



BRUCE MUSEUM
One Museum Drive • Greenwich, CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376 • www.brucemuseum.org

Press Release

Introducing *Bruce Museum Presents*: Thought Leaders in Art and Science



Film producer and art collector Jennifer Blei Stockman inaugurates the Bruce Museum Presents series with a moderated conversation between contemporary women artists on Thursday, September 5.

GREENWICH, CT, August 1, 2019 — *Bruce Museum Presents* is an exciting new series of monthly public programs featuring thought leaders in the fields of art and science.

Showcasing experts on compelling subjects of relevance and interest to members and visitors to the Bruce Museum, as well as the communities of greater Fairfield County and beyond, ***Bruce Museum Presents*** launches on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 6:00 pm, with ***Generation ♀: How Contemporary Women Artists Are Re-Shaping Today's Art World***.

Jennifer Blei Stockman, producer of the Emmy-nominated 2018 HBO documentary ***The Price of Everything***, moderates a wide-ranging dialogue and exploration with four major contemporary women artists: painter and sculptor **Nicole Eisenman**; conceptual visual artist **Lin Jingjing**; painter and sculptor **Paula DeLuccia Poons**; and photographer and filmmaker **Laurie Simmons**.

Background

“***Bruce Museum Presents*** inaugurates an exciting time of change and progress for this institution,” said **Robert Wolterstorff**, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. “As we prepare our expansion in order to become the region’s leading cultural center, the Bruce Museum is poised to present dynamic and unique educational programming equal to the caliber of our new spaces and collections.”

Suzanne Lio, Managing Director of the Bruce Museum, conceived ***Bruce Museum Presents***. “We have long been an important resource in our community for forward-thinking public programs,” Lio notes. “This series raises it to the next level. By leveraging our unique network of institutional and professional connections, the series will offer unprecedented access for our members and visitors to major thought leaders in the fields of art and science.”

Arts consultant **Leonard Jacobs**, former Director of Cultural Institutions at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, produces the series. “***Bruce Museum Presents*** will be a signature complement to the Bruce’s exhibitions and public programs,” Jacobs says. “Through talks, panel discussions, and fascinating interactive events, the goal is to support and enhance the Museum’s mission to ‘promote the understanding and appreciation of art and science to enrich the lives of all people.’”

Following the debut of the series this fall (complete listing below), ***Bruce Museum Presents*** will continue into 2020 with events usually slated on the first Thursday of each month.

September 5, 2019

Generation ♀: How Contemporary Women Artists Are Re-Shaping Today’s Art World

A renowned collector of contemporary art, **Jennifer Blei Stockman** is the former board chair of the Guggenheim Museum and a founder of the Bruce Museum Council. Her Emmy-nominated, Nathaniel Kahn-directed documentary, *The Price of Everything*, explores the stratospheric-priced world of contemporary art. It premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and was the opening night film for 2018’s Greenwich International Film Festival.

Awarded the Guggenheim fellowship (1996), the Carnegie Prize (2013), and the MacArthur “Genius Grant” (2015), **Nicole Eisenman** gained acclaim for her figurative painting but in recent years has earned critical praise for her sculpture as well. She co-founded the queer/feminist curatorial initiative Ridykeulous with A.L. Steiner, and this summer was one of the artists who withdrew from the Whitney Biennial in protest of the museum’s leadership.

Lin Jingjing’s work deals primarily with social-political themes; particularly with how individuals define themselves against the pressures of the outside world, vis-à-vis culture, politics, history, and the economy. Her artwork spans performance, installation, painting, mixed media, video, sound, and LED lights. Jingjing’s works have been exhibited in major museums around the world, including Neues Kunstforum in Cologne, the National Art Museum of Chile in Santiago, and Song Zhuang Art Museum in Beijing.

Painter and sculptor **Paula DeLuccia Poons** and her husband, artist Larry Poons, have intersected with some of the greatest figures in the New York art world since the 1970s. A New Jersey native who studied at the Kansas City Art Institute, Paula's work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions, from Barcelona to Brooklyn to Palm Beach.

Laurie Simmons has been provocatively exploring women's issues since the 1970s, starting with her staged dollhouse scenes to create photographs that reference domestic tableaux. She is part of The Pictures Generation, a name given to a group of artists from a 2009 exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art that includes Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, and Louise Lawler.

*Doors open 6:00 pm for a reception with light bites and beverages, followed by the panel discussion and Q&A, 7:00-8:30 pm. Seats are \$30 for Museum members, \$45 for non-members. To reserve a seat at **Generation** ♀, visit brucemuseum.org and click "Reservations," or call 203-869-0376.*

*(A free screening of **The Price of Everything** will take place on Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 pm, in the Bruce Museum's Bantle Lecture Gallery. Advanced registration is required at brucemuseum.org.)*

Thursday, October 3, 2019

From the Bottom of the World: The Art and Science of Antarctica

Antarctica is the planet's true final frontier. Presented in cooperation with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, ***From the Bottom of the World: The Art and Science of Antarctica*** will convene peerless experts in the art and science of this unique and fragile continent. Two research scientists from Lamont-Doherty, **Jonny Kingslake** and **Kirsty Tinto**, will reveal their startling new findings, while acclaimed photographer **Rick Sammon**, who has twice visited and documented the Antarctic landscape, will remind us of its extraordinary beauty.

Jonny Kingslake's research focuses on the flow of ice and water in ice sheets. He has conducted fieldwork in both polar regions to examine how the ice sheets will respond to climate change. The goal of his Antarctic fieldwork is to measure how the ice sheet flows today and how this has changed over the past few thousand years.

The research of **Kirsty Tinto** focuses on how the underlying geology controls the flow of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. She has extensive polar field experience, both from the ground and using geophysical instruments mounted on long-range aircraft, participating in over a dozen airborne field campaigns and leading the recent ROSETTA-Ice project to map the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

Rick Sammon, author of 40 books on photography, travel, nature and conservation, has explored more than 100 countries. "For me, as a photographer and person interested in cultures, wildlife, and nature, Antarctica offers it all: beautiful blue ice and a diversity of wildlife that is hard to beat," Sammon says.

Leonard Jacobs moderates this timely intersectional conversation. The evening's sponsor is **Crystal Cruises**, which specializes in expedition voyages, including cruises to the polar regions.

Doors open 6:00 pm for a reception with light bites and beverages, followed by the panel discussion and Q&A, 7:00-8:30 pm. Seats are \$30 for Museum members, \$45 for non-members. To reserve a seat at **From the Bottom of the World**, visit brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376.

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Rewind/Fast-Forward: Celebrating the Artist Documentaries of Olympia Stone

Olympia Stone is an independent producer of documentary films about art and artists. Her first documentary, *The Collector*, explored the five-decade career of her father, famed NYC gallery owner and art collector Allan Stone. Since then, her award-winning films continue to probe the motivations and personal histories of eclectic artists as a way of providing insight into their work.

Join Olympia Stone, and two of Stone's artist subjects—**James Grashow** (*The Cardboard Bernini*) and **Elizabeth King** (*Double Take: The Art of Elizabeth King*)—for a retrospective of these astonishing and illuminating films, and their maker. Moderated by **Leonard Jacobs**.

First broadcast nationwide on PBS in 2012, *The Cardboard Bernini* won Best Documentary at the Art of Brooklyn Film Festival 2013, and was an official selection at 20 additional festivals, including Sebastopol and Santa Fe. *The Cardboard Bernini* examines the life and work of artist **James Grashow** as he spends five years building a giant cardboard fountain, inspired by the work of the famous Baroque sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Propelled by a crucial event documented in the film, Grashow is driven to experience the process of creation and loss by making an extraordinary artwork that will be destroyed in the end.

Double Take: The Art of Elizabeth King engages the viewer in the work of sculptor and stop-action filmmaker **Elizabeth King**, who embarks on each new project by posing a single question to herself: "Can this be physically done?" Tracing King's creative flow, curiosity, and obsessive drive to solve the inevitable series of artistic and technical problems that arise in creating her disconcerting sculptures and animations, this documentary film explores King's passion about the mind/body riddle, the science of emotion, the human/machine interface, and those things a robot will never be able to do.

Doors open 6:00 pm for a reception with light bites and beverages, followed by the panel discussion and Q&A, 7:00-8:30 pm. Seats are \$30 for Museum members, \$45 for non-members. To reserve a seat at **Rewind/Fast-Forward**, visit brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376.

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Can Art Drive Change on Climate Change? An Evening with Alexis Rockman

Among current American artists profoundly motivated by nature and its future—from the specter of climate change to the implications of genetic engineering—**Alexis Rockman** holds a high place of honor. Born in 1962 and raised in New York City, Rockman has been the subject of many international solo and group exhibitions, including a major retrospective organized at the

Smithsonian American Art Museum. His work is also included in public and private collections around the world.

For more than 30 years the New York City-based Rockman has exhibited his work, which uses the language of natural history to examine our relationship to it as a culture; his deeply stirring, often symbolic images of a dystopian, onrushing century are remarkable statements of art, science, and politics.

Join us for a night of captivating discussion and debate featuring Alexis Rockman and a specially curated panel of thought leaders in contemporary art and science.

*Doors open 6:00 pm for a reception with light bites and beverages, followed by the panel discussion and Q&A, 7:00-8:30 pm. Seats are \$30 for Museum members, \$45 for non-members. To reserve a seat at **An Evening with Alexis Rockman**, visit brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376.*

Bruce Museum Presents is supported by the Connecticut Office of the Arts. Special thanks to Paulaner USA for supporting our public programs and special events.

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About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science in more than a dozen changing exhibitions annually. The permanent galleries feature the natural sciences that encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the [American Alliance of Museums](#) and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents and attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, reaching out to families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

Media Contact: Scott Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, 203-413-6735 or ssmith@brucemuseum.org.