



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***OFF-SPRING: New Generations* at 21c Lexington Opens August 4**

*Opening Reception on Saturday, August 4  
Features Special Presentation by Artist Stacey Steers*



Stacey Steers (American), *Night Hunter* [still],  
2011. Film 35mm to HD, stereo sound.  
Courtesy of the Artist and 21c Museum  
Hotels.

**Lexington, Kentucky** (July 30, 2018) – 21c Museum will present *OFF-SPRING: New Generations*, a group exhibition opening at **21c Lexington** on August 4. Featuring 37 artists, the exhibition explores the development of personal and group identity through religious, cultural, institutional, and domestic rituals. To mark the opening of the exhibition, 21c Lexington will host a reception on August 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. with remarks by 21c Chief Curator and Museum Director **Alice Gray Stites**, and a special presentation by and artist **Stacey Steers**, whose work is featured in *OFF-SPRING*. This event is free and open to the public.

Employing sculpture, painting, photography, and video, the artists *in OFF-SPRING* explore the daily rituals and communal rites that continue to shape identity and define the politics of family and society, transforming iconic imagery to generate the power of new potential and change. The exhibition covers

themes ranging from the constraints of marriage and the conventions and aesthetics of faith-based traditions, to the domestic ritual of the family portrait and the gender and identity issues entangled in legacy. At the wedding altar, in the family home, or in the classroom; within the fantasy of childhood play or the familiarity of grown-up habit; these narratives generate a spectrum of meditations on the contemporary construction of self and society.

*“OFF-SPRING: New Generations* emerged from an impulse to explore the concept of ritual—religious and secular, personal and communal—and how rituals continue to define the politics of family and society,” said 21c Chief Curator and Museum Director Alice Gray Stites. “Many works in the exhibition transform iconic imagery from spheres both sacred and profane, interrogating and disrupting conventional notions about the value of domestic, cultural, or religious rituals and the power structures these practices support.”

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- **Stacey Steers’ *Night Hunter***, is an animation composed from more than 4,000 individual collages from found 19<sup>th</sup> century illustrations and video stills of celebrated silent film actress Lillian Gish. Steers’s dreamlike world of *Night Hunter* depicts parallel transformations—both biological and metaphorical—of the house and in the character portrayed by Gish. As snakes, worms, eggs, flies, and moths overtake the rooms, Gish slowly transforms into a birdlike creature, eventually fleeing from the house and the domestic tasks that confine her.
- **Frances Goodman’s *The Dream***, a textile and sound installation comprised of satin, silk, and organza wedding dresses flowing from the ceiling to the floor in waves of pinks and whites. Goodman interviewed dozens of women ages 20 to 60 and integrated their candid emotions of hope, envy, angst, uncertainty, and desire about the tradition of marriage, into the work as both hand-embroidered words on the dresses and as sound excerpts from the interviews she recorded.
- **Deanna Lawson’s** photographs ***Oath and Coulson Family***, capture the ways that sexuality, violence, family, religion, economic and social status, and community mark the human body. Inspired by the materiality of black culture and its expression as seen through the body, often in domestic settings, Lawson’s photographs blur the divisions between documentary and staged photography, family albums and fine art.
- In **Chiharu Shiota’s *State of Being (Dress. In State of Being (Dress)***, white plastered children’s dresses float in between layers of thread, as if the young bodies that once wore them were still there, filling the space with their histories and breath. They remain haunting traces of anonymous childhoods and pay homage to the untold stories of the people who may have worn these clothes, in life or in death: in Japan, white is the color of mourning. The artist, who works in both installation and performance, is best known for filling rooms with her large-scale installations that enclose everyday personal objects within a complex web of threads; in turn, these threads memorialize, protect, and confine the objects

Additional artists featured in the *OFF-SPRING: New Generations* include **Lauren Argo, Angela Ellsworth, Gehard Demetz, Lalla Essaydi, Anthony Goicolea, Gottfried Helnwein, Li Hongbo, Loretta Lux, Laurie Lipton, Beth Moysés, Sofie Muller, Cobi Moules, Julie Nord, Hans Op de Beeck, Robert Pettena, Christa Parravani, Chris Radtke, Asya Reznikov, Chris Roberts-Antieau, Laetitia Soulier, Vee Speers, Sam Taylor-Johnson, and Carrie Mae Weems.**

*OFF-SPRING: New Generations* at 21c Lexington is the first exhibition to open following 21c's newest property in Kansas City, Missouri. Information about 21c Kansas City can be downloaded [here](#).

#### **ABOUT STACEY STEERS**

Stacey Steers is known for her process-driven, labor-intensive films composed of thousands of handmade works on paper. Her recent work employs images appropriated from early cinematic sources, from which she constructs original, lyrical narratives. These films investigate the nature of longing, and how desire provokes and mediates experience to create meaning.

Steers's animated short films have screened throughout the U.S. and abroad, and have received numerous awards. Her work has shown at Sundance Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, IFFR, Rotterdam, New Directors New Films (New York), MoMA, and the National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.) among many other venues.

Stacey Steers is a recipient of major grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, Creative Capital and the American Film Institute. The artist lives and works in Denver, CO and is represented by Catherine Clark Gallery.

#### **ABOUT 21c MUSEUM HOTELS**

21c Museum, a multi-venue museum with locations in eight cities, is one of the largest contemporary art museums in the U.S., and North America's only collecting museum dedicated solely to art of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was founded in 2006 by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, philanthropists, preservationists, and contemporary art collectors, who were inspired by the idea that art can spur urban revitalization and catalyze civic connection. Envisioning a new way to expand access to contemporary art in urban centers, they created 21c Museum Hotels, which seamlessly combine a fully functioning contemporary art museum with boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants.

From rotating, curated exhibitions, to site-specific installations and cultural programming, 21c creates innovative cultural centers for experiencing thought provoking contemporary art from all over the world. Open and accessible 24/7, 21c's exhibitions and programs are free to public. 21c Kansas City brings over 6,200 square feet of exhibition, meeting, and event space to downtown Kansas City. As a multi-venue museum, 21c presents a range of arts programming curated by Museum Director, Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. 21c collaborates on arts initiatives with artists and organizations worldwide. 21c Museum Hotels are located in Louisville, KY; Cincinnati, OH; Bentonville, AR; Durham, NC; Lexington, KY; Oklahoma City, OK, and Nashville, TN. Projects are under development in Des Moines and Miami.

For more information visit [21cMuseumHotels.com](http://21cMuseumHotels.com)

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