

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTTABLE BRINGS TOGETHER
TOP WOMEN FOR A NATIONAL DISCUSSION ON THE VISUAL ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Reaction + Action in the Art World on Tuesday, October 30, at 6:30 pm
at the New School in New York City

October 4, 2018, NEW YORK, NY—ArtTable, the leading national network of professional women in the visual arts, invites you to the third annual leadership series, *Reaction + Action in the Art World*, a discussion of top arts professionals at the forefront of creative and civic engagement to discuss their experiences with radical resistance and process. The panel will be moderated by **Jessica L. Porter**, executive director of ArtTable, and includes **Tiana Webb Evans**, founder and director, ESP Public Relations; **Carin Kuoni**, director and chief curator, Vera List Center for Art and Politics; **Monica O. Montgomery**, cofounder and strategic director, Museum Hue; **Sable Elyse Smith**, interdisciplinary artist; and **Allison Freedman Weisberg**, founder and executive director, Recess.

"We welcome the opportunity to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and certainly to bring more women, and their unique perspectives, to the larger conversation about art and activism," said **Jessica L. Porter**, executive director of ArtTable.

ArtTable is proud to present this program in connection with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics' two-year theme of "If Art is Politics". The discussion will centralize on the role of museums, galleries, artists, and other art world leaders in politics and the consequences and results. The conversation will also address the mindsets and attitudes that differ about separating work and politics and the larger responsibility and role the art world plays in the realm of politics. Using their combined expertise in the museum, gallery, media, academic, and private sectors, the panelists will explore these issues and more.

"At this politically fraught moment, it is reassuring to recognize how important cultural contributions have become to a discourse on civic engagement, and to consider how (some) art may indeed be positioned as viable political practices." said Carin Kuoni, director and chief curator, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, The New School.

This event is the third in a series of annual public programs organized by ArtTable in collaboration with the New School. Previous panels have addressed the role of visual arts in urban planning and development, and offered insight into the career paths and experiences of women art museum directors. ArtTable brings to the forefront open dialogues on critical issues and seeks partners, like the New School, who also believe in bringing women to the table for such discussions.

ABOUT THE EVENT:

***Reaction + Action in the Art World*: Moderated by Jessica L. Porter and featuring Tiana Webb Evans, Carin Kuoni, Monica O. Montgomery, Sable Elyse Smith, and Allison Freedman Weisberg.**

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

6:30–8:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)

The New School, John L. Tishman Auditorium, 63 5th Ave, New York, NY 10003

Tickets:

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$25

STUDENTS: \$15

SUPPORT

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS



Jessica L. Porter joined ArtTable in July 2018 as executive director after a four-year term on the board of directors and eight years of membership. Prior to this role, she was the executive director of New York Artists Equity Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1947 by artists and art patrons with the mission to promote opportunities for artists. It operates Equity Gallery, an art space, located on the Lower East Side of New York City.

Since 2001, Porter has also maintained Porter Advisory, working with organizations and other galleries as an independent curator, creating exhibitions in alternative spaces and exposing emerging artists to unique opportunities. From 2006 to 2017, Porter founded and directed Porter Contemporary, a Chelsea art gallery, where she was responsible for the overall strategy, business development and market growth, marketing and communications, as well as talent acquisition and development of the gallery.



Tiana Webb Evans is the founder and managing director of ESP Group, a public relations agency specializing in the strategic promotion of agents of culture, with international clients spanning art, architecture, and interior and industrial design industries.

Evans's experience includes branding, communications, strategic planning, business development, and event planning. Before launching ESP Group in 2014, Evans served as the communications director at Phillips, a global corporation focused on the sale of contemporary art. As vice president of the hospitality and real estate group at Nadine Johnson & Associates, she was responsible for a portfolio of clients working at the intersection of art, culture, and business. Prior to establishing a career in communications, she was the business director of Studio Sofield, a celebrated architecture and design firm known for its work with Gucci Group and a host of notable luxury good brands.

Today, Evans shares her expertise by serving on the boards of the New York Foundation of the Arts , Project for Empty Space Gallery, and Female Design Council. She is also a member of the Laundromat

Project's national advisory board.



Carin Kuoni is a curator and editor whose work examines how contemporary artistic practices reflect and inform social, political, and cultural conditions. She is director and chief curator of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School and teaches there as well. A founding member of the artists' collective REPOhistory, Kuoni has curated and co-curated numerous transdisciplinary exhibitions and edited and co-edited several books, including *Energy Plan for the Western Man: Joseph Beuys in America*; *Words of Wisdom: A Curator's Vade Mecum*; *Speculation, Now*; and *Entry Points: The Vera List Center Field Guide on Art and Social Justice*. She was the recipient of a 2014 Andy Warhol Foundation Curatorial Fellowship, directed "SITAC XII: Arte, Justamente" in Mexico City in 2015, and is a Travel Companion for the "Carnegie International, 57th Edition," which just opened.



Monica O. Montgomery is an arts and culture innovator using creativity and narrative as a means of bridging the gap between people and movements. As an independent curator, museum consultant, and speaker, she uses her platforms to be in service to society. She is cofounder and strategic director of Museum Hue, a multicultural organization advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, centering people of color in arts, culture, museums, and the creative economy.

As a museum activist, Montgomery advocates globally for social justice. She is the founding director of Museum of Impact, a mobile social justice museum at the intersection of art, activism, and society. Montgomery delivered a TedX Talk entitled "How To Be an Upstander," challenging everyone to stand, speak, and act up for social good. She holds a BA in broadcast communication from Temple University and an MA in corporate communication from LaSalle University. She has taught at Harvard University, Pratt Institute, and New York University. Montgomery holds leadership advisory positions in The New York City Arts in Education Roundtable, Leading Changemakers, and MASS Action. She has completed fellowships with National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellows, Race Forward's Racial Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab, and is currently a fellow with the Human Impacts Institute.



Sable Elyse Smith is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator based in New York City and Richmond, Virginia. Using video, sculpture, photography, and text, she points to the carceral, personal, political, and quotidian to speak about a violence that is largely unseen, and potentially imperceptible. Her work has been featured at the Museum of Modern Art, MoMA PS1, New Museum, the Studio Museum in Harlem, SIGNAL Gallery, Rachel Uffner Gallery, and Recess Assembly, all in New York City; Yerba Buena

Center for the Arts and Artist Television Access, in San Francisco; and Birkbeck Cinema in collaboration with the Serpentine Galleries, London. Her writing has been published in *Radical Teacher*, *Studio* magazine, and *Affidavit*, and she is currently working on her first book. Smith has received awards from Creative Capital, Fine Arts Work Center, the Queens Museum, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Rema Hort Mann Foundation, the Franklin Furnace Fund, and Art Matters. She is currently assistant professor of sculpture and extended media at the University of Richmond.



Allison Freedman Weisberg received a BA from Wesleyan University and an MA in from New York University. She worked in the Education Department at the Museum of Modern Art and then the Whitney Museum of American Art. Managing youth and community programs at the Whitney, Weisberg began creating inroads to contemporary art for audiences from diverse backgrounds. Her work uniting artists with the public led her to start Recess, a nonprofit formed to create opportunities for artists to work in a public setting, in 2009. She has given lectures and presentations at venues such as Hunter College and the New Museum and contributed

writing to wide-ranging publications from artist books to *Art in America*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, her two children, and a disgruntled mutt named Edgar.

ABOUT ARTTABLE

Founded in 1980, ArtTable is the leading organization devoted to supporting professional women in the visual arts. Through our national membership network and community initiatives, we expand opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds at all stages of their careers, fostering a stronger future for all women in the arts.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Image credits:

Karin Cuoni, credit: Matt Matthews

Tiana Webb Evans, credit: Mauri Meyers-Solages

Monica Montgomery, credit: Sindyiganza Photography

Sable Elyse Smith, credit: Charlie Rubin

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