

The Contemporary Arts Center opens two solo exhibitions featuring the work of Steffani Jemison and Joan Tanner

***Steffani Jemison: End Over End* and *Joan Tanner: FLAW* open on March 5**

CINCINNATI, OHIO, March 6 2021 — The Contemporary Arts Center is excited to announce the presentation of two solo exhibitions, the first new exhibitions to open at the CAC in more than a year. *Steffani Jemison: End Over End* and *Joan Tanner: FLAW* open simultaneously on March 5 and will be on view until August 8, 2021.

The CAC will present the first Midwestern solo museum exhibition of artist Steffani Jemison (b. 1981, Berkley, CA). Based in New York, and raised in Cincinnati, Jemison is a conceptual artist whose expansive practice draws from tools borrowed from art history, cinema, fiction writing, and improvisation, as well as vernacular traditions such as acrobatics and dance, to explore the ways knowledge is constructed and legitimized.

On view in the CAC's upper Level Two galleries, Jemison's solo exhibition centers around a newly commissioned film, *Toss* (2021), which explores the politics of movement through a dynamic portrait of a female gymnast. Transforming the CAC into a site of confrontation and dynamism, the film captures a choreography inspired by rhythmic gymnastics and tumbling to explore themes of agility, resilience and fluency. The new video is situated in dialogue with *Escaped Lunatic* (2010-11)—one of Jemison's earliest projects to employ a non-linear narrative structure—alongside several custom-built rock tumblers containing grit, stones, coins, glass, and debris collected from around Cincinnati. *Steffani Jemison: End Over End* is organized by Amara Antilla, Senior Curator, Contemporary Arts Center.

Santa Barbara-based multidisciplinary artist Joan Tanner (b.1935, Indianapolis) returns to the Midwest for her first immersive site-specific museum intervention. Her most ambitious project to date, *FLAW* continues Tanner's professed interest in disjunction and disruption, with a large-scale installation that makes use of raw and recycled everyday materials. Comprised of net-like structures hanging from the ceiling, corrugated fiberglass panels that disguise corners and wrap around columns, and freestanding elements of cut and painted wood which populate the floor, the project transforms the CAC's rectilinear Level Two gallery into a site of discovery and wonder. Tanner's installation draws attention to ideas about order and durability, resistance to orthodoxy, and the inevitability of change. *Joan Tanner: Flaw* is curated by guest curator Julien Robson.

SPONSORSHIP:

Major support for *Steffani Jemison: End Over End* is provided by The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation, New York, Arts Midwest, and Creative Capital, New York. Funding is also provided by Rosemary and Mark Schlachter and the generous contributors to the CAC Exhibition Fund and the WOMXN.

Joan Tanner: Flaw is generously sponsored by Brook and Pam Smith. *FLAW* is also supported by Neville Blakemore, Jr. and Gray Henry, Mark and Sally Gray, Christine and Michael Huskisson, Moremen Gallery, Quappi Projects, Sandra and Bill Schreiber, the Shapin-Nicolas Art Project, Vian Sora and Jed Hayden, and the generous supporters to the CAC Exhibition Fund.

About Steffani Jemison:

Steffani Jemison was born in 1981 in Berkeley, CA and raised in Cincinnati. She received her BA from Columbia University (2003) and her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2009). Since 2016, she has been a part of the musical collaborative, Mikrokosmos, with Justin Hicks. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions and special projects at LAXART, Los Angeles (2013); RISD Museum, Providence (2015); Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA; Jeu de

Paume, Paris (both 2017); Nottingham Contemporary (2018); and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2019), among others. She has been included in numerous group exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017); The Drawing Center, New York, NY (2015); Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and the Whitney Biennial, New York (both 2019). Her work is currently on view as a part of the traveling exhibition, *Black Refractions: Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem* (2019-21). Jemison currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

About Joan Tanner:

Joan Tanner was born in 1935 in Indianapolis. She received a BA in Fine Art from the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1956). She was awarded the Distinguished Woman Artist award by Fresno Art Museum in 2009. She has held solo exhibitions at Santa Barbara Museum of Art (1967 and 1986); MCA Santa Barbara (1995), Speed Art Museum, Louisville (2001); Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College, Los Angeles (2006); Fresno Art Museum (2009); Suyama Space, Seattle (2016); and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina (2017). Her work is held in the collections of Albertina, Vienna; Getty Center, Los Angeles; Harvard University, Cambridge; Stanford University, Stanford; PAFA, Philadelphia; and Santa Barbara Museum of Art, among others. She currently lives and works in Santa Barbara.

About The Contemporary Arts Center:

The CAC is a catalyst for the freedom of artistic expression and the exploration of the creative process. We believe that art and creativity are universal experiences with the power to illuminate the challenges we need to address as citizens and societies to create a more equitable world. Driven by art, creators and other cultural thought leaders who engage with powerful questions of our time we provoke new perspectives and alternative points of view. Through our innovative and inclusive slate of programs, exhibitions, and services the CAC provides opportunities for encounters with trailblazing artists both local and global, and with one's own creative potential.

The CAC is a progressive organization from the inside out and inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility are its core values. Embedded in the fabric of our community, and committed to lifelong learning, the CAC serves as an integral space where people can reflect, create, collaborate, and connect around a more inclusive and sustainable culture of tomorrow.

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