

Midway Contemporary Art

Midway Off-Site

Nicole Miller

To the Stars, 2019

Video, three lasers

56:27

October 7 – November 14, 2020

Nicole Miller's *To the Stars* (2019) is an immersive exploration of identity, voice, pain, and possibility, combining video and sound elements with a dynamic laser-light display. To create this work, Miller filmed interviews, performance rehearsals, and behind-the-scenes moments with prominent figures of color in the arts and sciences, including choreographer Alonzo King, opera singer J'Nai Bridges, violinist Jessica McJunkins, and NASA astronaut Yvonne Cagle, as well as youth in local schools.

Nicole Miller lives and works in San Diego, CA where she is Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego. Her work is included in many museum collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among others. In 2018, Miller was the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Award. In 2016, she was awarded the Rome Prize and was a fellow at the American Academy in Rome for 2016-2017.

A very special thanks to John Ballinger, Zak Forrest, Kristina Kite, Joe Meyer, Luke Meyer, Julia Offenhauser, and Peter Remes for helping make this project possible.

Presented in partnership with SFMOMA.

Space generously provided by First + First.

Project support generously provided by Sally and Maurice Blanks, Showcore, Carolyn Taylor, and the VIA | Wagner Incubator Fund.

Nicole Miller, *To the Stars, 2019* was commissioned by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art with generous support provided by Marjory Graue and Martin Bloes, and meaningful support provided by Wayee Chu and Ethan Beard.

Subjects of *To the Stars*

J'Nai Bridges, mezzo-soprano opera singer

Dr. Yvonne Cagle, NASA astronaut

Alonzo King, choreographer and founder of Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Dancers of Alonzo King LINES Ballet:

Babatunji, Robb Beresford, Adji Cissoko, Madeline DeVries, Shuaib Elhassan, James Gowan, Ilaria Guerra, Maya Harr, YuJin Kim,

Ashley Mayeux, Michel Montgomery, Jeffrey Van Sciver

Meredith Webster, Ballet Master

Jessica McJunkins, violinist and educator

Maureen Zoltek, pianist

Local middle school students

Local high school students and teacher Charmaine Shuford

Production Credits for *To the Stars*

Cinematography: Zak Forrest

Music and sound design: John Somers

Additional music: CPSLOCK @ District Sound Lab

Sound recording/mixing: Philip Perkins

Sound mixing: Gary Nardino and Calin Enache @ District Sound Lab Laser animation: Zak Forrest

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