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THE MADISON MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND MILWAUKEE-BASED GUEST CURATOR FATIMA LASTER ANNOUNCE THE 2022 WISCONSIN TRIENNIAL ARTISTS

Guest Curator
Fatima Laster
has selected
23 artists for
Ain't I A Woman?

The *Wisconsin
Triennial* will be on
view April 23, 2022-
Oct. 9, 2022

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MADISON, WI— The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) and Fatima Laster, Guest Curator, are pleased to announce the artists selected for inclusion in the 2022 Wisconsin Triennial, *Ain't I A Woman?*. Organized by Laster—owner, operator, and curator of 5 Points Art Gallery + Studios in Milwaukee—the exhibition explores the intersection of race and gender as well as the under-representation of Black women artists in Wisconsin.



Fatima Laster. Photo by Shalicia Johnson/ArrowStar Photography.

In announcing the participating artists, Laster said, "Enthusiastic is an understatement to my sentiments about collaborating with this phenomenal cohort of Wisconsin-tied artists and the MMoCA team for the 2022 Wisconsin Triennial. The depth and diversity between the artists and their respective practices are sure to lend themselves to an awe-inspiring and fulfilling learning experience about prolific practitioners, thinkers, and detractors to the

status quo in the arts. One should leave with an expanded knowledge and appreciation of artists' works to follow, support and add to their collection. That's my charge for the institution and all visitors. There's something for everyone to independently identify with."

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Emily Leach, *Trace*, 2018.
Digital projector, powdered
graphite, black fabric curtains,
fabricated ceiling tile, fog
machine. Photo courtesy the
Artist.

The Wisconsin Triennial has been known as a celebration of the breadth and range of artistic practices in the state. *Ain't I A Woman?* highlights Black women artists in Wisconsin who expand upon the nature and scope of art production. The exhibition will highlight an intergenerational group of women working across different disciplines, including murals, printmaking, sculpture, painting, performance, textiles, and more.

The theme of the 2022 *Wisconsin Triennial*, Laster explained, is influenced by abolitionist and women's rights advocate Sojourner Truth's quote and author bell hooks' book on Black feminism, entitled *Ain't I A Woman?* Laster's exhibition draws much needed attention to the fact that most racial and gender-based equity and inclusion opportunities in the arts have been dominated by Black men and white women to the exclusion of Black women. *Ain't I a Woman?* expands the discourse and highlights trailblazing women and their work. Featured artists include:

Anika Kowalik
Ariana Vaeth
Blanche Brown
Chrystal Denise Gillon
Della Wells
Gabriele Tesfaye
Emily Leach
Joya Jean
Kierston Ghaznavi
LaNia Sproles
Lilada Gee
Martina Patterson

Maxime Banks
Nakeysha Roberts Washington
Nia Wilson
Portia Cobb
Rhonda Gatlin-Hayes
Rosemary Ollison
Rosy Petri
Ruthie Joy
Sonji Yarbrough Hunt
Sharon Kerry Harlan
Tanekeya Word

Participating artist Emily Leach—a semi-finalist for the Forward Art Prize for visual artists in Dane County in 2019 and 2020—stated, “I believe that *Ain't I A Woman?* is a historic occasion for MMoCA, and I am so excited and

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honored to be a part of this transformative exhibition. Collectively, I believe we illustrate the irreducibility and urgency of Black radical imagination.”

Speaking to the powerful inspiration for Laster’s exhibition concept, artist Chrystal Denise Gillon said, “*Ain’t I A Woman?* has been a most challenging exhibition for me, in my journey as an artist and as a person. For me, it’s not been just an exhibition ‘creating art’ around a theme, but an exhibition that has caused deep soul-searching of my thoughts, feelings, experiences, challenges, and opportunities in attempting to articulate the many complexities of what it means to be a woman; in honesty, it is a topic that leaves me feeling vulnerable and exposed.”



Sonji Yarbrough Hunt, *Broken Landscape*, 2009. Acrylic painted canvas and muslin, dyed muslin, Peltex, fusible web, polyester thread, metal grommets. Photo courtesy the Artist.

Ain’t I A Woman? will be presented in the Museum’s State Street Gallery, Lobby, and The Shop, and be accompanied by robust educational programming throughout the run of the exhibition organized by Charlotte Cummins, Director of Education and Programs, and an Opening Celebration on April 23, 2022, from 5-8 PM coordinated by Annik Dupaty, Director of Events and Volunteers.

ABOUT MMoCA

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art offers free gallery admission. Its vision is to be an organization that fosters the exchange of ideas and creates experiences that will inspire a wide audience; be a nexus for the work of emerging and established regional, national, and international artists; serve as a catalyst for the continued development of a vigorous community of artists; and provide a forum that will encourage people to be challenged by, reflect on, and make connections between art and the world around them.

The Museum includes four galleries and The Shop, a space to provide interactive contemporary art experiences and

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educational workshops to the community. The Museum's Rooftop Sculpture Garden provides an urban oasis with an incredible view and serves as a lovely venue for weddings, art openings, and cinema.

MMoCA's galleries are open Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 6 PM. Please visit mmoca.org to learn more.

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