

## MEDIA ALERT

# Weinberg/Newton Gallery

### EXHIBITION

helps it to feel,  
compels it to make

### EXHIBITION DATES

April 6 – May 5

### OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, April 6  
5–9 PM

### SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 7  
10AM–5 PM

### LOCATION

Weinberg/Newton Gallery  
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203  
Chicago, IL 60654

### HOURS

Mon–Sat 10AM–5 PM

### VISIT US ONLINE

[weinbergnewtongallery.com](http://weinbergnewtongallery.com)

### ALL MEDIA REQUESTS

Please contact  
Claire Arctander  
312 529 5090  
[claire@d-weinberg.com](mailto:claire@d-weinberg.com)

High-resolution images of  
artwork are available upon  
request.

### OVERVIEW

An exhibition and symposium both, *helps it to feel, compels it to make* presents works that celebrate and contemplate personal and collective histories, ideas, and identities. The scholars and makers on view, all 2018 graduates of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's MA in Visual and Critical Studies program, engage the Brechtian distinction between the dramatic and the epic to form new, critical positions that reimagine how knowledge is visualized, written, and shared. Both experiences and insights are communicated; suggestions and arguments are used. Stepping across the line between what we feel and what we do, the exhibiting artists simultaneously undertake creative investigation and propose gestures of the world as it is and the world as it is becoming.

### ARTISTS

Eduardo Chaidez, Michael Donatuti, Amanda Ellison, Evan Graham, Siamack Hajimohammad, Juan Carlos Herrera, Lindsay Hutchens, Stephanie Koch, Tiara Nord, Joshi Radin, John Stevens, Zach Vanes and Celia Wickham

### EXHIBITION CURATORS

Stephanie Koch and John Stevens

### SYMPOSIUM CURATORS

Lindsay Hutchens and Celia Wickham

### PARTNER

The Department of Visual and Critical Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago is concerned with the study of visual media across many different disciplines, as well as the development of hybrid research practices, particularly the overlap between studio and scholarly production. Its programs are part of an evolving paradigm that addresses the complexity of visual and critical practices in the 21st century.

### ABOUT WEINBERG/NEWTON GALLERY

Weinberg/Newton Gallery aims to create space for dialogue about the many social justice issues that concern our local Chicago community and beyond. In collaboration with artists and non-profit organizations, we work together to cultivate a culture of consciousness and inspire change by way of exhibitions, panel discussions, film screenings, artist talks, and more.

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In the early twentieth century, German playwright Bertolt Brecht contrasted epic theater against the dramatic to offer a new critical position for examining the world. For Brecht, if the dramatic is that which engages us creatively and emotionally, then the form offers an immersive experience that helps us to feel our place in the world. The epic stands counter to the dramatic as it applies reason and visionary scholarship, connecting our present to the richness of history and compelling us to make worlds anew.

This exhibition and symposium—*helps it to feel, compels it to make*—present works which call upon this contrast set out by Bertolt Brecht as means to celebrate and contemplate personal and collective histories, ideas and identities. The scholars and makers on view put pressure on this distinction by engaging both the dramatic and the epic to form new, critical positions that reimagine how knowledge is visualized, written and shared. Both experiences and insights are communicated; suggestions and arguments are used. There is an interest in what drives and in what motivates; events which move in a straight line and in irregular curves. Stepping across the line between what we feel and what we do, they simultaneously undertake creative investigation and propose gestures of the world as it is and the world as it is becoming.

During the April 7 symposium, John Stevens, Joshi Radin, Eduardo Chaidez and Juan Carlos Herrera will present work that examines bodies in space through a re-negotiation of the ways in which we are read and received by the world around us. Through looking at notions of responsibility, representation, and modes of performativity, these artists offer up both critical and celebratory responses and actions (moderated by Joshua Rios, Lecturer, Departments of Contemporary Practices, and Visual Critical Studies).

Evan Graham, Tiara Nord, Celia Wickham, Lindsay Hutchens and Stephanie Koch will speak to notions of trauma, pleasure, genealogy, and longing. Their work will unravel and collapse relationships between the intimate and the collective, provoking new forms of knowing the self through sensorial and historical reckonings (moderated by Mary Patten, Professor, Departments of Film, Video, New Media and Animation, and Visual Critical Studies).

Siamack Hajimohammad and Zach Vanes will examine structures of compliance and displacement within institutional spaces, while Amanda Ellison and Michael Donatuti focus in on the hyper object, each attending to how we publicly experience and are shaped by our politics, ethics, and art (moderated by Kristi McGuire, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Critical Studies).

**LOCATION**

Unless noted, all events are free and open to the public, and will take place at Weinberg/Newton Gallery.

300 W Superior Street, Suite 203  
Chicago, IL 60654

Handicap accessible entrance is located at 730 N. Franklin Street, call the gallery upon arrival.

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**OPENING RECEPTION**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 5–9PM**

KEYNOTE LECTURE BY DOUG ASHFORD AT 5PM:  
*READING THROUGH THE NON-HUMAN*

**SYMPOSIUM**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 10AM–5PM**

FILM SCREENINGS, PERFORMANCES, READINGS, LECTURES AND DIALOGUE PRESENTED BY THE EXHIBITION'S ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS, MODERATED BY KRISTI MCGUIRE, MARY PATTEN, & JOSHUA RIOS

**LINDSAY HUTCHENS**

***FAMILY PHOTO SCANNING SERVICES***

**TUESDAYS (APRIL 10, 17, 24, MAY 1), 1–4PM**

BRING IN YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS FOR PROFESSIONAL SCANNING AND HIGH-RESOLUTION DIGITAL FILES

**CELIA WICKHAM**

***A DREAM IS A BIRTH***

**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 12–2PM**

ACCOMPANIED BY HER MOTHER, CELIA WICKHAM WILL PRESENT A PERFORMATIVE PIECE EXPLORING GENEALOGIES OF MADNESS, MYSTICISM, AND RADICAL LOVE

**JOHN STEVENS**

***THE BODY IS MERELY THE APPARITION OF A FRAMEWORK***

**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2–4PM**

JOHN STEVENS WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THEIR THESIS WORK, WHICH EXPLORES CONTEMPORARY NOTIONS OF CORPOREAL EMBODIMENT, SYSTEMIC ALIENATION, AND THE TECHNICAL APPARATUS THAT SITUATES POSTMODERN IDENTITY

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**EDUARDO J. CHAIDEZ** is an artist from Oakland, CA. He majored in both Art Practice and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Deriving from his experiences as a first generation Mexican-American, Chaidez is interested in exploring the multivalence of representation through the lenses of art practice, art history, and ethnic studies.

**MICHAEL DONATUTI** was raised in Connecticut and is a graduate of the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies. Donatuti is interested in leftist politics and historiography. He lives in McKinley Park.

**AMANDA ELLISON-GOLDENBERG** researches issues at the intersection of art history and philosophy. Her most recent project takes up the possibility of a “thing-in-itself” in relation to the fields of art, architecture, and design. She holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Toronto, with minors in Art History and English.

**EVAN GRAHAM** is a writer, originally from Michigan. He received a BA from the University of Notre Dame in Art History. Graham is depressed and writes about how art, reading, and mental perspective can make it less terrible.

**JUAN CARLOS HERRERA** is a Venezuelan writer and conceptual artist with a diverse photographic background, including fashion photography and photojournalism. He received an MA in Spanish from the University of Iowa.

**LINDSAY HUTCHENS** is an artist, scholar, and curator. She earned an MFA in Photography from SAIC in 2017. She holds a BA in Visual Journalism with honors from Brooks Institute of Photography. Recently, Hutchens presented artwork and initial thesis research in the American Studies Association annual meeting.

**STEPHANIE KOCH** is interested in the links between nation and narration. She has recently focused on the continual slippage of language and its inscriptive movement on the self within the context of American cultural history. She received a BA in Political Science from the University of Chicago.

**TIARA NORD** is from Milwaukee, WI and received her BA in Art History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research and artwork interact as an informative exchange between scholarship and practice through which she approaches concepts of sensorial memory and aesthetic preferences.

**JOSHI RADIN** is an artist and writer working independently and collaboratively with questions regarding empathy and expanded landscape using video, photography, research and performance. Currently, her work focuses on concepts of a global imaginary, problems of scale, and durational process.

**JOHN A. STEVENS'** work hijacks a modernist visual vocabulary to explore contemporary ideas of the postmodern subject as a visual ‘body’ within a scopie and spectral society. They earned a degree in English Literature and Philosophy from William Jewell College in 2013.

**ZACHARY VANES** hails from Laporte, Indiana. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film Studies and English Literature from DePauw University. His research and installations stem from an interest in the technologies that allow art institutions to store and communicate knowledge.

**CELIA WICKHAM** is an artist, writer and curator who gained a BA in Film with First Class Honours from the Manchester School of Art in 2014. Her work focuses on the histories, stories, and intimacies we carry, and where we can locate them.

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