

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

MEDIA RELEASE:

1 March - 12 May 2024

Marta Bogdańska (PL) | Omar Victor Diop (SN) |
Nikki Lam (AU/HK) | Tace Stevens (Noongar/Spinifex, AU) |
Stephanie Syjuco (US) |



Omar Victor Diop, 'Frederick Douglass', 2015 from the series 'Project Diaspora' © courtesy of the artist/ Magnin-A (Paris)



Nikki Lam, 'Reprise', 2022 © courtesy of the artist

Only the future revisits the past 1 March - 12 May

As part of the PHOTO 2024 festival, the Centre for Contemporary Photography (CCP) is pleased to announce our feature exhibition 'Only the future revisits the past'.

In this internationally significant exhibition, artists look towards the past to speculate future possibilities and consider change.

It is well established that photography and film record the past, but these types of documents can also transform and dictate the future.

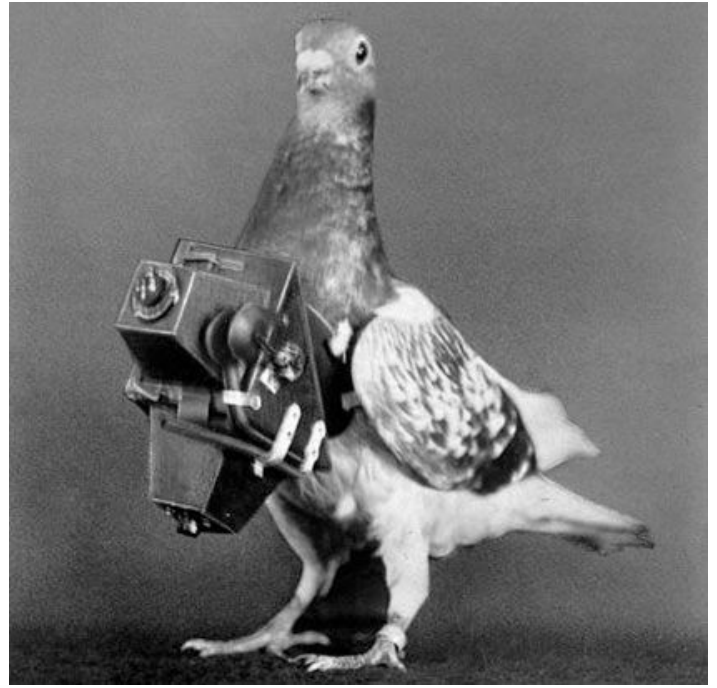
The title, 'Only the future revisits the past' is drawn from Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* (2019), a novel which in part deals with generational trauma, the past haunting the present, and the ways people process the past to consider their future.

This exhibition brings together artists Marta Bogdańska, Omar Victor Diop, Nikki Lam, Tace Stevens and Stephanie Syjuco whose works look towards the past - via archives, institutional and museum collections, family histories, and historic depictions - to speculate future states and possibilities. Through deep engagement and considered intervention, these artists disrupt received structures and narratives, and in doing so explore ideas of agency and the limitations of representation.

This exhibition, curated by Catlin Langford, questions the formulation of accepted knowledge and accounts, and asks: what role does memory and history play in forming our futures?



Stephanie Syjuco, 'Block Out the Sun', 2021 © courtesy of the artist, Catharine Clark Gallery, RYAN LEE Gallery, and Silverlens Gallery



Marta Bogdańska, from the series 'SHIFTERS' © Julius Neubronner, Stadtarchiv Kronberg

Director of CCP, Daniel Boetker-Smith says 'bringing together highly significant international artists in conversation with the best Australian-based visual storytellers is at the core of CCP's mission. We are delighted to be featuring so many important and engaging projects, many shown for the first time in this country. We are also pleased to be a feature exhibition of the PHOTO 2024 festival, a key international platform for celebrating the best in global photography .

Catlin Langford, Curator at CCP, notes 'in the wake of events like the global pandemic, we have largely looked towards the future as a possible answer, or means of processing the present. Conversely, this exhibition brings together artists who, despite varied and unique approaches, are united in their examination of the past to consider and contemplate the future.'

CONTACT

For interviews and/or further details please contact:

Catlin Langford, Curator
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Centre for Contemporary Photography
404 George Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065
Wed - Sun 11am - 5pm

Artists Omar Victor Diop, Nikki Lam and Tace Stevens will be present at the exhibition opening on 2 March 2024. The opening will feature a workshop by Gracieuse Amah of KWABO festival. Diop, Lam and Stevens will be present for floor talks on 3 March, led by curator Catlin Langford.

All artists are available for online interviews.

Diop, Lam and Stevens will be available in-person prior to the opening for in-person interviews.

CCP Curator Catlin Langford and Director Daniel Boetker-Smith are also available for online and in-person interviews.

OPENING DATES AND TIMES

Exhibition Dates:

1 March - 12 May 2024

Wednesday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm

Official Opening:

2 March - 6pm

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES

Available on drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fqJ70_bKT76LgAj_iu56s6_4ZckRV_EHm

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Marta Bogdańska is a Polish visual artist, photographer, filmmaker and cultural manager. Her works explore social and political issues and have been shown and published internationally. Her book *SHIFTERS* (Visual Arts Foundation and Landskrona Foto) won the PHotoESPAÑA Best International Photography Publication in 2022.

Omar Victor Diop is regarded as one of the most important Senegalese photographers of his generation. Across close to a decade, Diop has used self-portraiture as a means to embody historical characters and movements that re-tell the often overlooked story of African Diasporas. He now lives and works between Paris and Dakar. He recently released publications based on collaborations with Louis Vuitton and The Anonymous Project.

Nikki Lam is an artist-curator and filmmaker based in Narm/Melbourne. Working primarily with moving images and text, her work explores memory through contemplation on time, space and impermanence. Her work has been shown widely across Australia and internationally, including most recently as part of *Primavera: Australian Young Artists 2023* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

Tace Stevens is a Noongar and Spinifex visual storyteller from Western Australia. She uses photography and film to explore this world, and to better understand who she is, as an Aboriginal woman. Her work has a sense of authenticity and truth, revealing the close relationships she has formed with those she photographs. In 2023, Stevens received a photography grant from Magnum Foundation and the World Monument Fund.

Stephanie Syjuco works in photography, sculpture, and installation, moving from handmade and craft-inspired mediums to digital editing and archive excavations. Born in the Philippines, she is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and has exhibited widely, including at The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others. She is an Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and resides in Oakland, California.



Tace Stevens, 'We Were Just Little Boys' series, 2023- ongoing © courtesy of the artist and Magnum Foundation/World Monuments Fund



Omar Victor Diop, 'Pedro Camejo', 2015 from the series 'Project Diaspora' © courtesy of the artist/ Magnin-A (Paris)