

Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE



ICA BENEFIT 2017

MARCH 6, 2017

This year's gala, to be held on April 6, 2018, is a celebration of performance, improvisation, and collectivity inspired by the myriad artists and musicians who have passed through ICA's doors during this season's exhibitions *The Freedom Principle* and *Endless Shout*.

ICA is proud to honor Hilton Als, Chief Theatre Critic at *The New Yorker*, who is also a curator, photographer, director and professor. Als's work gracefully slips between genres with profound cultural and psychological illuminations on what it means to be human. In various forms and with a range of methods, Als navigates the complex terrain of art, music, sexuality, and race with humor as well as rigorous study and engagement; his voice emerges as one of the clearest and most incisive of our time.

Als's first book, *The Women*, a meditation on gender, race, and identity, was published in 1996. His most recent book, *White Girls*, follows similar lines of inquiry, exploring various narratives of race and gender; it was nominated for a 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. Als has taught at Wesleyan, Wellesley, Smith, and the Yale School of Drama, and his work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Believer*, and *The New York Review of Books*. He lives in New York City. Als served as co-curator for ICA's 2015 exhibition *Christopher Knowles: In a Word* and as a contributing artist in the group show *White Petals Surround Your Yellow Heart* in 2013.

At ICA's 2017 Benefit, physical and psychic traces of the exhibitions remain in the galleries, offering guests a glimpse into the varied performances and events that activated the gallery spaces from September 2016 to the present moment. The gala provides the occasion to look back and celebrate the past six months of robust programming and exhibitions at ICA, as well as to raise a glass to ICA's immediate and long-term futures.

Glenn Ligon has generously donated a limited edition print, *Some Circled, Some Not*, available to all Golden Muse and Muse subscribers. The artist's 1998 ICA exhibition, *Glenn Ligon: Unbecoming*, was an extensive and highly focused selection of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and installations exploring complexities of race, gender, and sexuality.

For more than fifty years, ICA has been a world-leading contemporary art museum committed to supporting the work of emerging and under-recognized artists: art that urgently needs to be seen. It is crucial to ICA's artist-centered mission to seek work that illuminates our contemporary moment and challenges us to think in new ways. Support for the spring gala helps to ensure thousands of people continue to have free, transformative encounters with trailblazing art.

ICA thanks our Silver Vision Sponsor, Garces Events.

ICA Benefit 2017 Save the Date.
Design by Other Means.



Glenn Ligon, *Some Circled, Some Not*, 2016. Courtesy the artist.

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