NEWS RELEASE

I is for Institute, A New Podcast from ICA Philadelphia

How Contemporary Art Organizations are Responding to Seismic Cultural Shifts of Our Moment and Reimagining the Future of Institutions

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What’s in a name? What does institutional care look like? How do institutions hold and withhold stories and shape the stories we tell? These questions and others are at the center of I is for Institute, a new podcast launching October 20, 2021 from the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania. Each episode illuminates the challenges and opportunities within arts organizations while emphasizing ways in which each responds to the seismic cultural shifts of our moment—from urgent calls for racial justice and equity to the possibilities for decolonization and increased accessibility within arts institutions.

Connecting arts leaders locally and from around the world, I is for Institute investigates and reimagines the role of arts organizations today. Guests include: Sepake Angiama, Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), London; Lulani Arquette, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) and Flint Jamison, Yale Union, Portland; Linda Goode Bryant, Project EATS, New York; Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy, Kunstinstiutut Melly, Rotterdam; and Ken Lum and Paul Farber, Monument Lab, Philadelphia, among others.

The podcast functions as a continuation of the concepts explored in I is for Institute, a project that began in 2016 which currently catalogs over 50 conversations to date, and the upcoming RAW Académie, Session 9: Infrastructure, an exhibition and experimental study program taking place at ICA in March 2022 under the artistic direction of Linda Goode Bryant in collaboration with RAW Material Company.
What initially began as a self-reflexive project and the need to think critically about ICA’s own trajectory and internal structures soon turned to face outward. I is for Institute is a collaborative project that focuses on the many individuals who are working to reimagine the structure of arts institutions. Above all, the “I” in I is for Institute acknowledges that institutions are composed of people and rooted in places.

The inaugural episode with podcast host, Alex Klein, ICA’s Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE ’60) Curator, alongside co-interviewers, focuses on process with Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director of Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), London, and Gee Wesley, ICA Spiegel-Wilks Curatorial Fellow (2014 - 2017). Angiama draws on her background as a curator and educator to reflect on the shifting definition of the global and how contemporary art institutions can play a role in reorienting the ways that knowledge is produced and how learning occurs.

The podcast is organized by Alex Klein, Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE ’60) Curator in collaboration with James E. Britt Jr., former DAJ Director of Public Engagement; Derek Rigby, Audio/Visual Coordinator; Natalie Sandstrom, former Program Coordinator; Jill Katz, Director of Marketing & Communications; Ali Mohsen, Digital Content Editor; and Tausif Noor and Gee Wesley, former Spiegel-Wilks Curatorial Fellows. Music provided by Jason Moran. An archive of previous conversations can be accessed as free, print-on-demand PDFs on iiisforinstitute.icaphila.org.

New episodes of I is for Institute are available each month at iiisforinstitute.icaphila.org/ and through the following platforms: Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, and Soundcloud.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

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 centers 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.