

# Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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www.icaphila.org

## NEWS RELEASE

ICA brings international roster of curators, faculty, and artists to Philadelphia as part of *RAW Académie at ICA*, directed by *Linda Goode Bryant*

A project of ambitious scale that reenvisionings and redefines a new infrastructure for artists and institutions opens March 16, 2022

February 21, 2022

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to present *RAW Académie at ICA Session 9: Infrastructure*, directed by *Linda Goode Bryant*, the first session of the Académie to be held outside of Dakar, Senegal. The program serves as a laboratory within ICA bringing together international perspectives around issues of arts infrastructure. This collaboration and its explorations, at once an experiment in institutional exchange, alternative pedagogy, and hospitality, align closely with ICA's commitment to evolve as an institution and to better support artists. Over the course of seven weeks at ICA, artist, writer, filmmaker and activist Linda Goode Bryant, assisted by writer Marielle Ingram, will work towards reenvisioning its possibilities. Eleven international fellows-in-residence alongside an interdisciplinary roster of visiting faculty, RAW staff Marie Hélène Pereira and Dulcie Abrahams Altass, Philadelphia arts leaders, and Penn faculty and students will be in conversation for this experiential study program to be held March 16 through April 29. The session's investigations will be shared through a series of public-facing events resulting in an exhibition that will remain on view through May 22, 2022.

Using the public art museum as both a point of connection and departure, the curriculum of the sessions will consist of presentations, visits to cultural organizations, and workshops with invited faculty.

Visiting faculty include:

- **Gudskul** (Contemporary Art Collective and Ecosystem Studies), a public learning space established in 2015 by three Jakarta-based art collectives: ruangrupa, Serrum, and Grafis Huru Hara (GHH) and part of the team behind the forthcoming Documenta 15
- Artist, filmmaker and cinematographer **Arthur Jafa**, recipient of the Golden Lion at the 2019 Venice Biennale
- Documentary filmmaker **Louis Massiah** and founder of the Scribe Video Center



Linda Goode Bryant. Photo: Oresti Tsiropoulos



Gudskul

- Curator and writer **Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung**, incoming Director of Berlin's Haus der Kulturen der Welt, and founding director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin
- Independent designer and developer **Bryant Wells** whose work operates at the intersection of cultural production and design for (and of) networks
- **Sarah Workneh**, Co-director of Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture and has worked in alternative education spaces for artists for over 20 years

RAW fellows include:

**Rehema Chachage, Ibahim Cissé, Ana Milena Garzón, Dale John Lawrence, Baptiste Manet, Moad Musbahi, Matthais Domingo Mushinski, Dani Kyengo O’Neill, Aziz Sohail, Sanaz Sohrabi, and Chantel Vorobei Thieves.**

“This collaboration with RAW Material Company is the result of several years of dialogue and dreaming together about the possibilities embedded within arts organizations and their locational identity,” said Alex Klein, ICA’s Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE’60) Curator and co-organizer of the project. “Despite the very real challenges posed by the pandemic, we have persevered in our desire to come together to imagine alternatives. We are beyond thrilled for this unparalleled opportunity to host Session 9 of RAW Académie, led by artistic director Linda Goode Bryant. I have long been an admirer of RAW’s responsive, horizontal, transgeographic approach and Goode Bryant’s inspirational model for where, how and for whom art is located. The resulting seminar, public programming, and exhibition will undoubtedly challenge our preconceptions about museums, art practice, education, community, and discourse—all of which are invaluable tools in our current moment.”

Grounded in Dakar, Senegal, 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?” For the ninth session of its Académie, RAW will relocate its staff and organization to Philadelphia.

The session’s investigations will be explored and collected over time in the ICA galleries and will be shared through a series of eight public-facing events. Audiences will be invited to follow along, engage in dialogue, and share their own needs, desires and ideas for how to create new models for the arts in and beyond institutions.

“At RAW we are thrilled to be embarking on this adventure with ICA and Linda,” says Koyo Kouoh, Founding Artistic Director of Raw Material Company, currently Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art, Cape Town. “This collaboration constitutes a meeting point for us to explore, in practice, the implications, potentials, and limits of what it means to be an infrastructure that is open, as RAW Académie and ICA enter into symbiosis with Linda as our conductor.”

“We couldn’t ask for a more fitting project than the RAW Académie residency at ICA this spring for where we are right now as an institution in the process of reenvisioning and redefining who we are and where we want to go” says ICA Director Zoë Ryan. “By bringing this project center stage within the galleries it radically opens and challenges ideas and pedagogical frameworks in a very public-facing way. We look forward to welcoming this year’s residents to Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania campus and to contributing and learning from these sessions.”

The institutional collaboration with RAW grew out of the ICA initiative *I is for Institute* (2016-present), which examines the perceptions and parameters of contemporary arts organizations as a way to create a space for dialogue about how we might reimagine them. To date the project has



Arthur Jafa



Louis Massiah



Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung

unfolded through a series of exhibition exchanges, a podcast, and over 50 conversations with curators and directors reflecting on their work within their specific institutional and local contexts. The conversations are archived online at [iisforinstitute.icaphila.org](https://iisforinstitute.icaphila.org).

**Related Public Programming:**

**Wednesday, March 16 - Arthur Jafa**

**Friday, March 18 - Opening program with Artistic Director Linda Goode Bryant, RAW Material Company and ICA Curator Alex Klein**

**Wednesday, March 23 - Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung**

**Friday, April 8 - Louis Massiah**

**Wednesday, April 13 - Gudskul**

**Friday, April 15 - Sarah Workneh**

**Wednesday, April 20 - Bryant Wells**

**Wednesday, April 27 - Closing event with Linda Goode Bryant and RAW Académie Fellows**

All events are both in-person and virtual and are free and open to the public. More information and registration details are available at [icaphila.org](https://icaphila.org).

*RAW Académie at ICA Session 9: Infrastructure* is a collaboration between Linda Goode Bryant, assisted by Marielle Ingram; RAW Material Company, founded by Koyo Kouoh in 2008; Alex Klein, ICA's Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE'60) Curator; with the support of many ICA staff across departments. *I is for Institute* is organized by Alex Klein with Tausif Noor and Gee Wesley, former Spiegel-Wilks Curatorial Fellows.

ICA gratefully acknowledges support from the Katherine (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'67) Guest Curator Program. *RAW Académie at ICA Session 9: Infrastructure* is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by Toby Devan Lewis. Programming support is provided by the Sachs Contemporary Art Fund. Additional support has been provided by Linda & Jeffrey Chodorow, Stacey & Benjamin Frost, Marjorie & Michael Levine, Christina Weiss Lurie, B.Z. & Michael Schwartz, Lori & John Reinsberg, Dorothy & Stephen Weber, and Susan J. Weiler. Design for *RAW Académie at ICA Session 9: Infrastructure* is by Other Means, rooted in RAW Académie's visual identity conceptualized by Rasmus Koch Studio.

**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 five acres of land located throughout New York City's five boroughs.



Bryant Wells



Sarah Workneh



RAW Material Company



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ICA IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
FOR INSTALLATION. WE WILL REOPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC WITH OUR SPRING 2022  
PROGRAM ON MARCH 16.

ICA IS ALWAYS FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF  
AMANDA AND GLENN FUHRMAN.

Goode Bryant is also a Guggenheim Fellow and Peabody Award recipient. Most recently, she created new work for the group exhibition “Social Works” which opened at Gagosian in New York in June 2021. In fall 2022, the Museum of Modern Art will present “Just Above Midtown: 1974 to the Present” an exhibition on the gallery.

#### ABOUT RAW MATERIAL COMPANY

RAW Material Company is a center for art, knowledge and society. It is an initiative involved with curatorial practice, artistic education, residencies, knowledge production, and archiving of theory and criticism on art. It works to foster appreciation and growth of artistic and intellectual creativity in Africa. The program is trans-disciplinary and is equally informed by literature, film, architecture, politics, fashion, cuisine and diaspora.

RAW Académie is an experimental residential program for the research and study of artistic and curatorial practice and thought. The program usually takes place over seven weeks in Dakar. It is dedicated to a dynamic reflection on artistic research, curatorial practice and critical writing. The Académie is held during two distinct sessions per year. Each session is directed by a lead faculty who has displayed an off-the-beaten-track practice in regard to art, curating and art criticism.

#### ABOUT ALEX KLEIN

Alex Klein is the Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber (CHE’60) Curator at ICA where she has organized numerous exhibitions since 2011, including *Trevor Shimizu: Performance Artist* (2020); *Michelle Lopez: Ballast & Barricades* (2019); *Suki Seokyeong Kang: Black Mat Oriole* (2018); *Nathalie Du Pasquier: BIG OBJECTS NOT ALWAYS SILENT* (2017) co-organized with the Kunsthalle Wien; *Myths of the Marble* (2017) co-organized with the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Norway (HOK), and *Barbara Kasten: Stages* (2015). Her collaborative research initiative, *I is for Institute* (2016 - present) invites individuals working within arts organizations to imagine other models as a way to enact structural change within arts institutions. The project includes a website, podcast, and exhibition exchanges with the Kunsthalle Lissabon in Portugal and RAW Material Company in Senegal. In addition to her role at ICA, she has published and lectured widely.

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

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia was founded to champion new and underrecognized artists and ideas. That same spirit of experimentation and possibility continues to guide our work today. ICA has for almost 60 years been the region’s premier hub of contemporary art. We develop projects at the intersection of interdisciplinary artistic practice that encourage an exchange of ideas on art and society. Through exhibitions, commissions, events, publications, and special projects we support international and local artists across disciplines in making ambitious projects and furthering new directions in their practices and in the field. We are committed to our audiences having access to impactful experiences and supporting meaningful connections with art and artists. Issues of equity, inclusion and social justice are core to our mission and we advocate for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the socio-political conditions of our time. Located within the University of Pennsylvania, we share the university’s history and commitment to experimental research and discovery and believe in supporting the next generation of imaginative and creative thinkers through student-led projects, career development opportunities, and collaborations across fields of inquiry at Penn and beyond. We care about building relationships with our community that contribute to and strengthen the cultural life of the University of Pennsylvania and our city.