

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORE RESIDENCY PROGRAM PRESENTS

**THE DANGEROUS PROFESSORS,
HOUSTON EDITION**

AN EXHIBITION FEATURING OVER 100 NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-EDUCATORS OPENS MAY 3RD

On View May 3rd - June 29th, 2018

Opening Reception: May 3rd, 5pm - 8pm

Flatland Gallery, 1709 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas, 77098



Houston, TX – *The Dangerous Professors*, a curatorial project by Ruslana Lichtzier, works to counteract the pervasive right wing forces that jeopardizes civil, artistic and academic freedom. The project employs exhibitions, public programs, and an accompanying website to serve as a platform for the collective development of strategies toward the idea of radical education. The exhibition opens May 3rd at Flatland Gallery, 1709 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas, 77098 and is on view through May 27.

The project was precipitated by professorwatchlist.org, a website initiated in November 21st, 2016 that aims to compile a list of instructors who “advance a radical agenda in lecture halls.” The *Dangerous Professors* project reads this website as symptomatic of the deep and widespread forces which work to jeopardize civil, artistic and academic freedom by calling out, shaming, and attempting to hurt those that it opposes.

Through an open invitation, *The Dangerous Professors* encourages artists-educators who the watchlist could deem as dangerous for promoting a progressive or transgressive dialogue and cultural production, to self-identify and exhibit their work as an act of resistance. The exhibition and accompanying publication include the work of nearly one-hundred artist-educators.

Participating artists include Noor Abed, Alejandro T. Acierto, Elana Adler, David O. Alekhuogie, Gal Amiram, Keliy Anderson-Staley, Laura August, Jeffrey Michael Austin, Lynn Basa, Monika Bravo, Joey Cannizzaro, Cara Chan, Henry Chapman, Julietta Cheung, Roger Colombik, Lily Cox-Richard, Jamal Cyrus, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Julie De Vries, Mark Alcazar Diaz, Alejandro Figueredo Diaz-Perera, Will Douglas, Rob Duarte, Grayson Earle, Coming Edge, Earl Elowsky, Eva Engelbert, Julie Escoffier, Maria Bang Espersen, Fidencio Fifield-Perez, Noah Fischer, Dianna Frid, Steven Frost, Casey Galloway, Juan R. Garcia, Johannes Gierlinger, Matthew Girson, Hannah Givler, Gina Grafos, Ben Hagari, Joe Harjo, Natilee Harren, Kelsey Harrison, Emily Hermant, Dan Herwitt, Shana Hoehn, Allison Hunter, Kasumi Iwama with Rubén Darío Díaz Chávez and Bastián Díaz, Meredith Jack, Tán Jiànguāng, Devin Kenny, Bradley Kerl, Katie Kirk, Paul Kittelson, Chad Kouri, Lisa Lapinski, Laura Latimer, Sterling Lawrence, Jaewook Lee, Luftwerk, Massa Lemu, Ella Littwitz, Lauren Lohman, Maya Manvi, Noelle Mason, Abinadi Meza, Delilah Montoya, Matt Morris, Virginia Lee Montgomery, Jeroen Nelemans, John Opera, Geof Oppenheimer, Ellen Orseck, Joel Parson, Emily Peacock, David Pulitzer, Porcelain Power Factory, Kaveri Raina, Emilio Rojas, Deirdre Sargent, Carrie Schneider, Anna Shteynshleyger, Rana Siegel, Catherine Sullivan, Terry Suprean, Ryan Takaba, Marcela Torres, Jenyu Wang, Elizabeth Webb, Anna Wehrwein, Derrick Woods-Morrow, Nick Wylie, Allison Yasukawa, Joe Yorty, Jave Yoshimoto, and Peng Zuqiang.

The first iteration of the project opened at Triumph Gallery in Chicago, IL on May 13th, 2017 and featured over one hundred and fifty participants. This second staging places emphasis on artists from the surrounding community of Houston and Texas at large.

About the Curator

Born in Siberia, Russia and raised in Israel, **Ruslana Lichtzier** is a curator, writer, and educator. Her background as a migrant propels cultural productions that aim to nest radical imagination of difference and change. She is the initiator and co-director of Triumph School Manual Project, in Triumph, Illinois, and of the project space Triumph, Chicago. Recent productions include the group exhibition *The Dangerous Professors*, Triumph, Chicago, and the research project in form of a group exhibition *Terrorists in The Library*, Harold Washington College (Chicago, Illinois). She is a Core fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Houston, TX) and the Co-Director of Jewish Artist Fellowship, at Spertus, Institute for Jewish Learning

and Leadership. She is also a contributor writer for The Seen Magazine (EXPO Chicago). Most recently she taught at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago and Spertus Institute.

Dangerous Professors is the culmination of Lichtzier's fellowship in the Core Residency Program at the Glassell School of Art, where she has been in residence since 2016.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Thursday, May 24, 6pm – 8:15pm

#MeToo // IRL - Participatory Workshop

Scott J. Hunter, Ching-In Chen, Xandra Eden

cosponsored with Diverse Works

Gaining steam in October 2017, the #MeToo movement aimed a spotlight at the pandemic of sexual assault and harassment that women, nonbinary, and gender-non-conforming people face. With this, it became clearer than ever that gender bias is a fundamental discriminatory structure of contemporary society. While it is extremely important for survivors to speak out, it has become evident that everyone is affected by this violence and oftentimes do not have the tools to intervene or interrupt it as it happens. This participatory workshop aims to provide practical tools to practice active listening, group empowerment through empathy, and transformative justice in the workplace. Active participation is encouraged but not required.

Xandra Eden is Executive Director & Chief Curator of DiverseWorks where her recent exhibitions include *Lines Drawn* (2017), *Only in Your Way: Kate Gilmore & Heather Rowe* (2017/co-curated w/Rachel Cook); and *Pablo Helguera: The Fable is to be Retold* (2016). She was previously a curator at the Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2005-2015) and at The Power Plant in Toronto (1999-2005) where she organized exhibitions, performances, publications, and artist-driven programs and projects. She has also held positions at Women & Their Work, Austin and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York. Eden holds a BFA from SUNY Purchase and MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

As a co-organizer of recent CAA and Common Field workshops on gender inequity in the arts over the past year, Eden will present her findings and research, and share some of the ideas and tactics that have been proposed by artists, art faculty and other art professionals.

Ching-In Chen is author of *The Heart's Traffic* and *recombinant* and co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities* and *Here is a Pen: an Anthology of West Coast Kundiman Poets*. A Kundiman, Lambda, Watering Hole and Callaloo Fellow, they are part of Macondo and Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation writing communities. Their work has appeared in *The Best American Experimental Writing* and *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*. They serve as the Texas

Review's poetry editor and on *Thinking Its Presence: Race, Advocacy, Solidarity in the Arts'* Executive Board. www.chinginchen.com

As a co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities*, Ching-In will share some principles of transformative justice and community accountability -- and discuss some lessons from case studies.

Scott J. Hunter, PhD is a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, and Pediatrics in the Pritzker School of Medicine and Biological Sciences Division at the University of Chicago. He is the Director of Neuropsychology for the University of Chicago Medicine and Comer Children's Hospital. Dr. Hunter is also a collector and curator of contemporary art, with an emphasis on the intersectional and relational within emerging to mid-career practices. His most recent exhibition, *A is for Artist*, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago, presented current works by artists with intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities, as a confrontation with the idea of the outsider within contemporary art.

With this component of the workshop, we will address how trauma situates within ourselves, at a neurobiological level, and consider how the brain incorporates and processes adversity. This will foster a better consideration of how trauma influences what is seen, felt, and shared interpersonally, as well as psychologically.

The event will be accompanied by a screening and a sound program of works by *The Dangerous Professor* artists.

Friday, May 25, 6pm – 8pm

#CrisisPedagogy

HOW TO TEACH ART AND ART HISTORY UNDER CONDITIONS OF CRISIS?

Teaching Resource Sharing Party

Cosponsored by the Society of Contemporary Art Historians (SCAH)

Bring your teaching resources to share! Flash drives, JPGs, PDFs, PPTs, lesson plans, syllabi, etc., or send files to crisispedagogy@gmail.com. This event will feature brief presentations of politically responsive lesson plans by area art and art history teachers.

Host: Natilee Harren, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art History and Critical Studies at the University of Houston and President, Society of Contemporary Art Historians.

#CrisisPedagogy is a project initially co-founded by SCAH, Sense of Emergency, Art History That, Association for Latin American Art, Association of Historians of American Art, the European Postwar and Contemporary Art Forum, Material Collective, New Media Caucus, Queer Caucus for Art, US Latinx Art Forum, Visual Culture Caucus, Women's Caucus for Art, The Research and Academic Program of the Clark Art Institute, and the College Art Association.

Natilee Harren is Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art History and Critical Studies at the University of Houston and President of the Society of Contemporary Art Historians. Her scholarship focuses on experimental, interdisciplinary practices after 1960. Her essays and criticism have appeared in *Artforum*, *Art Journal*, *Getty Research Journal*, and *East of Borneo*, and her monograph on the LA-based artist Karl Haendel was published by LAXART in 2017. She is currently at work on a book-length project on Fluxus scores and multiples as well as a critical anthology of innovative notation practices across the fields of music, performance art, dance, and concrete poetry in the 1950s-70s.

The event will be accompanied by a screening and a sound program of works by *Dangerous Professor* artists.

Sunday, May 27, 6pm - 8pm

The Dangerous Professors Screening Night and Artists Party

Please join us for the the closing reception of *The Dangerous Professors*, including a screening and sound program of works by artists in the exhibition.

PARTNERS

About DiverseWorks

Founded by artists in 1982, DiverseWorks is nationally known for its groundbreaking programming; as a resource for the innovative and meaningful engagement of communities; and as a force that has shaped contemporary thought and practice in Houston and the nation. DiverseWorks is a leader in the nationwide movement of artist-centered organizations and is a vital presence in national organizations such as the National Performance Network, the Visual Artists Network, and the National Dance Project.



About the Society of Contemporary Art Historians

The Society of Contemporary Art Historians aims to foster strong scholarship and to promote collegiality within the vital field of contemporary art history. Major projects include reading groups, mentoring and career development (especially for younger scholars and graduate students), a standing panel at the College Art Association's [annual conference](#), and the distribution of relevant information through the Society's website.



SOCIETY OF
CONTEMPORARY
ART
HISTORIANS

About Flatlands Gallery

Flatland Gallery just west of Brasil is a multipurpose art space featuring three dimensional work, films, performances and specialty meals.

Media Inquiries:

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