



The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation Announces Fall and Winter Programming



Martha Wilson, *Thump*, 2016. Photographer and Compositing Artist: Kathy Grove.
Courtesy of Martha Wilson and PPOW, New York. Image description below.

New York, NY, October 22, 2020 - The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation is pleased to announce its Fall and Winter events season presented by [The 8th Floor](#), an interdisciplinary space established in 2010 by the Rubin family, dedicated to exploring the intersection of art, culture, and philanthropy through public engagement. In conjunction with our current exhibition ***To Cast Too Bold A Shadow***, programming will feature discussions between artists, cultural producers, and activists whose practices are engaged with feminism, political critique, and the advancement of racial justice. All

events are free, open to the public, and, where applicable, will be held virtually due to ongoing public health considerations.

Featuring artists **Baseera Khan, Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Maria D. Rapicavoli, Betty Tompkins**, and Martha Wilson, among others, a number of events will be co-presented in partnership with organizations including **Independent Curators International, Queens Museum**, and **Asian American Arts Alliance**.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Through January 23, 2021

The 8th Floor, 17 West 17th Street, NYC

Current Exhibition: *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow*, featuring **Anetta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkáčová, Furen Dai, Tracey Emin, Hackney Flashers, Rajkamal Kahlon, Joiri Minaya, Yoko Ono, Maria D. Rapicavoli, Aliza Shvarts, Betty Tompkins, and Mierle Laderman Ukeles**

Beginning Thursday, October 15th through Saturday, January 23rd, 2021, The 8th Floor's new exhibition *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow* is open by appointment from Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm. *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow* is a thematic exhibition that examines culturally entrenched forms of misogyny as a means to understand the dynamics between sexism, gender, and feminism.

[Schedule a Visit](#)

Tuesday, October 27, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

***Performance-in-Place: Waste of a Nation* by Baseera Khan**

Reflecting on months spent in the confines of her own home and studio, Khan will present multiple performance personae, actively "code switching" between personalities. The artist's performance will be followed by a discussion led by Rubin Foundation Executive and Artistic Director Sara Reisman.

[RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, October 29, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

Political Drag: A Retrospective – Martha Wilson in Conversation with Sara Reisman

As part of our *Performance-in-Place* series, this video screening and public conversation features performance artist Martha Wilson, who will present a selection of her seminal works addressing political personae from the last forty years. The artist's embodiment of characters such as Nancy Reagan, Tipper Gore, Barbara Bush, and Donald Trump serve as time capsules for the contentious issues prevalent at the time of their original staging. A throughline in Wilson's practice is her use of film and documentation as political mediums to record the temporal and often seismic moments

occurring in the public realm. This evening will be moderated by Rubin Foundation Executive and Artistic Director Sara Reisman, with audience participation encouraged. [RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, November 12, 1 to 2:30pm EST

Zoom

From “Touch Sanitation” (1979-1980) to “For → forever...” (2020): Two Works by Mierle Laderman Ukeles Respond to a City in Crisis

Artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Queens Museum Executive Director Sally Tallant, and Rubin Foundation Executive and Artistic Director Sara Reisman will discuss the eerie connection between two NYC crises—the fiscal crisis of the 1970’s and the Covid-19 crisis of 2020—that binds and fuels Ukeles’ *Touch Sanitation* (1979-1980); her current three-part public art installation *For → forever...* with the Queens Museum, Times Square Arts, and MTA Arts & Design; as well as her participation in the Foundation’s current exhibition *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow*.

RSVP Link Forthcoming

Thursday, November 19, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

***What Does Racial Diversity Look Like in a Race-Specific Organization?*
A Conversation with Sade Lythcott, Jafreen Uddin, and Natalia Viera, Moderated by Rebecca Kelly Golfman
Co-presented by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and Asian American Arts Alliance**

In this moment of Covid-19 and renewed public awareness of racial injustice, accounts of racism have proliferated, from targeting Asian American communities in the name of Covid-19 to the long history of police brutality against Black communities. As a race-specific organization, the Asian American Arts Alliance reflects on their efforts and practices toward not only allyship, but also representation. In order to find a way forward, the panel will pose questions including: What does diversity and racial equity look like in a race and/or ethnically specific organization? And how can race—or ethnicity—specific organizations and communities work together? This conversation brings together Sade Lythcott (National Black Theatre), Jafreen Uddin (Asian American Writers Workshop), and Natalia Viera (Se habla español), moderated by Rebecca Kelly Golfman (equity and justice consultant) as the first of a three part series co-presented by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and the Asian American Arts Alliance.

[RSVP Here](#)

Tuesday, December 1, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and Independent Curators International Co-present A Discussion on Maria Rapicavoli’s New Film *The Other: a familiar story*

This event will center on a screening of Maria D. Rapicavoli's newly commissioned film *The Other: a familiar story*, followed by a conversation between Rapicavoli and activist Maria Canela, moderated by Srimoyee Mitra, Director of Stamps Gallery.

Commissioned with support from the Italian Council for the Rubin Foundation's exhibition *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow*, Rapicavoli's two-channel film installation premieres in this thematic group show examining entrenched forms of misogyny. The film is a haunting story of an Italian woman forced into marriage, who leaves her family in Italy behind for the United States. Loosely based on a true story, it raises questions about the ethics of artmaking and curatorial practice that draw on lived experiences, specifically in the context of immigration. Together, Rapicavoli, Canela, and Mitra will discuss ways in which trauma informs artistic practice, and the tensions between ethical representation and artistic license, especially during times of political instability.

[RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, December 10, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

Racial Capitalism: Who Benefits from Cultural Appropriation?

Co-presented by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and Asian American Arts Alliance

In today's globalized world, parts of our individual, sociocultural identities are often shaped by cultures other than our own. How do we make sense of this in our own creative practices, and what is the difference between appropriation and influence? Who owns what culture? Who has the right to tell the story of a culture? And who has the right to profit from cultural elements? This program will examine the power dynamics and value structures inherent in capitalism. Cultural appropriation without proper understanding and respect for its original significance, often exoticizes cultural elements and creates a dominant impression of specific ethnic groups, depicting particular identification as "other." This program is the second of a three part series co-presented by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and the Asian American Arts Alliance.

[RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, January 14, 6 to 7:30pm EST

Zoom

Who Is Diversity For?

Co-presented by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and Asian American Arts Alliance

Looking at current philanthropic practices, this panel questions who diversity is for and how diversity in the arts can truly be achieved at a time when culturally-specific organizations are becoming resegregated and positioned to compete against their own communities. As the cultural sector has not successfully represented and served communities from all socio-cultural backgrounds, many race- and ethnicity-specific organizations, like the Asian American Arts Alliance, were founded and have worked towards equal representation and opportunities in the arts. However, in the grant-seeking process, they are often positioned to compete against other Asian American-

centered organizations, and the larger pool of BIPOC organizations, to prove their culture is the most relevant, and therefore worthy of continued funding. This panel will explore how organizations are achieving the premise of equal representation and opportunities, and is co-presented within a three part series by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation and the Asian American Arts Alliance.

[RSVP Here](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 1 to 2:30pm EST

Zoom

Figures: Rajkamal Kahlon, Joiri Minaya, and Betty Tompkins

Figures brings together Rajkamal Kahlon, Joiri Minaya, and Betty Tompkins in conversation about their works currently featured in our exhibition *To Cast Too Bold A Shadow*. Each artist uses appropriated historical source materials with particular intent: Kahlon's paintings are based on 19th Century anthropological illustrations of women in colonized countries; Minaya draws from art historical paintings and images of exploitation on the internet; and Tompkins calls out misogyny, gender disparity and predatory behavior through her repurposing of old master paintings. The conversation will be moderated by Rubin Foundation Executive and Artistic Director Sara Reisman.

[RSVP Here](#)

About The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

The Rubin Foundation believes in art as a cornerstone of cohesive, sustainable communities and greater participation in civic life. In its mission to make art available to the broader public, in particular to underserved communities, the Foundation provides direct support to, and facilitates partnerships between, cultural organizations and advocates of social justice across the public and private sectors. Through grantmaking, the Foundation supports cross-disciplinary work connecting art with social justice via experimental collaborations, as well as extending cultural resources to organizations and areas of New York City in need. sdrubin.org

About The 8th Floor

The 8th Floor is an exhibition and events space established in 2010 by Shelley and Donald Rubin, dedicated to promoting cultural and philanthropic initiatives, and to expanding artistic and cultural accessibility in New York City. the8thfloor.org

Follow the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

Facebook: [@SDRubinFoundation](#)

Twitter: [@rubinfoundation](#)

Instagram: [@rubinfoundation](#)

#RubinFoundation

#The8thFloor

#PerformanceinPlace

#ArtandSocialJustice

#CulturefromHome

For Media Inquiries Please Contact

Abby Addams

212.675.1800

abby@bluemedium.com

[Image Description: An image of performance artist Martha Wilson impersonating Donald Trump complete with makeup, wig, blue suit, white shirt, black belt, and red tie. She gives the thumbs up, in front of a statue, presumably one that is a part of a courthouse. The lower half of the statue is visible with a robe draped over the figure's right leg with a sword resting on both knees. Below the statue and engraved in the stone is the word "FORCE." Framing the image is a royal blue and red border.]