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***Mildred Howard: The Time and Space of Now***

September 16th, 2022 - February 26th, 2023

The board and staff of the San José Institute of Contemporary Art are pleased to present an exhibition by San Francisco Bay Area artist, mentor, and long-standing arts community leader Mildred Howard. The exhibition entitled *The Time and Space of Now* will be on display at the ICA from September 2022 through February 2023. Visitors tour the exhibition through a darkened room featuring various installations that study the relationship between the tangible and ephemeral moments of memory, place, and the cyclical nature of history.

The installation explores the triangulation between time, space, and the migration and movement of people. Howard worked with composer Chris Brown to create the site-specific music for each space, with the culminating film component, a first in Howard's oeuvre, to be installed in the ICA's Cardinale Project Room. The film was created following Howard's discovery, amongst materials left by her mother, of 8 mm., film that had been stowed in a purse for six decades. It is composed of archival footage Howard took as a 14-year-old girl in Texas, interspersed with material shot on the beach in Alameda, and augmented by a fictional, unscripted, metaphysical dialogue between the artists Dewey Crumpler and Oliver Lee Jackson.

Large, sculptural assemblages fill most of the gallery spaces. The first of the installation pieces is composed of a large black bird flying above and below a large pile of oyster shells. Stemming from Howard's visit to the south and tracing her family lineage to the gulf, the work references migration through the oyster shells and the bird as a symbol of freedom. The oyster shells resonate especially in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, given the prevalence of shell mounds throughout the region. The second installation comprises a large funnel from the ceiling, seemingly pouring black sand onto the ground, representing time and people. The third installation is a mirrored clock with a reflection on the floor that reads 6:19 pm, which in Texas represents June 19th. The experience of standing in the life-size clock's reflection piques an unusual sense of existential awareness. Altogether, the various elements interspersed in the front galleries of the ICA, with the film at the end of the experience, will create a unique and unforgettable durational visit for all our guests, providing space for solace and consolation, as well as the desired sense of wonder.

The ICA is thrilled to announce that as part of the exhibition, the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation will loan 30 remarkable works on paper by Howard, showcasing her graphic impact and innovation as a printmaker. Included are works from her *Casanova* series (2018), where Howard explores the connections between desire, and the global reach of the import and export

of Black bodies. (pictured: *Incontro con Casanova: Il Potere dell'Altro III*, 2018). Also included are works that are part of a series that pays tribute to women artists Howard has worked with across the years, referring to the work or the “game” women artists need to put into their success, such as Hung Liu, Nashormeh Lindo, and others. Also, this fall, Howard will be honored by the San José Museum of Art at its annual fundraising gala, providing an opportunity to draw broader attention to the impact and importance of Mildred Howard’s life and work.

At the same time as Mildred Howard’s exhibition, the ICA San José will present an exhibition of the work of Adrian Burrell, an Oakland-based Black artist, recently selected to be part of this year’s Black Rock Residency, Kehinde Wiley’s recently inaugurated artist residency program. Made up also of a central film work, along with other objects and elements, Burrell’s exhibition is entitled *Sugarcane and Lightning pt 5*. Invited to lead the scholarship and interpretation of both of the exhibitions, local scholar, critic, and Stanford Ph.D. candidate Luke Williams will be working on the interactive guides, always translated into Spanish and Vietnamese at the ICA San José; with a larger, scholarly work underway to be published in 2023 under the working title *Blood, Sweat, and Time - Commerce and Labor in Black Contemporary Art*. This collection of early-career Black Bay Area scholars, artists, and critics ignites a discourse on the intricacies of work and the future of art in the Bay and beyond.

Mildred Howard’s exhibition ***The Time and Space of Now*** at the San José ICA has been made possible thanks to lead sponsorship from the Lipman Family Foundation, along with important support from Wanda Kownacki. Programs and exhibitions at the ICA are made possible thanks to generous support from the City of San José’s Office of Cultural Affairs; along with significant support from Applied Materials, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; along with additional support from SVCcreates. In-kind support has been provided by Kelly Moore Paints and the Wild Oyster Project and Ploughshares Nursery.

### **About Mildred Howard**

A key figure in the Bay Area art scene, African American artist Mildred Howard is known for her large-scale sculptural installations, public artworks, and assemblage sculptures. In addition to many public art commissions, her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. It is included in major museum collections, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oakland Museum of California, and the San José Museum of Art. She has worked in the community in numerous ways, including managing the art and communities program at San Francisco’s Exploratorium and as Executive Director of the Edible Schoolyard at Martin Luther King Middle School in Berkeley, California. Howard is represented by Anglim/Trimble (San Francisco), Parrasch Heijnen (Los Angeles), and Turner Carroll (Santa Fe) Galleries.