

**MARY AND LEIGH BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

## **THE LEFT FRONT**

**RADICAL ART IN THE "RED DECADE," 1929–1940**

## **MFA THESIS EXHIBITION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ART THEORY & PRACTICE**

## **IN THE MIND OF THE BEHOLDER**

**AN EXPERIMENT IN PERCEPTION**

## **REVENGE AND REPOSE**

**CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY FROM THE COLLECTION**

# **MUSEUM**

## **SPRING 2014 EXHIBITIONS**

**Mary and Leigh  
Block Museum of Art**

Northwestern University,  
40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

[BLOCKMUSEUM.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](http://BLOCKMUSEUM.NORTHWESTERN.EDU)



MARY & LEIGH  
**block**  
MUSEUM OF ART

***The Left Front: Radical Art in the "Red Decade," 1929–1940***

**Through June 22, 2014 • Main Gallery**

*The Left Front: Radical Art in the "Red Decade," 1929–1940* revisits a moment in American history when visual artists joined forces to make socially conscious art. Organized by the Block Museum, the exhibition explores the visual culture of the John Reed Club and the American Artists' Congress through prints, drawings, paintings, and publications.

Support is provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art, as well as the Terra Foundation on behalf of William Osborn and David Kabiller and the Myers Foundations. Additional funding comes from the Carlyle Anderson Endowment, the Louise E. Drangsholt Fund, the Kessel Fund at the Block Museum, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

***MFA Thesis Exhibition: Department of Art Theory & Practice***

**May 1–June 22, 2014 • Alsdorf Gallery**

This exhibition presents the work of Caroline Carlsmith, Jason Dixon, Raphaël Fleuriet, TJ Proechel, and Nicole Wilson in the culmination of their MFA studies in Northwestern's Department of Art Theory & Practice. Bringing together five distinct practices, the exhibition acknowledges the artists' shared foundations, including research, experimentation, environment, and experience.

Co-organized by the Department of Art Theory & Practice and the Block Museum, Northwestern University. Support provided by the Norton S. Walbridge Fund; Cary Lane Art Supply Fund courtesy of Dr. Madeleine Wing Adler; Myers Foundations; the Mary and Leigh Block Endowment Fund; and the Alsdorf Endowment.

***In the Mind of the Beholder: An Experiment in Perception***

**March 25–May 4, 2014 • Katz Gallery**

Curated by Aleksandra Sherman, PhD candidate in psychology, this experimental exhibition explores how the subjective experience of viewing art may be "in the eye of the beholder."

***Revenge and Repose: Classical Mythology from the Collection***

**May 13–June 22, 2014 • Katz Gallery**

Curated by Joe Semkiu, an undergraduate Italian and art history major, this exhibition looks at early modern prints and drawings with a focus on figural representation, warfare, and passion.

Support for Katz Gallery exhibitions is provided by the Ellen Philips Katz and Howard C. Katz Endowment and from contributors to the Annual Fund.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BLOCK

All events are free and open to the public

### Exhibition Tours

Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m., April 5–June 22

Groups may request tours by contacting [blockeducation@northwestern.edu](mailto:blockeducation@northwestern.edu).

### Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Denise Markonish *A Spaceship, Wonder and Lots of Canadians: Curating at MASS MoCA*

Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

Denise Markonish, curator at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, will discuss her work and curatorial projects.

### Visiting Artist Lecture: Candice Breitz, "From A to B and Back Again"

Saturday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.

Candice Breitz is a Berlin-based South African artist whose video installations address stereotypes and visual conventions in film and popular culture. Her talk coincides with the Block's recent *Steichen / Warhol: Picturing Fame* exhibition.

### Lecture: Andrew Hemingway, "Style of the New Era"

Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.

An emeritus professor in art history at University College London, Hemingway is a preeminent scholar on American artists and the 1930s. He will speak on the culture of the John Reed Club and proletarian art.

### Warnock Lecture: Kerry James Marshall

Wednesday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.

Join Northwestern's Department of Art History for a lecture by renowned Chicago-based artist Kerry James Marshall, a MacArthur "genius grant" recipient. Marshall's work reflects his upbringing in Birmingham, Alabama, and early exposure to the black power and civil rights movements in Los Angeles.

### MFA Thesis Exhibition: Department of Art Theory & Practice Exhibition Opening Reception and Program

Thursday, May 1, 5:00 p.m.

Join Northwestern's art theory & practice graduates as they celebrate the opening of their MFA thesis exhibition.

### Lecture: Biro-Bidjan Prints Explored with Dr. Nathan Harpaz *A Gift to Biro-Bidjan: Chicago, 1937—From Despair to New Hope*

Sunday, May 4, 1:00 p.m.

In response to the *Left Front*, Koehnline Museum director Nathan Harpaz will illuminate a lesser-known period of history and share rare archival photographs of Biro-Bidjan, a region originally established as an autonomous Jewish settlement in the former Soviet Union.

### Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities: Artist-in-Residence Lecture with Christopher Cozier

Wednesday, May 7, 5:15 pm

The work of Trinidadian artist, curator, and writer Christopher Cozier examines the contemporary Caribbean experience through drawing, printmaking, sound, and installation. A 2013 Prince Claus Award recipient, Cozier will discuss his practice within a broader temporal, geographic, and transcultural context.

### Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Kerry Tribe *The Talking Dead: Index, Amnesia, and the Afterlife of Film*

Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m.

Award-winning artist Kerry Tribe joins the Block as part of the Department of Art Theory & Practice's Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Tribe's film, video, and installation works serve as meditations on cognition, using image, text, and sound to explore what she calls "the phenomenology of memory."

### An Artists' Congress

Saturday, May 17, 1:00–5:00 p.m. with social to follow

A contemporary take on the historical American Artists' Congress meetings from the 1930s, this 2014 Chicago-based Artists' Congress will consider forms, systems, organizations, and relationships focused on art and concerned with social transformation.

### Art Theory & Practice Visiting Artist Talk: Lucía Sanromán

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m.

Lucía Sanromán, cocurator of SITE Santa Fe's *SITelines 2014: Unsettled Landscape*, discusses her practice.

### Photography and the Archive in the African Diaspora

Thursday, May 22, 1:00 p.m.

Leading scholars and artists, including Deborah Willis, Tina Campt, Saidiya Hartman, Roshini Kempadoo, and Jacqueline Stewart, explore how photographic archives inform historical, artistic, photographic, memory, and performative practices in the African diaspora while more generally offering new perspectives on photography.

## BLOCK CINEMA

This season at Block Cinema features a second companion series to the *Left Front* exhibition, highlighting socially conscious films of the 1930s. Block Cinema will also present a retrospective of the work of Moroccan director Moumen Smihi, and much more! For a full schedule of films, visit:

[www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/view/cinema](http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/view/cinema).

# BLOCK

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# MUSEUM

## SPRING 2014 EXHIBITIONS

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WE'RE OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION

Arts Circle Drive is closed, but parking is available in the garage south of the Museum. Enter the garage on the right immediately after driving onto campus. After parking, proceed to one of the two pedestrian walkways located at the northeast and northwest sides of the garage. There are handicapped accessible parking spots in the lot northwest of the parking garage. Visitors using these spaces can take the northwest path, which leads to a handicapped accessible ramp that brings you to the Museum entrance. Parking is free all day on weekends and after 4pm, week-days. At other times, you will need to purchase a parking pass for \$8.25 at the University Parking Office at 1819 Hinman Avenue before using the garage. Visit our website for more information.

