN MOTHER
WHO RULED FOR OVER
FIFTY YEARS.

THE ONE ABOUT THE GIRL
DECEIVED BY THE WOLF.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
KIDNAPPED HEIRESS WHO
JOINED A RADICAL MILI-
TANT GROUP.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
TEMPERAMENTAL FAIRIE.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
IN THE WORLD WHO
INSPIRED A WAR.

THE ONE ABOUT THE
INTREPID PILOT LOST AT
SEA.

THE ONE ABOUT THE BABY
GIRL TRAPPED IN THE
WELL THE CAPTURED THE
NATION'S ATTENTION.

THE ONE ABOUT
SALACIOUS MO
TURNED FIRST

THE ONE ABOUT
GIRL AND THE
BEARS.

THE ONE ABOUT
ANTI-WAR, COM
SYMPATHIZING

THE ONE ABOUT
YOUNG, IMPASS
ENVIRONMENT
WHO INSPIRED
ATION.

THE ONE ABOUT
BENEVOLENT S
SPIRIT.

THE ONE ABOUT
NAZI SYMPATHI
FILM DIRECTOR

THE ONE ABOUT
ENCHANTED M
WHOSE CURSE
BROKEN BY A K

THE ONE ABOUT
CHARITABLE RO
CATHOLIC NUN

THE ONE ABOUT
OLD WOMAN W
IN A SHOE.

Fall Exhibition 2020

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

Guest Curated by Rose van Mierlo

September 3 – January 29, 2021

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

This is the second of three exhibitions presented by BMOCA in 2020 to commemorate the centennial of women being guaranteed the right to vote in the United States. BMOCA will exhibit work by three contemporary women artists who reflect on the complexities of being a woman in our democracy today. A hundred years have passed since the vote was won, and 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 her solo-exhibition THE STEM. THE FLOWER. THE ROOT. THE SEED., Chicago-based artist Nyeema Morgan poetically reflects on the articulation of 21st-century dichotomies of gender and power: objectivity and subjectivity, agency and powerlessness, offense and defense. Through sculpture, drawing, and other media, Morgan traces femininity as a complex process of categorization and identification—constantly affected by sexual, cultural, and political pressures.

Anchoring the exhibition of mixed-media works is a sculptural installation of the same name: an arrangement of cast arms and hands of various self-identifying women, emerging from the gallery walls. The surfaces of the figures are unfinished, raw, exposed, unadorned, non-illusory. Their materiality makes visible a process of becoming in both a literal and figurative sense. Each sculpture holds upright, in an ambiguous gesture, a wooden rod covered with layers of seemingly bare newsprint printed, faintly, with references to fables, mythological stories, and allegorical tales about women. A gesture of aggression? A surrender? An offering perhaps?

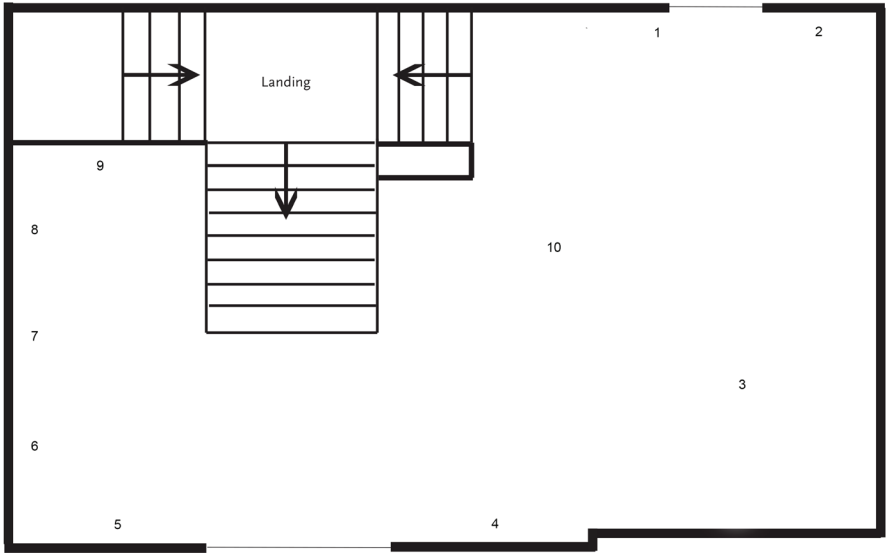
In her 2010 essay “A Thing Like You and Me,” German filmmaker Hito Steyerl explains how, in our consumerist media age, the “hero’s immortality no longer originates in the strength to survive all possible ordeals, but from its ability to be xeroxed, recycled, and reincarnated.” This idea of perseverance through image representation and reproduction, especially in an age where we serve as both author and subject of culture, contextualizes the exhibition within a larger discourse on (re)production, self-representation, and the power of narrative.

- Rose van Mierlo, Guest Curator

**Audiences are invited to take a sheet of newsprint from the exhibition. Please do not take more than one print per person and do not put prints back after touching them. If you need to, you can recycle your print at the front desk.*



Cover image: Nyeema Morgan, *The Flower* (detail), 2020, digital media. Courtesy of the artist. Above Image: Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (1964)* (detail), 2020, mixed media. Courtesy of the artist.



List of Works

- 1) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (1973-1976)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 2) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power. Hard Margins. (1964)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 3) Nyeema Morgan, *THE STEM. THE FLOWER. THE ROOT. THE SEED.*, 2020, mixed media.
- 4) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power. Hard Margins. (1975)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 5) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (1939)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 6) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (1974-1979)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 7) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (1973)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 8) Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins. (2003)*, 2020, mixed media.
- 9) Nyeema Morgan, *Like It Is: Extraordinary Women*, 2017, graphite pencil on paper.
- 10) Nyeema Morgan, *The Flower*, 2020, vinyl.



Above Image: Nyeema Morgan, *Soft Power, Hard Margins*. (1974-1979) (detail), 2020, mixed media. Courtesy of the artist.

Artist Biography

Nyeema Morgan is a Chicago based interdisciplinary artist whose works are inspired by philosophical conflicts presented in our everyday encounters with images, objects, and information. Referencing familiar artifacts like recipes, book pages, fables, and canonical artworks, Morgan reflects on personal and cultural economies of knowledge. Her conceptually layered works, ranging from large-scale drawings to sculptural installation and print based media, raise questions about how we articulate and construct meaning within a complex system of socio-political relations.

Morgan earned her BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art and her MFA from California College of the Arts. Solo and two person exhibitions include: Marlborough Contemporary, New York City, NY; Grant Wahlquist Gallery, Portland, ME; The Bindery Projects, St. Paul, MN; and Art in General, New York City, NY. Group exhibitions include: The Drawing Center, New York City, NY; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City, NY; CSS Bard Gallery, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Galerie Jean Roche Dard, Paris, France; and the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME. Her awards and residencies include: Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Program, Shandaken Projects at Storm King Art Center, a Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors grant, and an Art Matters Foundation grant. Her works have been reviewed and featured in *The New York Times*, *Time Out NY*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Art Forum*.

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.

Exhibition-related Programs

On-Site Opening Reception

September 3, 2020

5:30-6:30pm VIP/Member Preview

6:30-8:30pm Free Public Reception

The One About the Tiny Maiden: a virtual multi-panel discussion with Nyeema Morgan

October 28, 2020

4pm

A moderated discussion surrounding the theme of gender & power through politics and voting.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

John Torreano: The Big Picture - Painting From The Universe

September 3 - January 29, 2021

Guest curated by Julie Augur

Present Box

Christina Battle: Notes to Self

October 8 - October 25, 2020

Guest curated by Rose van Mierlo

InsideOut

Steven Frost: Helen & Alice at the Museum

February 6, 2020 - March 15, 2021

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Please Do Not Touch Works of Art

Flash Photography Not Permitted

BMoCA

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Contemporary Art

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