

Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE



Robert Yang, *Radiator 2* (still), 2017, video game.
Courtesy of the artist.

ICA Announces Three Major Exhibitions for Its 2018 Winter Season

Thematic Group Exhibition Guest Curated by Artist Nayland Blake, Solo Show by Cary Leibowitz, and Focused Survey of Media Art, Presented in Partnership with Electronic Arts Intermix

December 12, 2017

PHILADELPHIA, PA

This winter, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania will present three exhibitions that explore how artists have captured, interrogated, and responded to rapidly changing environments in contemporary society. Exhibitions include: a group exhibition curated by artist Nayland Blake that investigates queer identification through new communications technologies; the first comprehensive career survey and solo museum exhibition dedicated to Cary Leibowitz, whose bold text-based works address issues of identity, sexuality, and queer politics; and a focused exhibition on broadcast and video work, organized in partnership with Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), that focuses on how artists have engaged with the legacy of broadcast media. Launching at the ICA on February 2, 2018, the winter exhibition program will foster opportunities to engage with a diverse range of artists working within contemporary practice.

"We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with such a dynamic group of artists and institutions this season—from emerging artists exploring the influence of increasingly popular fandom subcultures and digital media on personal identity; to one artist's attempt to expose raw truths about modern society by mixing pop culture and fine art; to revolutionary innovators who helped pioneer the media art movement, our audiences will encounter topical social issues and contemporary movements that offer resonance and relevance," said Amy Sadao, Director of ICA in Philadelphia. "Through innovative and timely programming, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania remains committed to fearlessly engaging with topics that break boundaries, encourage discussion, and promote different points of view."



Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show, January 26–July 25, 2017, installation view. Organized by The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco. Courtesy JKA Photography.

Tag: Proposals on Queer Play and the Ways Forward will be on view February 2 through August 12, 2018. *Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show* and *Broadcasting: EAI at ICA* will be on view from February 2 through March 25, 2018. Expanded information on each exhibition follows below.

Tag: Proposals on Queer Play and the Ways Forward February 2 – August 12, 2018

Organized by Katherine Sachs (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'67) Guest Curator and artist Nayland Blake, *Tag: Proposals On Queer Play and the Ways Forward* explores how the expanding influence of digital and online technologies, fandom subcultures, and artistic discourse has created new possibilities for queer identification, changing how personal roles and forms of expressions are defined in contemporary society. Based on the premise that the cultures of role play, sexual play, and digital play have all flourished beyond the boundaries of art structures, this exhibition provides a gathering place and platform for the exploration of queer play created by individuals and groups from the worlds of game design and theory, performance, kink, and activism.

For the exhibition, Blake illuminates these new and evolving forms of representation and examines the implications these developments have had on art and social action through a curatorial approach that draws on their own preoccupation with themes of interracial desire, same-sex love, and racial and sexual bigotry. Artists include A.K. Burns, Clifford Hengst, Arnold Kemp, Savannah Knoop, Dusty Shoulders, and Robert Yang, among others.

Organized by Nayland Blake, Katherine Sachs (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'67) Guest Curator, with support from Laporte Associate Curator Kate Kraczon. ICA gratefully acknowledges support from the Katherine (CW'69) and Keith L. Sachs (W'67) Guest Curator Program.

Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show February 2 – March 25, 2018

Featuring new and never-before-seen works, *Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show* marks the first comprehensive survey and solo museum exhibition of Leibowitz's work to date. Organized in close coordination with the artist, the exhibition brings together nearly 350 works that span the breadth of his career, featuring paintings, fabric works, multiples, installations, documentation, photography, and ephemera created between 1987 and the present day.

Widely known under the moniker "Candyass" since he rose to prominence in the 1990s, Leibowitz creates bold, brightly colored, and comically self-effacing text-based works, which draw on both a gay and Jewish perspective in order to address issues of identity, kitsch, modernist critique, and queer politics. Leibowitz explores his own anxieties, neuroses, and insecurities as he attempts to expose truths about contemporary society by fearlessly mixing popular culture and profane sentiments into works that challenge traditional definitions of fine art. *Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show* will feature a range of Leibowitz's idiosyncratic approaches, including singular paintings, ceramics, paper umbrellas, trash cans, banners, repurposed stock photography, and beanies.



Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) Logo. Designer: Chermayeff & Geismar.

The presentation at ICA will build off the exhibition's first iteration at The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, creating a unique experience that features additional objects, never-before-seen pieces, and a series of events specifically designed for ICA audiences.

Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show is organized by The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco and is curated by former Associate Curator Anastasia James. Accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. Organized at ICA by Chief Curator Anthony Elms.

Support for *Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show* has been provided by Arthur Cohen & Daryl Otte, Marjorie & Michael Levine, Patricia & Howard Silverstein, Bryan & Meredith Verona, and Caroline & Daniel Werther.

Major support for The Contemporary Jewish Museum's presentation is provided by Gaia Fund, Dorothy R. Saxe, and Wendy and Richard Yanowitch.

Broadcasting: EAI at ICA

February 2 – March 25, 2018

Organized in partnership with Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), *Broadcasting: EAI at ICA* brings together an intergenerational group of artists whose time-based artworks are produced in concert with their means of circulation, from the democratic platform of public access television to the instantaneity of social media. Drawing on EAI's extraordinary archive, and building upon ICA's history of engagement with media art since 1975, *Broadcasting* will foster a dialogue between early innovators and contemporary practitioners, such as Tony Cokes, Ulysses Jenkins, Shigeko Kubota, and Kristin Lucas. The works in the show will focus on how artists exploit the act of "broadcast" as a subject, as a means of intervention, and as a form of participation. The installation will show media across an array of displays, ranging from monitors to projections, and will emphasize the temporal nature of broadcast. Furthermore, the exhibition gallery will double as an interactive events space dedicated to public discussions that will be recorded and broadcast online throughout the course of the exhibition, pushing beyond the boundaries of the physical gallery space.

Broadcasting: EAI at ICA is a unique partnership between two pioneering institutions who have played a critical role in supporting the growth of a new artistic medium. In 1975, the ICA opened *Video Art*, a landmark exhibition that was among the first of its kind. Founded in 1971, EAI was one of the first nonprofit organizations in the world dedicated to advocating for and developing video as an art form, providing a crucial space for production and distribution, influencing, and fostering the careers of such leading figures as Nam June Paik and Joan Jonas. A catalogue for *Broadcasting: EAI at ICA* will be produced upon the conclusion of the exhibition.

This exhibition is co-curated by ICA's Dorothy & Stephen R. Weber (CHE'60) Curator Alex Klein and Rebecca Cleman, Director of Distribution, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI).

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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MUSEUM HOURS

WEDNESDAY, 11AM–8PM

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, 11AM–6PM

ICA IS ALWAYS FREE. FOR ALL.

FREE ADMISSION IS COURTESY OF
AMANDA AND GLENN FUHRMAN.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution presenting exhibitions at the forefront of contemporary practice and culture that challenge audiences to think in new ways. The ICA is free for all to engage and connect with the art of our time. Since its founding in 1963, ICA has served as a laboratory for the new, introducing and supporting the production of urgent and important contemporary art, beginning with ICA's inaugural show of paintings by Abstract Expressionist Clyfford Still, followed by the first museum show of works by Andy Warhol in 1965. Throughout its history, ICA has been instrumental in identifying and developing many promising artists before they attained prominence within the international art world, some of whom include—in addition to Warhol—Laurie Anderson, Richard Artschwager, Vija Celmins, Karen Kilimnik, Barry Le Va, Glenn Ligon, Robert Mapplethorpe, Agnes Martin, Pepón Osorio, Tavares Strachan, and Cy Twombly.