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CINCINNATI (January 31 2018)

LISTEN! WITH CAROLINE WOOLARD

Artist Caroline Woolard works with 4 organizations and 2 art centers to create objects that speak to, and of shared language and better understanding in Cincinnati, Ohio

Wave Pool and the Contemporary Arts Center are working with New York-based artist Caroline Woolard to create a set of “listening objects” for four local organizations making inspiring contributions to both the economic and socio-cultural health of the city. In ongoing collaboration with MORTAR and Cincy Stories, Cincinnati Union Co-op Initiative (CUCI), and Heartfelt Tidbits, Woolard has designed compelling, multi-functional items in response to the character, activities and needs of each respective organization. They will operate simultaneously as art and beyond art – living as catalysts for organizations making an impact in Cincinnati to better hear, act, and be heard. These works will split time between being housed in these organizations, as well as in shared public spaces like libraries, community centers and galleries. At every site people can interact with and utilize these objects as platforms to speak, share, connect, and learn more about these artists, entrepreneurs and organizations making Cincinnati better through listening.

The project and resulting objects will be debuted on March 10th at the Cincinnati Neighborhood Summit with a presentation by Woolard along with representatives from each partnering organization. The objects will also be on display at the Contemporary Arts Center from March 7th – April 2nd, 2018.

Caroline Woolard (b.1984 Providence, Rhode Island) is an artist, professor, theorist and writer who lives and works in New York. She co-creates objects, projects and collectives at the intersection of art, economy, and technology – focused especially on forms of monetary and non-monetary exchange. Aiming to build solidarity amongst individuals and organizations, she connects elements of sculpture and design with storytelling and dialogue.

Woolard has co-founded multiple collaborative institutions and networks, including barter networks OurGoods.org (since 2008) and TradeSchool.coop (since 2009); cultural equity platform BFAMFAPhD.com (since 2014); and collaborative method research network The Study Center for Group Work (since 2015). As a professor, Woolard’s approach to teaching is articulated in the innovative textbook and website for arts educators, *Ways of Being* (Punctum Books, 2018), co-authored with Susan Jahoda and designed by Emilio Martinez Poppe. Woolard’s work has been celebrated by the National Endowment for the Arts, where she delivered the 50th Anniversary keynote (2017) and in *New York Close Up*, the PBS / Art21 documentary series (2017). Solo

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exhibitions include Imperial Forms, LMAK gallery, New York, NY (2018), and Carried on Both Sides, Lesley Heller Workspace, New York, NY (2018).

This program is funded by a grant from The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation. It is the first co-production between Wave Pool and the CAC and the inaugural effort in what both organizations hope will be a continuing program of public, participation-based projects that connect national artists with local organizations. This program aims at bringing prominent artist to Cincinnati to respond to community needs, facilitated in deep partnership with organizations and a specific neighborhood or community.

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