

Jennie C. Jones: Constant Structure

Opening March 19, 2020

Reception 6 – 8 pm | Free & Open to all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nearly thirty years after completing her degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, artist **Jennie C. Jones** returns to the city for a solo exhibition of a new body of work at **The Arts Club of Chicago**. The exhibition, entitled ***Constant Structure***, runs from **March 19–May 22, 2020**. The exhibition is curated by Janine Mileaf, Executive Director & Chief Curator at The Arts Club.

In her first institutional solo presentation in the city, Jennie C. Jones has launched an entirely new body of work that incorporates the space of exhibition in innovative ways, expanding her characteristic visual vocabulary into the parameters of the room.

Lingering at the intersection of music theory, painting, and sound, Jones draws on the concept of “constant structure”—a term borrowed from Modern jazz composition. It refers to a consecutive chord progression with different root notes that links disparate tones into a cohesive entity. Like the intervals of jazz then, Jones’s new acoustic panel paintings, works on paper, and site-specific gestures, hit moments of dissonance and harmony through serial repetition and variation.

Jones has made her mark since the 1990s by bringing the context of African American music history to bear upon the legacy of geometric abstraction and minimalist form. The works included here depart from the characteristic muted gray palette of the last decade, and begin to draw upon new hues made available by a specialty acoustic textile manufacturer. Working with a set of given materials and colors, Jones frees her forms to address poetic ideas about a personal version of Synesthesia—the melding of vision and hearing.

A publication with an experimental text by author and poet **Fred Moten** and a forward by Janine Mileaf will accompany the exhibition.

For more information, please contact Curatorial Assistant H. Daly Arnett at 312.787.3997 or press@artsclubchicago.org.

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Jennie C. Jones was born in Cincinnati, Ohio (1968) and currently lives and works in Hudson, NY. She attended Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts where she received her Master of Fine Art degree in 1996. Prior to that she attended The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Art in 1991 with Fellowship, as well as Skowhegan School of Painting

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and Sculpture in 1996. She is Bard College MFA faculty and a recent critic at Yale School of Art (2015-18). Among her numerous awards, Jones was a 2016 recipient of the Robert Rauschenberg Award presented by the Foundation for Contemporary Art, The Joan Mitchell Award in 2013 and The Studio Museum in Harlem's Joyce Alexander Wein Prize in 2012. Recent projects include *RPM (revolutions per minute)* at The Glass House in New Cannon, CT and her first solo show at PATRON Gallery in Chicago. Jones' work has been exhibited at major national and international art institutions including solo presentations at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (2009); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (2011); The Kitchen in New York (2011); and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2013). *Compilation*, a ten-year survey exhibition of her work curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver, was on view at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. She has works in the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institute's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, among others.

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Since 1916, The Arts Club of Chicago has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: "to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers."