

## CONVERSATIONS: AMONG FRIENDS

FEATURING ARTISTS DERRICK ADAMS, CLIFFORD OWENS, XAVIERA SIMMONS, AND MICKALENE THOMAS.  
INTRODUCTION AND *COLLECTIBLE* BY CHRISTOPHER Y. LEW, ASSISTANT CURATOR, MOMA PS1.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012

7:00 PM PROGRAM | 8:15 PM RECEPTION

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM

THE ROY AND NIUTA TITUS THEATER 2  
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TICKETS (\$35) MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE MUSEUM INFORMATION AND FILM DESKS,  
ONLINE AT MOMA.ORG OR THROUGH THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION OFFICE.

ALL TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR.

Please use The Ronald S. and Jo Carole Lauder Building entrance, east of the Museum's main entrance on Fifty-third Street.

Presented by the Friends as part of the series *Conversations: Among Friends*, this evening's program features a conversation between artists Derrick Adams, Clifford Owen, Xaviera Simmons, and Mickalene Thomas, with an introduction and *Collectible* essay by Christopher Y. Lew, Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1. Following the program, guests are invited to continue the conversation and meet the participants at an intimate reception catered by Fantasy Fare in The Agnes Gund Garden Lobby.

**Derrick Adams** is a multidisciplinary New York-based artist whose practice is rooted in Deconstructivist philosophies, and the perception of ideals attached to objects, colors, textures, symbols, and ideologies, and how they are formed. His work focuses on the fragmentation and manipulation of structure and surface while exploring the shape-shifting force of popular culture in our lives. He is an alumnus of The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, The Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program, and he received his BFA from Pratt Institute, and his MFA from Columbia University. His exhibition and performance highlights include: *Greater New York 2005* at MoMA PS1; *PERFORMA 05*; *Open House* at the Brooklyn Museum; *The Kitchen*, New York (2010); Collette Blanchard Gallery (2010); and *The Bearden Project* at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2011). He was the recipient of a 2009 Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, and is an honored finalist for the 2011 William H. Johnson Prize.

**Clifford Owens** is best known for his provocative performances, in which the audience is frequently required to engage with him, and shifts of power and perspective are at play. Owens also uses performance as a means to create formal photographic installations that question the intersection of performance, documentation, and photography. A solo exhibition of Owens' project *Anthology*, in which Owens performs scores written for him by African-American artists, opened at MoMA PS1 in November 2011. Other recent solo exhibitions include *Photographs with an Audience (Miami)*, at Gallery Diet, Miami, FL (2011); Mason Gross Galleries, Rutgers University (2011); Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2011); The Hanes Art Center, University of North Carolina (2009); On Stellar Rays, New York (2008). His group exhibitions include: *30 Seconds Off an Inch* at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY (Spring 2010); *PERFORMA 05*, New York, NY; *Freestyle* and *Quid Pro Quo* at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; *Greater New York 2005* at MoMA PS1, Queens, NY; and *Influence, Anxiety, Gratitude* at The List Visual Art Center, Cambridge, MA. Owens studied at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Mason Gross School of Visual Art, Rutgers University; and the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. He was an artist-in-residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem in 2005–06, and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2004. His grants and fellowships include: Art Matters, Louis Tiffany Comfort Award, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, Lambent Foundation, and the Rutgers University Ralph Bunche Graduate Fellowship. He was born in Baltimore, MD, in 1971, and he lives and works in Queens, NY.

**Xaviera Simmons** currently lives and works in New York and Paris. She received a BFA in photography from Bard College in 2004 after spending two years on a walking pilgrimage retracing the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade with Buddhist monks. She completed the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program (2005), while simultaneously completing a two-year actor-training conservatory with The Maggie Flanigan Studio (2006). Major exhibitions and performances of her work have taken place at The Museum of Modern Art (2010 and 2011); the Studio Museum in Harlem (five exhibitions from 2004–2010); the Nasher Museum Of Art at Duke University (2010); SculptureCenter, Queens, NY (2009); and the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2008). Simmons is a recipient of The David Driskell Prize, Jerome Foundation Travel/Study Fellowship, and Art Matters Fellowship, among many others.

Simmons is one of three 2011–2012 artists-in-residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Nouveau Musee National de Monaco (2011), Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo (2011), and in 2012 she will travel to Colombo, Sri Lanka as part of The U.S Department of State's smART Power Initiative. Simmons's works are in numerous private and public collections including: Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL; High Museum Of Art, Atlanta; the Nasher Museum Of Art at Duke University; the Rubell Collection, Miami, FL; the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Agnes Gund Art Collection; and the Deutsche Bank Collection.

**Mickalene Thomas** was born in Camden, NJ, in 1971. Thomas earned her MFA from Yale University, and holds a BFA from Pratt Institute. In 2002–2003 she participated in the artist-in-residence program at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and in 2011 was a resident at the Versailles Foundation Munn Artists Program in Giverny, France. Recent awards include the Joan Mitchell Grant, the Pratt Institute Alumni Achievement Award, and the Rema Hort Mann Grant. Thomas has exhibited both nationally and internationally, and her forthcoming solo exhibitions in 2012 include: *Origin of the Universe* at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, and *How to Unify a Room Around a Striking Piece of Art* at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Thomas's work can be found in several museum collections including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Brooklyn Museum; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, KS; the Rubell Collection in Miami, FL; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. Thomas is represented by Lehmann Maupin in New York, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, and Rhona Hoffman Gallery in Chicago. Her work has been featured in various catalogues and reviewed in *ArtForum*, *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *NY Arts*, *Modern Painters*, and *Whitewall* among others. Thomas lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

**Christopher Y. Lew** is assistant curator at MoMA PS1. He joined the museum in 2006, and most recently organized *Clifford Owens: Anthology*. He has also curated exhibitions and programs in New York City at venues including Artists Space and Aljira, and has written broadly. Prior to joining the museum, he worked as managing editor at Art AsiaPacific, and held positions at the Aperture Foundation, and the Asian American Arts Centre.

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