



Carrie Mae Weems: The Usual Suspects -
Ephemera

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Fall 2021

Carrie Mae Weems: The Usual Suspects - Introductory Panels

Fairfield University Art Museum

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CARRIE MAE WEEMS

The Usual Suspects

Carrie Mae Weems is asking probing questions about humanity, about representation, and about power with these photographic and video works.

In *Carrie Mae Weems: The Usual Suspects*, Weems focuses on the humanity denied in recent killings of black men, women, and children by police. She directs our attention to the constructed nature of racial identity—specifically, representations that associate black bodies with criminality. Our imaginings have real—often deadly—outcomes. Blocks of color obscure faces just as our assumptions around race obscure individual humanity. Through a formal language of blurred images, color blocks, stated facts, and meditative narration, Weems directs our attention toward the repeated pattern of judicial inaction—the repeated denials and the repeated lack of acknowledgement.

Much of this work grew out of an exploration of the idea of grace in response to our contemporary moment. Weems draws inspiration from the ancient Greek tragedy *Antigone*, in which a woman defies prevailing powers to bury her fallen brother. Weems' work commemorates fallen brothers and asks us to probe and seek understanding along with her.

Support for this exhibition is provided by The Winifred and Kevin P. Reilly Jr. Fund with additional support from Annual Exhibition Fund donors. This exhibition is organized by LSU Museum of Art in collaboration with LSU College of Art + Design, and LSU School of Art.

At the Fairfield University Art Museum, this exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the #UNLOAD Foundation, the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation and the Aquarion Water Company. The Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community is a community partner for the museum's programming this fall.

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CARRIE MAE WEEMS

los sospechosos habituales

Carrie Mae Weems interroga la humanidad, la representación y el poder mediante estas obras fotográficas y de vídeo.

En *Carrie Mae Weems: los sospechosos habituales*, Weems se centra en la humanidad negada en los recientes asesinatos de hombres, mujeres y niños negros a manos de la policía. Dirige nuestra atención a la naturaleza construida de la identidad racial, concretamente a las representaciones que asocian los cuerpos negros con la criminalidad. Nuestra imaginación tiene resultados reales, a menudo mortales. Los bloques de color ocultan los rostros, al igual que nuestras suposiciones sobre la raza ocultan la humanidad individual. A través de un lenguaje formal de imágenes borrosas, bloques de color, hechos declarados y narración meditativa, Weems dirige nuestra atención hacia el patrón recurrente de inacción judicial, las constantes negaciones y la repetida falta de reconocimiento.

Gran parte de esta obra surgió de una exploración de la noción de gracia en respuesta a nuestro presente. Weems se inspira en la antigua tragedia griega Antígona, en la que una mujer desafía los poderes imperantes para enterrar a su hermano caído. La obra de Weems conmemora a los hermanos caídos y nos pide que investiguemos y busquemos la comprensión con ella.

Esta exposición cuenta con el apoyo del Fondo Winifred and Kevin P. Reilly Jr., así como con el apoyo adicional de los contribuyentes del Fondo Anual de Exposiciones. Esta exposición está organizada por el Museo de Arte de la Universidad de Louisiana State en colaboración con la Facultad de Arte y Diseño y la Escuela de Arte de la misma universidad.

En el Museo de Arte de la Universidad de Fairfield, esta exposición es una realidad gracias al generoso apoyo de la Fundación #UNLOAD Foundation, la Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation y la Aquarion Water Company. Además, este otoño, contamos con la colaboración comunitaria del Mary and Eliza Freeman Center para la Historia y la Comunidad para la programación del museo.

Traducción de Laura Gasca Jiménez, PhD

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