

## **Outcasts: Finding Her Voice** **Curator and Artist Conversation** **MAY 21, 2017, 1PM**

**Deborah Frizzell**, Ph.D., is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art History at William Paterson University, where she teaches modern and contemporary art history and theory. She is Editor of the Arts Section of *Cultural Politics* and writes regularly about art for journals such as *Woman's Art Journal* and *Depart*. Recent curated exhibitions include *Fluidity, Layering, Veiling: Perspectives From South Asian and Middle Eastern Women Artists* (CT: Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sacred Heart University, 2011) and *Whose World Is This? Jane Dickson and Charlie Ahearn* (NJ: Ben Shahn Gallery, William Paterson University, 2012). Her books include *Humphrey Spender's Humanist Landscapes: Photo-Documents, 1932-1942* and numerous articles on Nancy Spero. Frizzell is Co-Curator of *Outcasts: Women in the Wilderness* and as an art historian provides an historical context for the subject matter.

**Harry J. Weil** is an art historian and the Manager of Programs for the National Historic Landmark Green-Wood Cemetery, organizing events, programs, and tours that work toward preserving and advancing its history. With a background in art history, he has taught modern and contemporary art courses at The New School, William Paterson University, and Ithaca College's Manhattan campus. He is actively developing and advising on an arts and culture program at the historic landmark church of St. Ann's in Brooklyn Heights. Weil is Co-Curator of *Outcasts: Women in the Wilderness* and has expertise in creating programming for contemporary audiences in a historical context.

**Samira Abbassy** was born in Ahwaz, Iran, and raised in London, England. Abbassy moved to New York in 1988 to help found the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Studio Program, where she currently has lifetime tenure and is a board member. Abbassy explores cultural identity and myths drawn from Arab-Iranian, Persian, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist traditions. Her work is shown internationally and has been acquired by public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the British Museum; the Donald Rubin Collection (Rubin Museum); the Farjam Foundation Collection, Dubai; and the Devi Art Foundation, Gurgaon, India. Awards and residencies include a Joan Mitchell Painting/Sculpture award, a New York Foundation for the Arts award, and a Yaddo residency fellowship. Abbassy graduated from Canterbury College of Art with a BA in fine art/painting.

**Scherezade Garcia** is an interdisciplinary visual artist born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and based in Brooklyn. She engages collective and ancestral memory in her studio-based practice and her public interventions, examining quasi-mythical portraits of migration and cultural colonization. She has participated in the S-Files Biennial at El Museo del Barrio, the IV Caribbean Biennial, the Havana Biennial and other international exhibitions. Her work is in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, El Museo del Barrio, The Housatonic Museum, Museo de Arte Moderno de Santo Domingo and private collections. Garcia is the recipient of a 2015 Joan Mitchell Foundation grant. She is a co-founder of the Dominican York ProyectoGráfica. She teaches at Parsons School of Design in New York. Garcia holds an AAS from Altos de Chavón School of Design, a BFA from Parsons and an MFA from the City College of New York.

**Fay Ku** is a Taiwan-born, Brooklyn-based artist who transforms myths in her work to give them contemporary relevance. Ku has exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong; Snite Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN; Eight Modern Gallery, Santa Fe, NM; Art Asia Fair, Miami, FL; Sam Lee Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; LMD Gallery, Paris, France, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT; and The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI. She has participated in residencies at The Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota, FL; Chashama Visual Arts Studio Program, New York; Fountainhead Residency, Miami, FL; Wave Hill, Bronx, NY; Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI; Bemis Center, Omaha, Nebraska; and the Lower Eastside Printshop, New York, NY. Ku holds an MS in art history, criticism and theory together with an MFA from the Pratt Institute, as well as a BA from Bennington College.

