

**Joan Mitchell Foundation and Voices in Contemporary Art
Announce Series of Artist Talks**

Dialogues to Focus on Establishing and Preserving Creative Legacy

New York, NY—October 22, 2019—The Joan Mitchell Foundation and VoCA (Voices in Contemporary Art) announced today a series of public artist talks that will explore topics relating to artistic legacy and the long-term preservation of creative work. Titled the *CALL / VoCA Talks*, the series was first established five years ago as an extension of the Joan Mitchell Foundation’s Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative, which provides artists with resources and instruction in the areas of studio organization, archiving, and inventory management. The *Talks* feature artists who participated in the CALL initiative between 2010 and 2016 in dialogue with arts professionals from VoCA’s community who volunteer to spend a year meeting with the artists to develop an intimate understanding of their work and needs for documentation and preservation. The *Talks* provide a platform to make the behind-the-scenes discoveries of this process public, offering insights to artists and others in the field and dovetailing with VoCA’s longstanding mission of highlighting the artist’s voice as a primary resource in the production, presentation, and preservation of their own work. The talks will take place between November 2019 and January 2020, and will include artists Lesley Dill, Gladys Triana, Lehna Huie, and Beth Krebs, among other critical voices.

“Through the CALL program, we provide artists with the tools to examine the trajectory of their careers and develop systems for cataloguing and broadening understanding of the depth and richness of their practices,” said Shervone Neckles-Ortiz, Artist Programs Manager for Professional Development at the Joan Mitchell Foundation. “By partnering with an organization like VoCA, which has for so long shone a light on the work of artists, the challenges in conservation, and the need for these dialogues, we’ve created another opportunity for these artists to connect with a wider public through the legacy planning process. The *CALL / VoCA Talks* are a means for them to reflect on their life’s work, share what they’ve learned and discovered with other artists and the public, and preserve these insights in their own voice, so that it might support future research, experimentation, and innovation.”

“The *CALL / VoCA Talks* so beautifully exemplify VoCA’s work and thinking about interdisciplinary relationships. There is, of course, the voice of the artist, but we also want and need to consider how conservators, curators, educators, arts administrators, and the public can engage with that perspective,” said Lauren Shadford, Executive Director of VoCA. “The partnership with the Joan Mitchell Foundation offered an ideal opportunity, because it added another much needed layer—legacy planning—to the conversation. And at the same time, the collaboration has helped us put forward artists that the public may be less familiar with, but who have such a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. It’s important to widen that circle of voices.”

Since its inception, the *CALL / VoCA Talks* series has included 15 conversations with artists and legacy specialists who were trained by the Foundation. The live talks are recorded to be widely released on video and then archived, along with interview transcripts and documentation, at NYU’s Fales Library. A detailing of the upcoming *Talks* follows below. The information and links to RSVP can also be accessed at <http://www.voca.network/programs/voca-talks>.

Artist Lesley Dill, in conversation with Robin Clark, Scholar-in-Residence, Beatrice Bain Research Group at the University of California, Berkeley

November 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Pen + Brush, 29 East 22nd Street, New York

Free to the public

In this conversation, Lesley Dill will share how her journey of looking back on her career has paved the way for the future, leading to new collaborations in video projections and animation as well as the re-staging of performances with composers.

Lesley Dill is an American artist, whose work engages with both the visual and language arts. Her sculptures, installations, mixed-media photographs, and evocative performances are inspired by her extensive travels and deep interests in spirituality and the world's faith traditions. Exploring the power of words to cloak and reveal the psyche, Dill invests new meaning in the human form. Dill has been the subject of more than one hundred solo exhibitions. In November 2019, Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans will present an exhibition of her work titled, *Drawings: Some Early Visionary Americans*, and in 2021, the Figge Museum in Davenport, Iowa, will present her work in *Wilderness: Words Are Where What I Catch Is Me*. Her artworks are in the collections of such major museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Whitney Museum of American Art. Dill participated in the CALL program in 2012-13. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Robin Clark is an art historian and curator, whose work has long engaged with the intersections between contemporary art and architecture. She is currently the Scholar-in-Residence at the Beatrice Bain Research Group at the University of California, Berkeley (2019-2020). As part of this role, she develops content for *VoCA Journal*. Previously, Clark served as the Director of the Artist Initiative at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, where she led interdisciplinary collection research projects that involved deep collaborations with living artists, and programmed SFMOMA's Collections Center as a new site for teaching, learning, and collections care. She has contributed to a wide range of exhibitions and catalogues, including *Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface*, which was developed as part of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time initiative (University of California Press, 2011).

Discussion with Legacy Specialists Lehna Huie and Beth Krebs, moderated by Christie Mitchell, Senior Curatorial Assistant, Whitney Museum of American Art

December 6, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Pratt Institute, Student Union, 200 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn NY

Free to the public

Artists Lehna Huie and Beth Krebs were trained by the Joan Mitchell Foundation as Legacy Specialists to assist artists participating in the CALL initiative. Together, through the talk, they will reflect on how the experience of training, partnering, resource-sharing, and convening with an intergenerational group of artists continues to produce new thinking and approaches on creation and preservation in contemporary art. As artists themselves,

the process has also yielded interesting outcomes within their own practices, which they'll discuss as part of the event.

Lehna Huie is a multi-disciplinary artist, educator, and cultural worker. Trained in painting, Huie's practice seeks to expand traditional modalities of craft to create a new language centered in abstract storytelling. Huie is interested in uplifting stories of Black life as a means to explore connections in the African Diaspora. Her work concentrates on themes such as spirituality, non-linear time, and remembrance, highlighting communications with her departed relatives and ancestral guides. Huie was trained as a Legacy Specialist for the CALL program, and worked with New York artist Marcos Dimos to inventory and archive his studio.

Beth Krebs makes artwork that champions faith against the odds. Her installations, videos, and sculptures attempt to uncover traces of enchantment or bolster her own conviction. She finds herself continually stretched between her limits and her longing, and this predicament is a source of humor and tenderness in her work. Beth's projects have been exhibited in New York City, San Francisco, and abroad, with solo exhibitions at Station Independent Projects, Mixed Greens, Real Artways, and Recology San Francisco. Krebs was trained as a Legacy Specialist for the CALL program, and worked with San Francisco artist Arlan Huang to inventory and archive his studio.

Christie Mitchell is a Senior Curatorial Assistant at the Whitney Museum of American Art. She is currently organizing *fruits, vegetables; fruit and vegetable salad*, a full-floor collection display for the Whitney that will be on view January 15 - February 16, 2020. She is also assisting on *Around Day's End: Downtown New York, 1970-1986*, which will open at the Whitney in summer 2020. Mitchell was a member of the curatorial team for the retrospective *Andy Warhol—From A to B and Back Again*, and a range of other projects. Prior to moving to New York, Mitchell was a Research Assistant for *Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, a part of the Getty initiative "Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945–1980."

Artist Gladys Triana, in conversation with Dr. Ruth del Fresno-Guillem, contemporary art conservator in private practice

January 15, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Julia De Burgos Performance and Art Center, 1680 Lexington Ave, New York

Free to the public

Gladys Triana will discuss the cultural and historical significance of intentionally documenting her own life's work and career, from Camaguey, Cuba, to New York City.

Gladys Triana's work spans painting, drawing, sculpture, video, and in more recent years, photography. She describes her artistry as "that way of looking at things which reveals my need to freely make my own rules, to break with set patterns, to rebel in my daily life and in the creative process." A self-taught artist, Triana's work explores a variety of themes related to isolation, ephemerality, memory, and environmentalism. She has exhibited internationally, and her work is in the collections of the Bronx Museum of the Arts, El Museo del Barrio, New York, and El Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago de Chile, among others. She twice received The Oscar B. Cintas

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Fellowship (1993-94 and 2010-11) and was awarded the Pollock-Krasner Foundation's Artist Grant (2016-17 and 2018-19). She began working with the CALL initiative in 2013.

Dr. Ruth del Fresno-Guillem is a contemporary art conservator in private practice, working primarily for private collections and with emerging artists. She is an active advocate for conservation and aims to raise awareness within the emerging artist and art-related community through public speaking. She also conducts artist interviews, which are being presented and archived in an open online database under the name *Testimoniart*. In 2017, she received her Ph.D. in Science and Restoration of Historical and Artistic Heritage. She also has a BA and an MA in Fine Arts (conservation) and History of Art. She believes in sharing, learning, and respect as an essential way to approach conservation, art, and life.

About VoCA (Voices in Contemporary Art)

VoCA (Voices in Contemporary Art) is a non-profit organization that generates critical dialogue and collaborative programming to advance a vital model for the stewardship of contemporary art. Though based in New York City, VoCA is a mobile organization, partnering with institutions across the country and the globe to develop knowledge via its main program streams: VoCA Talks, *VoCA Journal*, and VoCA Workshops. Learn more at voca.network.

About the Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation celebrates the life of abstract artist Joan Mitchell by expanding awareness of her pioneering work and fulfilling her wish to support and provide opportunities for visual artists. Through grants, residencies, and related initiatives, the Foundation advances the work of today's artists and amplifies their essential contributions to communities around the world. Learn more at joanmitchellfoundation.org.

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