

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2017

Hundreds of Female and Female-Identifying Artists Gather at National Museum of Women in the Arts for Historic Photo Shoot on Oct. 25

*D.C., Maryland and Virginia arts organizations host programs
highlighting women in the arts during October*



WASHINGTON—On Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts ([NMWA](http://nmwa.org)), hundreds of female and female-identifying contemporary artists will gather for the fourth and final U.S. iteration of *Now Be Here* in its most community-focused format yet. In partnership with Los Angeles-based artist Kim Schoenstadt, and co-organized by D.C.-based artist Linn Meyers, *Now Be Here #4, DC/MD/VA* will feature a historic group photograph taken by D.C. photographer Kim Johnson. An artist resource fair with representatives from 19 local arts organizations will follow.

In addition, *Now Let's Talk*, a dynamic program schedule of lectures, films, discussions and artist talks, will bring museums and organizations across the region together to highlight female artists and discuss issues related to women in the arts during October.

"We are excited to host the final *Now Be Here* photograph in the U.S., and I am especially pleased that the project's scope has expanded to include an artist resource fair and programs with partners from across the region that highlight women in the arts," said NMWA director Susan

Fisher Sterling. “As the only major museum in the world dedicated to celebrating the creative contributions of women, our mission is to champion women through the arts by advocating for equity and shining a light on excellence.”

“Last summer, I began the *Now Be Here* project to be present and reconnect with my community while demonstrating a discrepancy in the art world,” said Schoenstadt. “The world has changed a lot since last summer. With the final U.S. iteration of *Now Be Here*, we are recognizing that showing up is just the beginning. With the addition of the Artist Resource Fair and *Now Let’s Talk*, the project expands to present inspiration, inspire activation and activate community momentum.”

“It makes sense to have *Now Be Here* happen in Washington, a place where the arts are often overshadowed by politics,” said Meyers. “Art-making is often a solitary activity that is mostly invisible to those outside of the studio—this event illustrates the strength and numbers of our community. The DMV is full of talented, powerful and community-minded artists, and we want to share that knowledge with each other and the region. Maintaining an art-making practice is more than just making art, most of us need to find a way to feel connected to the larger artistic community. This gathering of artists is one action that we can take towards fulfilling that need.”

The *Now Be Here* project [website](#) will list the artists in attendance so that every artist is identified. Previous *Now Be Here* gatherings have taken place in Los Angeles, New York City and Miami where, collectively, more than 2,000 women artists participated.

Now Be Here #4, DC/MD/VA

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Wed., Oct. 25, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Now Be Here #4, DC/MD/VA is a free event for female and female-identifying artists. If you would like an invitation, email freshtalk@nmwa.org.

Artist Photograph

In partnership with artist Kim Schoenstadt, and co-organized by artist Linn Meyers, *Now Be Here #4, DC/MD/VA* will gather female and female-identifying visual artists in the vibrant local contemporary art community for a group photograph by Kim Johnson and night of conversation and connection.

Artist Resource Fair

After the photograph is taken, artists will enjoy a cocktail hour while networking with representatives from nonprofit organizations in the DMV. Participants include: Americans for the Arts; Anacostia Arts Center; Arlington Arts Center; Arts and Cultural Heritage Division, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County; Art Watch DC; Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center; DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; DC Arts Center; East City Art; Greater Reston Arts Center; Halcyon Arts Lab; Hamiltonian Gallery; Honfleur Gallery; Pyramid Atlantic Art Center; STABLE; The Art League; The Contemporary—Baltimore; Transformer Gallery; The Studio Visit; Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts and Washington Project for the Arts.

***Now Let's Talk* Programming**

Now Let's Talk is a dynamic schedule of talks, lectures and discussions that will bring museums and organizations across the region together to highlight female artists and discuss issues related to women in the arts. Admission and reservation requirements for programming varies. Visit each venue's website for more information.

[Carrie Mae Weems: Kitchen Table Series](#)

National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium

Tues., Oct. 17, 12 p.m.

Artist Carrie Mae Weems will present a lecture and book signing, held in conjunction with the installation of the "Kitchen Table Series" at the National Gallery of Art and the performance "Grace Notes: Reflections for Now" at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

[Kara Walker Gallery Talk with Curator Sarah Newman](#)

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Wed., Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Walk through the exhibition *Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)* and discuss the imagery with Sarah Newman, The James Dicke Curator of Contemporary Art.

[Carrie Mae Weems, Grace Notes: Reflections for Now](#)

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Eisenhower Theater

Fri., Oct. 20, 8 p.m.

Visual artist Carrie Mae Weems and other artists offer a provocative performance of music, song, text, spoken word and video projection that explores the implications of race and violence in communities across America. This program is held in conjunction with the installation of the "Kitchen Table Series" at the National Gallery of Art.

[DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Funding Opportunities for Artists](#)

200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

Sat., Oct. 21, 10 a.m.

Join the staff at the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, one of D.C.'s largest arts funders, to learn about grant opportunities and tips for successful applications.

[Nasty Women: Art Talks](#)

Arlington Arts Center, Organized by the Studio Visit

Sat., Oct. 21, 1 p.m.

A series of invited female artists tell rehearsed short stories shedding light on their specific experiences as women in the art world.

[Open Hours: Mothering from the Front Line](#)

Baltimore Museum of Art, Organized by the Family Arts Museum

Sat., Oct. 21, 1–4 p.m.

This Open Hours program discusses the power of family-inclusive activism. Join artist-activist mothers and supporters for a roundtable discussion about creating balance while advocating

for the community, getting family involved in current movements and mothering from the front line.

[Nakeya Brown: Stage Names](#)

Washington Project for the Arts

Sat., Oct. 21, 4 p.m.

In association with her Washington Project for the Arts Bookshelves project, Nakeya Brown will give a talk and lead a photo-session with attendees, examining the visual and literary perspective of the self-identified woman.

[The Future of the Arts in Twenty-first Century Cities](#)

Hamiltonian Gallery, Organized by ArtTable in partnership with the New School

Mon., Oct. 23, 6 p.m.

The live-stream event features a visionary panel of women from San Francisco, Detroit and New York who are involved in arts projects having a major impact on our cities. ArtTable in partnership with the New School.

[Artist Talk: Heather Theresa Clark](#)

Hamiltonian Gallery

Tues., Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

Artist Heather Theresa Clark, who approaches her practice as a planner, green developer and ecologist, will talk about her work during this informal conversation and meet-and-greet.

[“Present” in Print](#)

Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

Tues., Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

In a combination lecture and demonstration, join Pyramid Atlantic and the Brentwood Arts Exchange for a talk about printmaking and its role in feminism and social justice. After the talk, check out Pyramid's Letterpress Studio for a demonstration, and walk away with a printed poster. Advance registration is required beginning Oct. 1.

[Artist Talk: Njideka Akunyili Crosby](#)

Baltimore Museum of Art, Hosted by Maryland Institute College of Art

Wed., Oct. 25, 6 p.m.

Hear Njideka Akunyili Crosby reflect on her new suite of works on view at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Her layered, mixed-media paintings explore her experience of moving from Nigeria to the United States and navigating cultures.

[Creative Response to Sue Wrbcian: Well Past the Echo](#)

Greater Reston Arts Center

Thurs., Oct. 26, 6 p.m.

Join the conversation as creative professionals lead a discussion in response to the work of Sue Wrbcian, on view through Nov. 18.

[One Life: Sylvia Plath](#)

National Portrait Gallery

Fri., Oct. 27, 12 p.m.

Curator Dorothy Moss will lead a tour of *One Life: Sylvia Plath* in celebration of Plath's birthday.

[IDENTIFY: Sandy Huckleberry "KNOW"](#)

National Portrait Gallery, Great Hall

Sat., Oct. 28, 4 p.m.

Sandy Huckleberry's performance, which contemplates current social and political events, incorporates the history of the museum's building, along with the artist's personal experiences as a woman.

[COUNT/RECOUNT: Feminist Film and Video](#)

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Sun., Oct. 29, 11 a.m.

Video and film by feminist artists and filmmakers, from the 1970s to today, selected by Carmen Hermo, assistant curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum.

[2017 Makers Mart Arts & Craft Fair](#)

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Sun., Oct. 29, 12–5 p.m., and Mon., Oct. 30, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

A wide variety of products, including jewelry, home accents and accessories, will be available at a pop-up artisan market promoting local women artists and designers who create handcrafted art and merchandise.

[Amy Sherald](#)

National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium

Sun., Oct. 29, 2 p.m.

Baltimore-based artist Amy Sherald will discuss her career, including being the first woman to win the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition grand prize from the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, in 2016.

Women, Arts and Social Change

Now Be Here #4, DC/MD/VA is a Cultural Capital program partnership presented as part of NMWA's Women, Arts and Social Change initiative highlighting women and the arts as catalysts for social change. With outreach to new audiences, NMWA's Cultural Capital partnerships increase the museum's visibility in the region. The [Women, Arts and Social Change](#) public program initiative is made possible through leadership gifts from Denise Littlefield Sobel, the ML Dauray Arts Initiative, The Reva and David Logan Foundation, and the Swartz Foundation. Additional support is provided by Deborah G. Carstens, the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund, and the Bernstein Family Foundation.

American Airlines is the official airline of the museum's 30th Anniversary.

National Museum of Women in the Arts

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) is the world's only major museum solely dedicated to celebrating the creative contributions of women. The museum champions women through the arts by collecting, exhibiting, researching and creating programs that advocate for equity and shine a light on excellence. NMWA highlights remarkable women artists of the past while also promoting the best women artists working today. The museum's collection includes over 5,000 works by more than 1,000 women artists from the 16th century to the present, including Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Alma Woodsey Thomas, Lee Krasner, Louise Bourgeois, Chakaia Booker and Nan Goldin.

NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C. It is open Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sun., noon–5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youth 18 and under. Admission is free the first Sunday of every month. For information, call 202-783-5000, visit nmwa.org, Broad Strokes [Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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Media Contacts

Due to capacity restrictions, a limited number of media photographers and journalists will be able to join us on Oct. 25, so reach out as soon as possible if you are interested in covering the event.

Amy Mannarino, 202-783-7373, amannarino@nmwa.org

Stacy Meteer, 202-783-7377, smeteer@nmwa.org

IMAGES (L–R):

Now Be Here #1, LA, 2016, Photo by Isabel Avila, Courtesy Kim Schoenstadt and Hauser Wirth & Schimmel

Now Be Here #2, NYC, 2016, Photo by Paola Kudacki, courtesy Kim Schoenstadt, Shinique Smith, and The Brooklyn Museum

Now Be Here #3, South Florida, Miami, 2016; Photo by Gesi Schilling, courtesy Kim Schoenstadt, Jane Hart, Girls' Club, and Pérez Art Museum Miami