

# Confinement: Politics of Space and Bodies

November 22, 2019 through March 01, 2020

Curated by Valentine Umansky, CAC Curator of Lens-Based Art

ARTIST(S) Nancy Brooks Brody, Bea Camacho, Nicolas Daubanes, Stephen Foster, Annie Vigier and Franck Apertet (les gens d'Uterpan), Krista Franklin, Tehching Hsieh, Graciela Iturbide, Bronwyn Katz, Myriam Mihindou, Bruce Nauman, John Outterbridge, Irving Penn, Mathieu Pernot, Catherine Poncin, Samir Ramdani, Till Roeskens, James Rosenquist

*Confinement: Politics of Space and Bodies* is a direct response to Samuel Beckett's play *Happy Days* (1961), which sees a woman buried up to her neck in the ground. Under the blazing sun, Winnie is anchored in a mound of sand, her belongings gathered in a black bag. She treasures these items just as much as she does the daily routine of taking her possessions in and out of the pouch. A tribute to Winnie, this group exhibition highlights the ambiguities of a notion that evokes both the protection of the cocoon and the constriction of the enclosed place.

At a time when expanded rights and increased liberties of movement should be prevalent, a new regime of thought and mobility now belies our long negotiated liberties. This group of artists approach the idea of confinement as it unfolds in both physical and mental spaces. Each artist grapples with the joint ability for art spaces—museums and studios alike—to act as either safe places or as structures of compliance.

The exhibition ends on a meditation around the notion of refuge, prompting us to reflect with author Ta-Nehisi Coates and art critic Litia Perta on "the kind of compliance available for brown bodies, queer bodies, ill bodies, riotous, irreverent, gender-non-compliant bodies, poor bodies, trans bodies, feminist anti-capitalist bodies?" While this question remains unanswered, *Confinement* invites a continued consideration of how bodies are affected by voluntary and involuntary systems of confinement.