

# Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

118 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
www.icaphila.org

## NEWS RELEASE



Linda Goode Bryant. Photo by Oresti Tsonopoulos.

## ICA Announces Linda Goode Bryant as 2021-2022 Sachs Guest Curator

JUNE 25, 2021

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce visionary artist, writer, filmmaker, and activist Linda Goode Bryant's appointment as the 2021-2022 Katherine Sachs (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'67) Guest Curator. Goode Bryant's role will be as Artistic Director of the forthcoming initiative *RAW Académie, Session 9: Infrastructure*, an innovative collaboration between ICA and Dakar-based RAW Material Company, to be held in Philadelphia in spring 2022.

[RAW Académie](#) is a residential program for the research and study of artistic and curatorial practice and thought that is rooted in the question: "How do we learn from each other?" To stage the ninth session of its Académie to be directed by Goode Bryant, RAW will relocate its staff and organization to Philadelphia.

"Since 2017 ICA has been in dialogue with Koyo Kouoh, founding artistic director of RAW Material Company, and their team, to develop an institutional exchange between our two organizations. At the heart of the collaboration is a shared ethos of hospitality and a commitment to mutual learning," says Alex Klein, Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber

(CHE'60) Curator and co-organizer of the initiative. "As the Artistic Director of the Académie, Linda Goode Bryant proposes a session that will lay the groundwork for the creation of a new infrastructure for contemporary art. Her own visionary body of work defies easy categorization and challenges assumptions about what arts organizations should look like, how they should function, and what they can do. Working with Linda is a continuously rewarding and nourishing experience, and I cannot think of a more inspiring individual to help us to reimagine the future of the field."

### **ABOUT LINDA GOODE BRYANT**

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Linda Goode Bryant came to New York City in 1972 to attend graduate school and become involved in the arts. After working as Director of Education at the Studio Museum in Harlem, she opened Just Above Midtown, Inc. (JAM) in 1974. JAM was the first gallery to show work by African-American and other artists of color in a major gallery district. After closing the gallery in 1986, she began making experimental and documentary films in the mid-1990s.

While filming a project on voting in America, she started Active Citizen Project (ACP) to provide ways and opportunities for non-voters and disenfranchised individuals to be more active and effective in having their social, economic, environmental, and cultural priorities addressed by community, local and national leaders. In 2009, ACP's work shifted from elections to Project EATS (PE), a network of community-based small-plot production farms and programs located in communities throughout New York City where many individuals and families live on low incomes. PE has built and operated 19 farms, on approximately 5 acres of land located throughout New York City's five boroughs.

Goode Bryant is also a Guggenheim Fellow and Peabody Award recipient. Most recently, she has created new work for the group exhibition *Social Works* opening at Gagosian in New York this month. In 2022, the Museum of Modern Art will present an exhibition on Just Above Midtown.

### **ABOUT THE SACHS GUEST CURATOR PROGRAM**

Since 2007, the Sachs Guest Curator Program has enabled ICA to invite leading art world figures across varied disciplines to organize and present ambitious exhibitions

JILL KATZ  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
(215) 573-9975,  
KATZJ@ICA.UPENN.EDU  
INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-3289  
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG

GENERAL INFORMATION  
ICA IS LOCATED AT:  
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
(215) 898-7108  
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/  
ICAPHILADELPHIA  
@ICAPHILADELPHIA

ICA IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
THIS SUMMER DUE TO  
CONSTRUCTION. COME BACK  
SEPTEMBER 17 TO SEE OUR  
TRANSFORMATION. EXCITING  
THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

ICA IS ALWAYS FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF  
AMANDA AND GLENN FUHRMAN.

every three to four years—expanding and deepening engagement through connection with faculty and students on campus—to bring outside points of view to ICA.

Previous guest curators have included: **Nayland Blake** (2018); **Kara Walker** (2014); **Virgil Marti**, (2011); and **Christian Marclay** (2007) as the program's inaugural curator.

Katherine Stein Sachs (CW '69) and Keith L. Sachs (W 67') have provided major support for the arts at Penn for many years, completely transforming the landscape of arts education on campus. In 2005 they established the guest-curator program at ICA, along with a professorship in contemporary art in the department of the history of art at the University of Pennsylvania, created to develop synergy and to strengthen ties between the department and ICA.

*RAW Académie Session 9: Infrastructure* is a collaboration between Linda Goode Bryant; RAW Material Company, founded by Koyo Kouoh in 2008, currently Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art; Alex Klein, ICA Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE'60) Curator; and James Britt, ICA DAJ Director of Public Engagement; with support from Ali Mohsen, ICA Digital Content Editor.

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution that develops and presents exhibitions, commissions, events, publications, and special projects that champions new, experimental, and underrecognized artists and ideas. ICA is committed to developing research at the intersection of interdisciplinary artistic practice and creating impactful experiences through our projects that support audiences in having meaningful connections with art and artists and encourage an exchange of ideas on art and society. ICA has long centered issues of equity and inclusion and social justice as core to our mission and is committed to advocating for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the socio-political conditions of our time.