

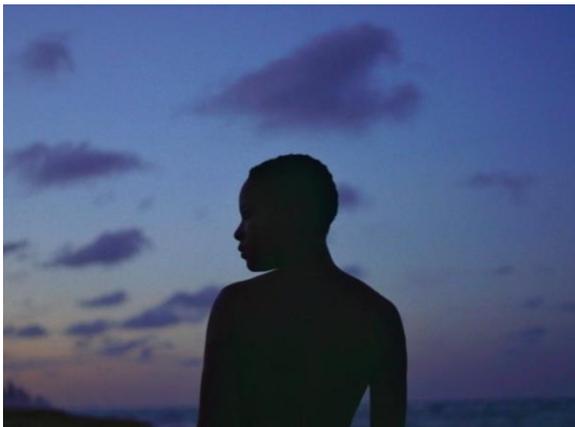
Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

118 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 898-7108, icaphila.org

First U.S. Solo Museum Exhibitions of Terence Nance and Carolyn Lazard Open at ICA in March 2023

Terence Nance: Swarm Charts Trajectory of the Artist's Interdisciplinary Film Work Through
Presentation of Six Multimedia Installations

Carolyn Lazard: Long Take Engages Legacy of Dance Film Through Lens of Accessibility In
Multi-Channel Video and Installation Work



L: Terence Nance's *Swimming in Your Skin Again* (still), 2015, which will be on view as part of the artist's solo exhibition at ICA. R: Carolyn Lazard's *Leans, Reverses* (still), 2022, (A pitch black background. Centered in the bottom third of the image are white captions that read, "Pause. Tip toe arrival", a multichannel work that anchors *Long Take*).

Philadelphia, PA (December 6, 2022)—The spring season at the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (ICA) will present the first U.S. solo museum exhibitions of **Terence Nance** and **Carolyn Lazard**, two contemporary artists whose creative practices extend to include time-based work. Co-organized with BlackStar Projects, *Terence Nance: Swarm* spans Nance's career as a filmmaker, writer, actor, and musician through the presentation of six large-scale, multi-channel videos and installations that the artist has reimagined specifically for the exhibition. Opening concurrently, and co-commissioned with the Walker Art Center and Nottingham Contemporary, *Carolyn Lazard: Long Take* explores the social and aesthetic dimensions of accessibility through documentation and performance.

On view from March 10 through July 9, 2023, the two exhibitions build upon ICA's history of providing a platform for ascendant, accomplished artists who spark dialogues on key contemporary issues. "ICA has a longstanding reputation of identifying and supporting rising talents who challenge audiences to think in new ways, and this season's artists are no exception. Terence Nance and Carolyn Lazard are at the forefront of a new generation of creatives, who are boldly exploring difficult and important issues in profoundly personal ways," said Zoë Ryan, Daniel W. Dietrich, II Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania. "It is especially rewarding to be collaborating with exhibition curators Maori Karmael Holmes and Meg Onli, both of whom are ICA alums and are intimately familiar with our program and vision."

Terence Nance: Swarm is curated by Maori Karmael Holmes, who served as Director of Public Engagement at ICA from 2016 through 2018, and currently serves as the chief executive and artistic officer of BlackStar Projects, the Philadelphia-based nonprofit dedicated to uplifting Black, Brown, and Indigenous film and media artists. *Carolyn Lazard: Long Take* is co-curated by Meg Onli, who served as Andrea B. Laporte Associate Curator at ICA from 2016 through 2021 and currently is the co-curator of the 2024 Whitney Biennial.

Terence Nance: Swarm

Terence Nance: Swarm is the first solo exhibition from filmmaker, writer, actor, and musician Terence Nance (b. 1982), known for such works as *Random Acts of Flyness*—the Peabody Award-winning HBO series examining contemporary Black life in America that premiered at the BlackStar Film Festival in 2018—as well as the semi-animated feature film *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty*.

The exhibition opens with *Swimming in Your Skin Again*, a short film from 2015 celebrating the coming of age through dance- and movement-based works, scored by the artist's brother and musician Norvis Junior. A curtain formed by the words "Black Matter" in ultra-black resin separates the exhibition, ushering audiences to pass through newly commissioned and never-before-seen *Can't Tell These Kids Nothing*, a two-channel installation featuring a video of poet Fred Moten and Nance's mother Vickie Washington. The next room opens to 2016 short film *Univittellin*, a multi-channel projection presented within a recreated bedroom. A star-crossed romantic tragedy—with a touch of the uncanny—the short film unfolds on the streets of Marseille, France. Following *Univittellin*, visitors experience *From the Void*, a linear television station broadcast by Ummah Chroma, MVMT, and Telfar. The oval projection screen will show video from Nance's *Random Acts of Flyness*, TELFAR.TV, and *From the Void*. The exhibition concludes in a listening room where audiences experience Nance's debut album, *V O R T E X*.

"This exhibition will be the first opportunity to revisit and reimagine the beauty and complexities of an artist who has been experimenting with the boundaries of cinematic form for a decade. ICA's recognition of Nance's immense contributions to the lineage of stories from the Black radical imagination provides an amazing opportunity to experience Nance's universe in a complex and physical manner, and includes the ways his work continues to evolve in the never-before-seen commission *Can't Tell These Kids Nothing*," said curator Maori Karmael Holmes.

Terence Nance: Swarm is curated by Maori Karmael Holmes and co-organized and presented by BlackStar Projects and the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania. Major support for *Terence Nance: Swarm* has been provided by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. This project is also generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support has been provided by

Danielle Anderman, Dorothy & Martin Bandier, Stacey & Benjamin Frost, Christina Weiss Lurie, Lori & John Reinsberg, and Stephanie & David Simon.

Carolyn Lazard: Long Take

Carolyn Lazard: Long Take marks the first US solo museum presentation of artist and writer Carolyn Lazard (b. 1987). A Philadelphia-raised artist and University of Pennsylvania alum, Lazard works across disciplines and mediums. Their work explores the politics and aesthetics of care under capitalism, centering dependency as a site of abundance and collectivity. In their practice, Lazard questions the way society values efficiency and ability over life itself. Their practice privileges the often-forgotten networks of care, labor, and friendship that make collaborative endeavors possible.

Long Take consists of an immersive multi-channel video and sound work. The space is anchored by four sculptures that reimagine existing ICA seating for media viewing. Harkening back to ICA's 2009 exhibition, *Dance With Camera*, Lazard utilizes the ICA gallery space to ask us to consider where and in what form an artwork resides and why sight has been privileged in the spectatorship of dance.

"Carolyn and I have been longtime collaborators and interlocutors and I have immense respect for their artistic process. They have had a major impact on the field and also have shaped my practice as a curator personally. Their work in my 2019 exhibition *Colored People Time* continues to model how artwork can be in service to restorative practices. I'm excited for their work to be showcased back in Philadelphia, where we both have deep roots," said Meg Onli, curator of *Carolyn Lazard: Long Take*.

Carolyn Lazard: Long Take is curated by Meg Onli and is co-commissioned by the Walker Art Center; the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania; and Nottingham Contemporary. The exhibition debuted in February at the Walker and will tour at Nottingham Contemporary (February 11 – May 7, 2023). Exhibition development was supported by Pavel Pyš of the Walker Art Center and Olivia Aherne of the Nottingham Contemporary.

Support for *Carolyn Lazard: Long Take* has been provided by Linda & Jeffrey Chodorow, Cheri & Steven Friedman, Marjorie & Michael Levine, B.Z. & Michael Schwartz, Patricia & Howard Silverstein, Dorothy & Stephen Weber, and Maharam.

About The Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution presenting interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs at the forefront of contemporary practice. Through its exhibitions, commissions, special projects, publications, and programs, ICA serves as a laboratory for new artistic and curatorial practices, supporting the production of urgent work and providing a critical platform for an exchange of ideas on art and society. Since its founding in 1963, ICA has shared the University's commitment to experimental research and belief in supporting the next generation of imaginative and creative thinkers. ICA is dedicated to advancing new directions in artistic practices, creating meaningful connections for the public with art and artists, and advocating for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the socio-political conditions of our time.

Press Contacts

Resnicow and Associates

Francesca Kielb / Juliet Sorce

fkielb@resnicow.com / jsorce@resnicow.com

212-671-5152 / 212-671-5158

Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania

Jill Katz

Director of Marketing & Communications

katzj@ica.upenn.edu / (215) 573-9975