

## **MEDIA ALERT**

# Weinberg/Newton Gallery

### **EXHIBITION**

This Heat

### **EXHIBITION DATES**

June 24–September 24, 2016

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

Friday, June 24, 2016, 5–8 PM

### **LOCATION**

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

### **CONTACT**

The gallery may be reached at  
312 529 5090 or [info@weinbergnewtongallery.com](mailto:info@weinbergnewtongallery.com)

### **HOURS**

Mon – Sat 10 AM – 5 PM

### **VISIT US ONLINE**

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

### **ALL MEDIA REQUESTS**

Please contact Orly Telisman  
Public Relations: 312 375 1230  
or [orly@orlypr.com](mailto:orly@orlypr.com)

High-resolution images of artwork are available upon request.

### **OVERVIEW**

*This Heat* is a summer-long exhibition featuring three Chicago-based artists. Their works respond to the gun violence epidemic in Chicago and are driven by a particular sense of responsibility to their community and its youth. Through material exploration and community collaboration, the artworks investigate issues of racism, segregation, and the media's representation of crime. From sound and sculpture to video and photography, installation-based projects ask: *How do we grapple with the enormity of these issues?* *This Heat* continues the conversation and confronts the rising violence on our streets.

### **ARTISTS**

Cheryl Pope, Garland Martin Taylor, Krista Wortendyke

### **NON-PROFIT PARTNER**

*This Heat* is curated in support of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the reduction of death and injury caused by firearms. ICHV works to reduce the immense loss of life caused by gun violence in our country. It advocates for laws and policies to be enacted that effectively save lives. As the oldest and largest statewide organization in the country, ICHV is uniquely able to influence firearm policy and legislation that helps keep our communities safe from deadly gun violence. Its programs reach out to the most vulnerable population in our society, children, and empower them to be voices of change in their communities. [www.ichv.org](http://www.ichv.org)

### **ABOUT WEINBERG/NEWTON GALLERY**

Weinberg/Newton Gallery (formerly David Weinberg Photography) is an exhibition space with a mission to educate and inform the public on social justice issues. Through artwork and programming, the gallery provides an engaging environment for discourse on critical contemporary issues facing our communities. Connecting artists with social justice organizations, the gallery works to drive change and cultivate a culture of consciousness.

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Opening June 24, Weinberg/Newton Gallery presents *This Heat*, a summer-long exhibition addressing gun violence in Chicago. The exhibition supports the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

*This Heat* features works by Chicago-based artists Cheryl Pope, Garland Martin Taylor, and Krista Wortendyke. Their works respond to the gun violence epidemic in Chicago. The artists are driven by a particular sense of responsibility to their community and its youth. Through material exploration and community collaboration, the artworks investigate issues of racism, segregation, and the media's representation of crime. From sound and sculpture to video and photography, installation-based projects ask: *How do we grapple with the enormity of these issues?* *This Heat* continues this urgent conversation and confronts the rising violence on our streets.

Cheryl Pope presents two videos from her ongoing project *Just Yell*. She focuses on cheerleaders, originally known as yell-ers, as conceptual foundation for this collaborative project with 400 students from seven different Chicago high schools. Rather than chanting encouraging words for their team, the youth respond to issues of gun violence and segregation, voicing what matters most to them. Through radical play, teenagers yell in protest and in song—they shout “we don't want guns, we want children!” from the front of the classroom, beckoning the viewer to yell back and participate. *Just Yell* resonates as tragicomedy, as our mood is lifted and empowered by these teenage rebels, yet their message reveals a truly tragic reality.

Garland Martin Taylor employs tragicomedy as well. For *This Heat*, he presents a new sculptural installation titled *Pflight*. Responding to his recent work *Conversation Peace*, a 400 pound stainless steel sculpture of a gun mounted in the bed of his pickup truck and driven across America, Taylor aims to continue the dialogue around gun violence and shooting fatalities in black and brown communities from a new vantage point. *Pflight* is comprised of hundreds of bullet casings stuffed with the artist's hair and two feathers imitating little angels that Taylor calls Yard-birds. Individually suspended from the ceiling by guitar strings, they trace a bullet's trajectory from a fixed point of explosion through gallery walls. Every layer of Taylor's work is symbolic, nestled like Russian dolls. The title, a portmanteau combining the words flight and plight, refers to the exodus of black families fleeing the violence of their neighborhoods, similar to what is currently happening on Chicago's South Side. The many layers

of meaning entangled in beauty and humor in his work reveal inequality, segregation, and too many lives lost.

Krista Wortendyke has spent summers following homicide reporting and documenting the many lives lost. During the summer of 2010 she photographed Chicago sites where 172 homicides took place between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Those photographs culminated in her project *Killing Season Chicago*, a 65 foot-long data directed installation illustrating the swell of murders committed on a daily basis. For the past six years Wortendyke has installed *Killing Season Chicago* both along neighborhood sidewalks and in museums, calling awareness to these acts of violence and sparking discussions with those privileged to live in areas shielded from the violence. She aims to draw the viewer into dialogue that urges the accountability of everyone regardless of where they live. The photographs render common and familiar urban landscapes void of people and, when observed closely, reveal tiny memorials for the victims in the form of empty beer bottles, tags written on brick walls, and silver crosses pinned to trees. *This Heat* is *Killing Season Chicago's* eighth exhibit, this time accompanied by a new two-channel sound installation using radio frequencies that broadcast throughout the gallery and into the streets.

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**CHERYL POPE** received a Masters in Design from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010, which was supported by a Full Tuition Merit Scholarship. She earned a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the same institute in 2003. Pope was the studio manager for artist Nick Cave from 2003–2012, and she credits him and his work as a great influence on her practice.

Pope's recent solo exhibitions include *Just Yell: From Within* at the Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL (2015), *Just Yell: Leveling the Playing Field* at Chicago Cultural Center, presented in conjunction with her DCASE residency (2015), and *Speculum Speculorum* at Galleria Bianconi, Milan, Italy (2014). Additionally, Pope's work has been included in many group contexts, including *What Kind of a Celebration?*, Kunsthalle Osnabrueck, Germany (2015), *Substrate* at Boulder Museum of

Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO (2015), and *This Side of Paradise*, presented by No Longer Empty, New York, NY (2012). Her work is in the collections of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; the Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii; and the United States Embassy, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In 2016, Pope will be an artist in residence at Fountainhead, Miami, as well as the Art-Port Foundation in Tel Aviv, Israel. Monique Meloche Gallery will host her second solo show in 2016. Pope currently teaches in the Fashion Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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IMAGE: CHERYL POPE, *ONE OF MANY, ONE* (STILL FROM VIDEO), 2014



**GARLAND MARTIN TAYLOR** is a Chicago-based sculptor and researcher with a Masters in Visual and Critical Studies from the School of the Art Institute. He is a direct metal formalist who welds and shapes various metals. Taylor also works with materials such as bald cypress twigs, kinky hair, baseball stitching, steel, stainless steel, aluminum, cut tacks, wood, and stone into large-scale abstract, functional, and socio-politically charged heirlooms inspired by his research and scholarship on 19th century black political cartoons. Since 2012, Taylor has devoted half of his professional practice to studying the life and art of H. J. Lewis. He recently contributed the essay “Out of Jest: The Art of Henry Jackson Lewis” to *Comics & Media: A Special Issue of Critical Inquiry*. And in late 2014, Garland was awarded a Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant for Arkansas History from the Arkansas

History Commission. Most recently Taylor was a core collaborator in a Mellon Fellowship at the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry at the University of Chicago where he co-taught the course “The Art and Politics of Black Death” with political scientist Cathy J. Cohen, and documentary filmmaker Orlando Bagwell.

IMAGE: GARLAND MARTIN TAYLOR,  
DETAIL FROM THE INSTALLATION PIECE  
*PFLIGHT*, 2016



**KRISTA WORTENDYKE** is a Chicago-based conceptual artist. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Photography from Columbia College in 2007. Her ongoing work examines violence through the lens of photography. Her images are a result of a constant grappling with the mediation of war and brutality both locally and globally. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Packer Schopf Gallery and David Weinberg Gallery in Chicago, SOHO20 Gallery in New York, and many other venues across the United States. Her work is also in the permanent collections of both the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago. Krista is currently an adjunct professor of photography at Columbia College Chicago.

IMAGE: KRISTA WORTENDYKE, *KILLING SEASON CHICAGO*, INSTALLATION IN LOGAN SQUARE, CHICAGO, 2015

As of June 2, 2016, the date of this writing, 243 Chicagoans have lost their lives in gun violence since the first of the year.

During Memorial Day weekend, alone, 63 people were wounded, 6 people were killed.

On Mother's Day weekend, more than 50 people were shot, 8 fatally.

On Easter weekend, when Chicago churches rallied for no violence, no homicides occurred.

In December 2012, a federal circuit court ordered the state of Illinois to adopt a law allowing at least some individuals to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public places.

On July 9, 2013, Illinois became the last state in the nation to pass a concealed carry law.

Nearly 1,000 Illinois residents and 30,000 individuals across the U.S. are killed by guns each year. Tens of thousands more are injured but survive, often with life-changing injuries.

On average, more than 100,000 people in the U.S. are shot or killed with a gun every year.

While handguns account for only one-third of all firearms owned in the U.S., they account for more than two-thirds of all annual firearm-related deaths. A gun in the home is 4 times more likely to be involved in an unintentional shooting, 7 times more likely to be used to commit a criminal assault or homicide, and 11 times more likely to be used to attempt or commit suicide than to be used in self-defense.

(A Kellerman, et al. *Journal of Trauma*, August 1998; Kellerman AL, Lee RK, Mercy JA, et al. *The Epidemiological Basis for the Prevention of Firearm Injuries. Annu.Rev Public Health*. 1991; 12:17-40.)

Despite popular belief, young children do possess the physical strength to fire a gun: 25% of 3-to-4-year-olds, 70% of 5-to-6-year-olds, and 90% of 7-to-8-year-olds can fire most handguns. (Naureckas, SM, Christoffel, KK, et al. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 1995.)

59% of students in grades six through twelve know where to get a gun if they want one, and 2/3 of these students say they can acquire a firearm in 24 hours. (*Harvard School of Public Health*.)

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ICHV's Concealed Carry Law Handbook:

[www.concealedcarryandme.com/wp-content/themes/piggie-bank/pdf/concealed\\_carry\\_handbook\\_low.pdf](http://www.concealedcarryandme.com/wp-content/themes/piggie-bank/pdf/concealed_carry_handbook_low.pdf)

Kids and Gun Violence Facts:

[www.ichv.org/gun-facts/kids-and-gun-violence](http://www.ichv.org/gun-facts/kids-and-gun-violence)

Suicide and Gun Violence Facts:

[www.ichv.org/gun-facts/suicide-and-gun-violence](http://www.ichv.org/gun-facts/suicide-and-gun-violence)

Chicago Gun Violence Resource (updated daily):

[www.heyjackass.com](http://www.heyjackass.com)

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## This Heat

### GALLERY ONE



KRISTA WORTENDYKE  
*Killing Season Chicago*, 2010  
Inkjet photographs, paint, foam board  
56 x 8 feet



KRISTA WORTENDYKE  
*Neighborhood Conflict*, 2016  
FM transmitter, radios, compressor,  
iPods  
Dimensions variable



KRISTA WORTENDYKE  
*Bloodspot* 2016  
700 inkjet prints on newsprint  
12 x 18 inches

### ALCOVE



CHERYL POPE  
*K-I-D-S*, 2013  
HD single channel video with audio,  
in collaboration with Bill Bilowit  
Edition of 5  
3 minute loop  
Courtesy of artist and  
Monique Meloche Gallery

### GALLERY TWO



GARLAND MARTIN TAYLOR  
*Pflight*, 2016  
Vintage gumball machine, limestone,  
cast iron, reclaimed street and 100  
yard birds (once-fired .38 caliber  
shell casings charged with premium  
quality jungle cock feathers, colored  
hair projectiles and guitar string  
ligatures)  
Dimensions variable

### GALLERY THREE



CHERYL POPE  
*One of Many, One*, 2014  
HD single channel video,  
in collaboration with Bill Bilowit  
and Phoenix Military Academy  
Edition of 3  
2 hour 54 minute loop  
Courtesy of artist and  
Monique Meloche Gallery

### EXHIBITION CHECKLIST