



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 19, 2006

**NEWS RELEASE**



top: Kanishka Raja, *The Dissolution of the Prepublic* (Version 2) [detail], 2005, Oil paint, mixed media on canvas over five wood panels, 80 x 176 inches. Courtesy of envoy, New York

bottom: Kara Walker, *Emancipated and On Tour*, 2000, Cut paper and projection on wall, 9 x 11 inches. Courtesy of Sikkema Jenkins & Co.

# FABLES

SEPTEMBER 9–DECEMBER 17, 2006

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTISTS CHRISTOPHER MYERS AND WANDA RAIMUNDI-ORTIZ, AND NAOMI BECKWITH, 2005–2006 ICA WHITNEY LAUDER CURATORIAL FELLOW

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 5–6PM, ICA MEMBERS ONLY

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 6-8PM

## PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present “Fables,” a group show of artists who have either fabricated personal histories, or reconsidered history through their own fanciful imaginings, in order to break free of the very conditions of historic and cultural narrative. “Fables” is on view September 9 – December 17, 2006 in the Project Space at ICA.

This exhibition brings together works that project particular social subjects – the artist, the immigrant, the person of color – in narratives shaped by conceptual practices. The urge to tell a story merges with the desire to dismantle one in works that represent a range of media. For example, Kara Walker’s silhouettes portray psycho-sexual fantasies about antebellum America and Bronx-based Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz’s drawings explore her Puerto Rican heritage through pop-cultural heroes.

“Fables” will include established and emerging artists of color living and working in the United States. Their practices encompass a variety of media that are operating within a conceptual art framework. Artists include: Kara Walker (b. 1969, Stockton, CA) who revived the 19th century silhouette cutout tradition to explore race and sexuality; Kanishka Raja (b. 1969, Kolkata, India), whose drawings and paintings of architectural interiors combine complex styles and complicated perspectival lines; Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz (b. 1973, lives and works in the Bronx ) whose works focus on her Puerto Rican heritage and the place of Latinas in North American society; and Christopher Myers (b. 1974, New York City) whose works on 19th-century circus and fair “freaks” explore the construction of mythical identities through public display.

Whether by invoking social history or deploying science (witness the current commercial surge in genealogical DNA testing), people have a desire to create a narrative that accounts for their past and perhaps sheds light on their present. “Fables” exemplifies how some artists work through that desire while underscoring prominent trends in contemporary thought, not exclusively recent art: the critical use of narrative, the role of fantasy, the creation of fictitious personae, and engagement with “post-identity” politics in conceptual art practice.

This exhibition is organized by Naomi Beckwith, the 2005–06 ICA Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow. The exhibition will be accompanied by a brochure publication with a text by the curator.

## CONTACT

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\*Images available upon request

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

ICA is located at:

118 South 36th Street at the University of Pennsylvania.

ICA is open to the public, except during installation, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA members, children 12 and under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org).

## **INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

ICA ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE HORACE W. GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, THE DIETRICH FOUNDATION INC., THE OVERSEERS BOARD FOR THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF ICA, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. ICA IS ALSO GRATEFUL FOR IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM LOEWS PHILADELPHIA HOTEL. (INFORMATION COMPLETE AS OF 7/12/06.)

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, [WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG](http://WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG), FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "FABLES."**