

June 19th, 2019



Thunderstruck

Curated by Jessi DiTillio

With works by Rosana Aviña-Beam, Robert Collier Beam, Katherine Spinella,

Michael E. Stephen, and John Whitten

July 12 - 31, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, July 12, 6-9 pm

NARS Foundation is pleased to present *Thunderstruck*, curated by Jessi DiTillio with new works by Rosana Aviña-Beam, Robert Collier Beam, Katherine Spinella, Michael E. Stephen, and John Whitten.

Forty one years after its completion, six friends travelled together to see Walter De Maria's 1977 artwork *The Lightning Field* in Western New Mexico. *Thunderstruck* is the aftermath of that trip, a group of art works and collective feelings. Questions of material, history, indigenous heritage, and embodiment suffuse these works in print, drawing, sound, sculpture, and installation. *Thunderstruck* re-presents *The Lightning Field* as an accumulation of meaning unfixed by time, floating free from De Maria's authorial intention.

Curator's Bio:

Jessi DiTillio (Austin, TX) is a curator, writer, and art historian. She is a 2019-2020 Luce/ACLS American Art Dissertation Fellow and a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a co-founding member of the curatorial group Neon Queen Collective. Her research focuses on modern and contemporary American art through the lenses of affect theory, critical race studies, and feminism.

Artist Bios:

Rosana Aviña-Beam (Philadelphia, PA) is an Interior Architect who believes even with the most common spaces and elements of the everyday - design should enrich and impact an individual. Rosana received her MS in Interior Architecture from Philadelphia University and her BA in Theatre Arts from the University of North Texas. Most recently she worked as a Designer for Droese Raney Architecture, her work can be found throughout North America.

Robert Collier Beam (Philadelphia, PA) is an interdisciplinary artist working in photography, installation and drawing. He received his MFA from the University of Oregon and BFA in photography from the University of North Texas. His work has been shown both nationally and internationally, and was supported by a Dallas Museum of Art grant. Robert grew up on his families ranch deep in East Texas where a strong appreciation for the land was developed.

Katherine Spinella (Portland, OR) uses printmaking, sculpture, and digital images as a means of archiving and deconstructing discarded physical and digital commodities. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and received grant support from the Ford Family Foundation and Oregon Arts Commission. She earned her MFA from the University of Oregon. Spinella is a co-founding member of Carnation Contemporary. Her practice transports the refuse of commerce into fractured, elevated, and philosophically personified artifacts.

Michael E. Stephen (Austin, TX) is a conceptual artist working in the expanded field of sculpture and video. His work unveils the change and dynamism of objects as they pass through time, space and context as they archive our idiosyncratic relationship with nostalgia and the act of the ritual. He earned his MFA at the University of Oregon. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including in Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Norway and Italy.

John Whitten (Portland, OR) is a visual artist whose drawings and digital work aims to excavate the philosophical significance of what it means to wander through the sea of signals and noise enveloping our world. He earned his MFA from the University of Oregon and his BFA from Watkins College of Art. His work has been exhibited internationally, and he has been the recipient of numerous awards, grants, and residencies. He is a co-founding member of Carnation Contemporary.

Accessibility:

Nars Foundation is only wheelchair accessible via prior arrangement - please contact programs@narsfoundation.org to arrange this. Free tap water available. There is no nearby accessible public transport. On street parking is available. Please consider coming to this event scent free. For further questions regarding accessibility, please contact NARS directly at programs@narsfoundation.org.

The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. NARS provides an array of creative support services and professional development opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists through short-term integrated residency programs, affordable long-term studio spaces, progressive exhibition programs, and engaging public programs. These services operate in conjunction with our education and community outreach initiatives. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

For further information, please contact us at www.narsfoundation.org / info@narsfoundation.org / 718-768-2765.



NARS programs are made possible in part through the generous support of **Materials for the Arts** and with public funds from **ConEdison** and the **New York State Council of the Arts**, administered by the **Brooklyn Arts Council**.