Institute of Contemporary Art
University of Pennsylvania

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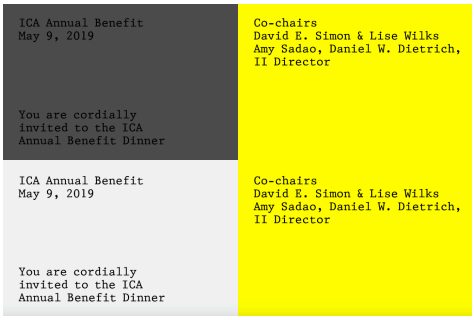
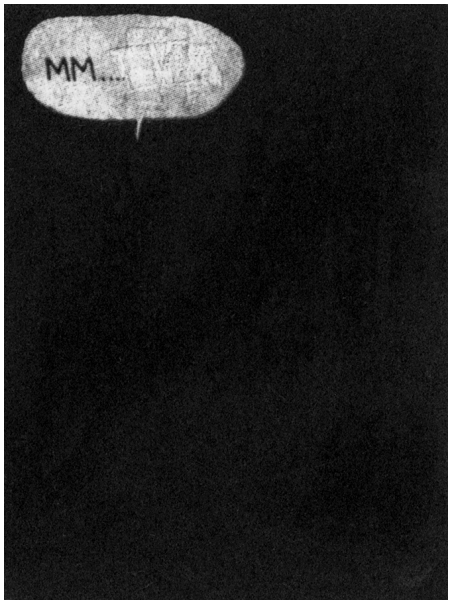
NEWS RELEASE



ICA Benefit 2019. Design by Other Means.



Tony Lewis, *MM...*, 2018, 3 color lithograph, 2 x 2 ½ inches. Papersize: 18 x 18 ½ inches. Edition of 50. Printed by Test Site Projects, Las Vegas. Courtesy of the artist.

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ICA BENEFIT 2019

May 10, 2019

ICA's 2019 gala and fundraiser, held on May 9, 2019, was an extraordinary celebration of the supporters who are championing its future, inspired by the myriad of artists who have passed through ICA's doors during the 2018/2019 season of exhibitions which included *Ree Morton: The Plant That Heals May Also Poison; Cauleen Smith: Give It or Leave It; Introducing Tony Conrad: A Retrospective; Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen; Colored People Time,* and *Deborah Anzinger: An Unlikely Birth.* For ICA's annual benefit print, an edition of 50 lithographs were generously donated by Chicago-based artist Tony Lewis.

The gala included remarks by special guests Dr. Anita Allen, Vice Provost, Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania; Amy Sadao, Daniel W. Dietrich, II Director, ICA, and Lise Wilks and David Simon, Benefit Co-Chairs. Cocktails kicked off the evening, along with a special performance by a capella group Pennchants who brought their award-winning inventive style and energy to the night. A seated dinner followed which provided the occasion to look back and celebrate the past year of robust programming and exhibitions at ICA, as well as to raise a glass to ICA's immediate and long-term futures.

Tony Lewis's limited edition print, *MM..., 2018*, was available to all Golden Muse ($10,000) and Muse ($5,000) subscribers, and is currently available for purchase on ICA's website. Lewis's work appeared in ICA's 2017 exhibition, *Speech/Acts*, a group exhibition exploring experimental black poetry and how the social and cultural constructs of language have shaped black American experiences.

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 and as a non-collecting institution 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 this year's sponsors: Dock Street Brewing, Garces Events, Michter's Distillery, and The Standard Group.