Carolyn Lazard: Two-way is on view at Artists Space from February 28 - May 10, 2025.

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ARTISTS SPACE

Carolyn Lazard Two-way

February 28 - May 10, 2025

Two films were shot in the same location: a simulation center.

A simulation center is a controlled environment in which hospital professionals engage in a form of roleplay-based procedural enactment with one another and with medical manneguins. The practice of simulation is pedagogical in focus and centers on improving patient care. Both films presented in the exhibition, Two-way, were shot at Elmhurst Hospital, New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H). This simulation center is an administrative arm of the hospital with its own wing, located within the larger hospital building. For the purposes of observation and review, simulation centers often employ tools of surveillance. Two-way mirrors aid in live synchronous supervision of sessions. Security cameras capture the practice for subsequent playback in debriefings with simulation participants and their supervisors.

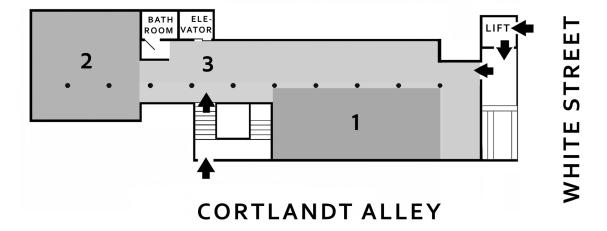
Fiction Contract documents a childbirth simulation facilitated by The Maternal Mortality Reduction Program (MMRP). Across all five boroughs of New York City, this team trains medical professionals through complex childbirth simulations. NYC H+H selected an all-black team of administrators, midwives, doctors, and nurses for this simulation. It was performed with and by Jayda, a black birthing mannequin who can simulate different complex childbirth scenarios. In 2020, as part of a comprehensive plan to "eliminate disparities in maternal mortality between Black and White women," the Deblasio administration earmarked funds to incentivize medical mannequin manufacturers to produce mannequins with brown skin. Prior to 2020, all medical mannequins were white.

The term "fiction contract" refers to the mutual agreement among simulation participants. In this enactment—which itself may constitute a social contract for performance—the simulation scenario is established as a constructed, but immersive environment. Participants agree to engage with the scenario as if it were real, while remaining aware that it is not.

Vital is a work of fiction. It depicts a black birthing person's first prenatal visit. Both Vital and Fiction Contract were filmed in adjoining rooms of the same simulation center; the two films thus share the same props, or tools.



Still from Fiction Contract, 2025. [Close-up of an upright black birthing mannequin reclined on a hospital bed in a blue patient room. A newborn mannequin swaddled in a hospital receiving blanket lays on the birthing mannequin's chest.]



## Checklist:

- 1. Fiction Contract, 2025. Single-channel video, color, sound. 9:49
- 2. Vital, 2025. Single-channel video, color, sound. 15:58
- 3. Borne, 2025. Linoleum tile

## **Production Credits:**

Filmed on location at NYC Health + Hospitals / Elmhurst.

Participants for Fiction Contract:		Crew:	
Jayda	Birthing Person	Carolyn Lazard	Director
Lorren Williams	Jayda's Voice	Morgan B. Powell	Producer
Morenike Jegede	Jayda's Sister	Rezarta Seferi	Line Producer
Adrielle El-Dyson Otoo	Midwife	Flannery Spring-Robinson	1st Assistant Director
Lindsay Dallemand	Primary Nurse	Alex Ashe	Director of Photography
Chinyere Ogbonna	Pediatric Doctor	April Goldberg	Gaffer
Guirlene Dube-Whittingham	Assistant Nurse	Gulab Singh	Key Grip
Dr. Tricia Yusaf	Simulation Facilitator	Caiya Sanchez-Strauss	G&E Swing
		Marcus Odom	1st Assistant Camera
Cast for Vital:		Jade Alexia Williams	2nd Assistant Camera
Martine Syms	Maxine Smalls	Xian Gunther	2nd Assistant Camera
Cyrus Dunham	Dr. Max	Evgeny Kolesnikov	Sound Mixer
Rhona Vega	Nurse	Tarina Meaders	Makeup Artist
Kirby Mason	Medical Receptionist	Chanelle Jones	Digital Image Technician
David Luis	Hallway Doctor	Sami Hopkins	Art Director
Lavell Allen	Waiting Room Patient 1	Kai Miller	Production Assistant
Sally Barrilla	Waiting Room Patient 2	Meron Tebeje	Production Assistant
Lisha Hartgrove	Waiting Room Patient 3	Logan Lynette Burroughs	Production Assistant

Anthony Banua-Simon Editor

Will Whatley Sound Designer

Andrew Geary, Light Iron Colorist

Madison Zalopany Access Consultant
Nefertiti Matos Oliveros Blind Quality Control

A. Sef AD Script Writer

Thomas Reid AD Editor Cassandra Mayela Allen
Barbara Faison AD Narrator Patrick Armstrong
Alicia Riccio Captions Writer Corey Bernstein
Efe Osaren Birthwork Consultant Giampaolo Bianconi
Suzanne Camhi

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Jason Hirata

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Phoebe Collings-James

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