

# SENGA NENGUDI AT OAKVILLE GALLERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakville Galleries is currently closed in accordance with local government restrictions. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Galleries when we reopen. Please visit [www.oakvillegalleries.com](http://www.oakvillegalleries.com) or follow our social media channels for updates on our reopening hours. Thank you so much for your continued support. Until then, Oakville Galleries is pleased to offer private virtual viewings to press. Please contact [virtual@oakvillegalleries.com](mailto:virtual@oakvillegalleries.com) to schedule a viewing tour.

## ***Senga Nengudi: Hourglass***

on view through 10 April, 2021

Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens

Oakville Galleries is delighted to present *Senga Nengudi: Hourglass*. Since the 1960s, the Colorado-based artist has developed a ground-breaking, expansive practice that brings together sculpture, performance, and dance. For this, her first exhibition in Canada, Oakville Galleries will present a selection of recent and older works that foreground her innovative use of natural and found materials, such as pantyhose, sand, water, and plastic.

Included in the exhibition will be work from her series *R.S.V.P.*, in which flesh-coloured nylon stockings have been stretched, twisted, pulled, and weighed down with sand in their feet. Accompanying photographs show how Nengudi has invited interaction with these limb-like sculptural installations in often-collaborative performances that draw on a wide set of references, from her own African, African American heritage to Japanese Noh theatre and the choreography of Pina Bausch. They also document her early activities with Studio Z, a radical group of Los Angeles-based artists, who often staged artworks in public space.

Nengudi's interest in the transformative, shape-shifting qualities of materials such as nylon and sand can also be seen in her malleable and sensuous Water Compositions from the 1960s, in which she filled vinyl plastic with coloured water. The exhibition includes examples from this early series, which were remade in 2018, and which gain new meaning seen here against the backdrop of Lake Ontario.

Nengudi has written: 'What is in a name? I propose plenty. That is why I have a different name for each medium I use. In Black culture naming has great significance. We have been "called out of our names" so much that controlling that aspect of our lives with a B'rer Rabbit sensibility is important.' The writings of Lily Bea Moor—one of Nengudi's personas—will also be featured in the exhibition in written and video form.

Through her rule-breaking, playful, and eclectic reflections on the body, spirituality, materials, and movement, Nengudi has made an undeniably important contribution to the history of contemporary art, and continues to have a resonant and vital voice that speaks to the key issues of our times.

## ABOUT SENG NENGUDI

**Senga Nengudi** was born in 1943 in Chicago. She lives and works in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Nengudi has been featured in many significant exhibitions, including *Vive Arte Vive*, curated by Christine Macel, at the 57th Venice Biennale; *Improvisational Gestures*, a three year-long traveling retrospective of the artist's work which was organized in 2015 by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and traveled to the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans; the DePaul Art Museum, Chicago; and the USC Fisher Museum, Los Angeles, among others. Nengudi's work was also included in the 54th Carnegie International, at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh in 2004-2005. In 2017, the solo exhibition *Head Back and High: Senga Nengudi, Performance Objects (1976-2015)* opened at the Baltimore Museum of Art, and traveled to Art + Practice, Los Angeles. The group exhibition *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* opened at the Brooklyn Museum in 2017, and traveled to the Albright Knox, Buffalo; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, opened the group exhibition *West by Midwest*, curated by Charlotte Ickes, in the fall of 2018, while in September of 2019 a retrospective of Nengudi's career, *Topologies*, opened at Lenbachhaus, Munich, and travelled in 2020 to the Museu de Arte de São Paulo.

Nengudi's work is in the permanent collections of many major museums worldwide, including: The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; The Brooklyn Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Hammer Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Tate Modern, London; and Jerusalem Museum of Art, Jerusalem.

## ABOUT OAKVILLE GALLERIES

Oakville Galleries is a not-for-profit contemporary art museum. Housed in two spaces—one alongside a public library in downtown Oakville, and another in a lakeside mansion and park—Oakville Galleries is one of Canada's leading art museums, driven by a belief in the singular power of art and artists to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our communities and move us toward a better world.

Oakville Galleries is located on Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. As an institution, Oakville Galleries recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining meaningful and respectful relationships with the original inhabitants and keepers of the land, and we are grateful for the opportunity to operate on this territory.

### **Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens**

1306 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville

Tuesday: 1:00 pm–7:00 pm

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 am–5:00 pm

### **Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square**

120 Navy Street, Oakville

Tuesday: 1:00 pm–7:00 pm

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Admission is free.

For more information about Oakville Galleries, our exhibitions or programs, visit [www.oakvillegalleries.com](http://www.oakvillegalleries.com) or call 905.844.4402.

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*Oakville Galleries gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario and the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.*

Images available on request.

**For more information, please contact:**

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