



PRESS RELEASE

August 20, 2018

Portraying Power and Identity: A Global Perspective **OPENS AT 21C DURHAM SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**

Contemporary Portraiture Exhibition Examines Global Representations of Social, Cultural and Political Power, Featuring 40 Artists including; Kehinde Wiley, Anthony Goicolea, Titus Kaphar, and Zanele Muholi

*Free Opening Reception and Special Presentation
by Cuban-American Artist Anthony Goicolea*

Durham, NC (August X, 2018)

21c Museum will present *Portraying Power and Identity: A Global Perspective*, a group exhibition opening at 21c Durham on September 14. Featuring 40 artists, the exhibition reveals the intersection between contemporary portraiture and depictions of social, cultural, and political power. To mark the opening of the exhibition, 21c Durham will host a cocktail reception on September 14 from 6 - 9 p.m. with remarks by 21c Chief Curator and Museum Director Alice Gray Stites, and a discussion with featured artist Anthony Goicolea. This exhibition and event are free, and open to the public.

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Anthony Goicolea (American). Anonymous Self-Portrait, 2017.
Graphite, turpentine, and oil paint on Mylar.

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The traditional genres of art history are evolving and intersecting, addressing a broad spectrum of subject matter. From the complexities of the formation of identity, to the political, social, and economic forces shaping the world today, contemporary art is increasingly fluid. These visionary artists create aesthetically and conceptually engaging work that may inspire insights into how we might share a progressive future worldwide.

**—Alice Gray Stites
Chief Curator**



Including sculpture, painting, photography, works on paper, video, and installation, *Portraying Power and Identity* showcases the range and complexity of human experience from a selection of artists from around the world. Individual and group identity, and the forces that shape how we see self and others, are approached through direct references to noted works from art history, connecting past events to current issues. **Nandipha Mntambo**, uses casts of her own body to create the three cowhide torsos that comprise *Ode to the Silence*, which echo in form and color the classical *Winged Victory of Samothrace* (200-190 BCE), transforming the Hellenistic figure of heroism into a contemporary vision of female strength. **Miguel Ángel Rojas's** series of photographs of a young, Colombian soldier posing as Michelangelo's *David* (1501-04 CE), present a victim of war, a young man maimed by violence. Rojas considers his artwork a form of justice: by chronicling this moment in history, he illuminates the costs and casualties of drugs and violence in his native Colombia. **Ori Gersht's** *Falling Bird* replicates the composition of Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin's *A Mallard Drake Hanging on a Wall and a Seville Orange* (1728-1730 CE). While the sharpness and slow motion of the film at times approximates an oil painting, his deceptively alluring still life invokes destruction and loss. Born and raised in Israel, Gersht grew up acutely aware of the persistent threat of violence.

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- **Anthony Goicolea's** *Portrait in Negative of a Boy with Harmonica as Madame Gautreau*, based on an old photograph of himself, and created in homage to John Singer Sargent's infamous *Portrait of Madame X* (1884 CE). Though evocative of Sargent's compositional style, Goicolea's figure also resembles a photograph, as the figure is drawn in the negative, such that light areas appear dark and vice versa.
- **Titus Kaphar's** *The Jerome Project* (Asphalt and Chalk) XXV and *Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice*, are both composite portraits of African-American men and boys who were either incarcerated or killed by police or vigilante violence. The layering causes a visual blurring; the contours and features of one person bleed into the next; multiple people become indistinguishable.
- **Zanele Muholi's** photographs, *Zukiswa Gaca, Mukhaza, Khayelitsha* and *Nomonde Mbusi*, portray strong, unique identities as representatives of the LGBTQI community in South Africa. These

portraits, part of Muholi's ongoing series *Faces and Phases*, are part of her mission to "rewrite black queer and trans visual history of South Africa, for the world to know our resistance and existence."

- **Anastasia Taylor-Lind's** series *Maidan: Portraits from the Black Square*, are photographs of Ukrainian men and women that are both stunning portraits and evidence of a political moment that claimed the lives of over one hundred protesters in early 2014.

Additional artists featured in *Portraying Power and Identity* include **Taylor Baldwin, Angel Delgado, Elena Dorfman, Marc Fromm, Ori Gersht, Pierre Gonnord, Alex Hernández, Pieter Hugo, Gabriel Lester, Miguel Ángel Rojas, Christian Schoeler, Mikhael Subotzky, Hank Willis Thomas, José Toirac, Bill Viola, Ronald Vill's, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, and Marco Veronese**

21c Museum has exhibitions, programming, and events year-round at their eight locations across the U.S. Their newest property, 21c Kansas City, opened this past July with the inaugural exhibition *Refuge*. For more details on 21c and for a full list of programming, visit 21cMuseumHotels.com.

ABOUT ANTHONY GOICOLEA

Cuban-American artist Anthony Goicolea is known for his photographs, drawings, paintings, sculptural installations, and films that explore themes surrounding identity, migration and transition, displacement and alienation, as well as assimilation and group dynamics. He utilizes the architecture of the human body and constructed landscapes to create worlds predicated on fantasy but based in reality. In 2017, Goicolea was awarded a commission to create a memorial to New York's LGBTQ community; his transformative, site-specific installation honoring all victims of hate, intolerance, and violence was recently unveiled in Hudson Park.

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 21st 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** and follow us on social media at **@21cHotels** or **#21cMuseumHotel**.
