

CONTEMPORARY
AND (C&)

**CENTER OF
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

May 6–August 28, 2022

Kaplan Lobby

Contemporary And (C&)

The C& Center of Unfinished Business is a roving reading room and discussion-based program organized by the multimedia platform Contemporary And (C&). Conceived by C& co-founders and artistic directors Julia Grosse and Yvette Mutumba, the Center of Unfinished Business investigates the enduring legacies and repercussions of various forms of colonialism and imperialism. The project was launched in 2017 and has since traveled to art spaces and museums around the world.

For the CAC iteration, two towering bookshelves offer a curated selection of groundbreaking books drawn from C&'s library, the CAC's own holdings, and local bookstore Smith and Hannon. Included texts range from the science fiction novel *The Word For World is Forest* by Ursula Le Guin to the exhibition catalogue *Black Radical Women 1965-85*. The result is an eclectic mix of writing that form an alternative bibliography. These publications reflect upon the failures of modernism and Eurocentric thinking, while imagining a new canon of decolonial propositions for a more equitable future.

The project is accompanied by a series of discussions led by Chandra Frank and organized around specific texts, including *Undrowned* (Alexis Pauline Gumbs), *Lose your Mother* (Saidiya Hartman), and *Familiar Stranger* (Stuart Hall). Through the selection of significant and at times unsettling texts, the installation highlights the ubiquitous traces of colonialism that extend throughout all facets of contemporary life.

—Amara Antilla, CAC Senior Curator at Large, Dr. Chandra Frank, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati, and Stephanie Kang, CAC Assistant Curator.

Reading Group

Sundays, May 8, June 26, and August 28 from 2-4 pm in the CAC lobby

In three slow-reading group events led by Dr. Chandra Frank, we will explore texts and ideas related to the C& Center of Unfinished Business installed in the CAC Kaplan Lobby and the *Breaking Water* exhibition. Participants will be invited to engage with short readings selected from the Center of Unfinished Business, as well as quotes and artwork from the *Breaking Water* exhibition. Readings will include Alexis Pauline Gumbs' *Undrowned*, Safiya Umoja Noble's *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism*, Stuart Hall's *Familiar Stranger*, and Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Word for World is Forest*. Participants will receive printed-out copies of readings. No pre-reading is required, and refreshments will be provided. Visit the CAC website to register for the event.

Ask Yourself

- 1 The Center of Unfinished Business is just that—unfinished. The organizers, C&, see it as an ongoing process because colonialism is an ongoing process. What books or questions would you add to the installation?

- 2 C& uses a reading room to inspire visitors to think about colonialism, its past, present, and lasting impact. Where do you find inspiration to think through the social justice issues we face?

- 3 The books that C& collects and includes in the installation may not seem, at first sight, to be readily connected to colonialism. As you peruse the collection, what questions do you have? How might you go about exploring those questions?




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Image courtesy of Contemporary And (C&).

BLACK HISTORY
FOR BEGINNERS

**WHY
WALL
STREET
MATTERS**
WILLIAM D. COHAN
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF HOUSE OF CARDS

LADIES FIRST
REVELATIONS OF A STRONG WOMAN
QUEEN
LADYFAIR



DIE GESCHICHTE DER
KUNST
E. H. GOMBRICH
PHAIDON