

DRIEHAUS MUSEUM

A TALE OF TODAY: NATE YOUNG AND MIKA HORIBUCHI TO OPEN AT CHICAGO'S DRIEHAUS MUSEUM ON APRIL 4, 2020

For the Second Exhibition in the Driehaus Museum's Contemporary Art Program, Two Chicago-based Artists to Create Site-Specific Works Offering New Perspectives on the Museum's Gilded Age History

CHICAGO – January 16, 2020 – The Richard H. Driehaus Museum today announced plans for the second exhibition in its *A Tale of Today* contemporary art initiative. Following the success of last year's installation by Yinka Shonibare CBE, the museum has commissioned two contemporary Chicago-based artists – Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi – to create site-specific installations working with and responding to the complex history of the museum's 1883 building and its architecture.

Conceived as an opportunity for audiences to view the legacy of the Gilded Age – the museum's main area of focus – from different perspectives, the second iteration of *A Tale of Today* continues to explore the issues that make that history relevant to society today. The exhibition is curated by Kekeli Sumah, the 2020 *A Tale of Today* curatorial fellow, with guidance from the Driehaus Museum's executive leadership and curatorial department. *A Tale of Today: Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi* will be on view from April 4 through August 9, 2020.

“Presenting contemporary art in a Gilded Age setting allows the museum to engage with new audiences in new ways, as many will be experiencing this type of architecture and its history for the first time,” said founder and president of the Board of Trustees, Richard H. Driehaus. “This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the importance of architecture and sense of place from the incomparable vantage point of the Nickerson Mansion while also showcasing new artists in this historic setting.”

Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi were selected for the way their work will thoughtfully consider and complement the Driehaus Museum's “home,” the Nickerson Mansion – renowned as Gilded Age Chicago's “Marble Palace” and located near the city's famous Magnificent Mile. Addressing the material and narrative history of the mansion, the artists will respond to the interiors and architecture of the building, creating newly commissioned additions which invite the audience to understand and experience the history of a place from different perspectives.

In the east galleries on the museum's second floor, Nate Young will combine sculptural installation and his signature woodwork to create uncanny doubles of the existing cabinets and drawers. His skillful woodwork and delicate precision recall the craftsmanship lauded during the Gilded Age while allowing his work to seamlessly blend into the existing furnishings of the mansion. Some of the artist's cabinets and drawers will contain bone holograms, calling attention to the invisibility of certain narratives throughout history – stories and people we know exist but remain inaccessible and forgotten.

Young's work for the museum will center partly around his continued exploration of his great-grandfather's journey from the rural South to the urban North during the Great Migration. The details of these histories, shared in part or full by many Chicagoans, will be the impetus for an installation

designed to converse with the architecture of the museum and celebrate its untold stories.

Mika Horibuchi's installations use trompe l'oeil as a conceptual framework to pose questions about representation, ownership, and authorship. In Roland's Room, Horibuchi will explore Samuel M. and Matilda P. Nickerson's art collection, which included a notable selection of artifacts from Japan and China. The couple donated the majority of these objects to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1900. Using the trompe l'oeil technique, Horibuchi will create a series of paintings that mimic the existing didactic signs used throughout the museum. These paintings will simulate the photographic documentation of the Asian artifacts, but the accompanying text will be absent, blurring out the objects' history and provenance. Revisiting mainstream historical narratives, the absence of any explanatory text here creates space for new narrators to write history. When the objects were removed from their place of origin, decontextualized, and presented in new environments, uses and meanings were added and lost in translation.

In Samuel M. Nickerson's former bedroom, Horibuchi will use oil painting on linen or panel to create a number of works that appear as objects which have been in the room for decades. Painted in shades of cool gray, these objects would appear to completely blend into their surroundings if viewed through a black and white photo filter. As the Nickerson Mansion was built as a great example of the Aesthetic Movement, mimicking historical precedents, Horibuchi's fictitious reflections continue this history of mimicry.

"To make conversations about the Gilded Age relevant to today's society, it is important to have contemporary emerging voices from the city join the conversation," said curator Kekeli Sumah. "Both Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi's installations invite audiences to reconsider and expand their perspectives on history while creating the opportunity to discover new narratives."

A Tale of Today: Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi will be supported by a variety of public programming that engages with the themes and issues raised by the works on view. Details of this programming will be announced in the coming months.

A Tale of Today: Nate Young and Mika Horibuchi is organized by the Richard H. Driehaus Museum. The exhibition is presented by Northern Trust and is underwritten in part by Eugene and Jean Stark and the Richard H. Driehaus Annual Exhibition Fund.

About Nate Young

Nate Young (b. 1981) is an artist working primarily in wood who draws on history, semiotics and spirituality to explore the connections between collective and familial history, and between the material and the divine. Young's work has been included in exhibitions at the Suburban (Chicago), The Studio Museum in Harlem (New York), the California African American Museum (Los Angeles), the Soap Factory's Minnesota Biennial (Minneapolis), Room East (New York) and Monique Meloche (Chicago). Young received his BA from Northwestern College and his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

About Mika Horibuchi

Mika Horibuchi (b. 1991) is an artist interested in tricks and slips in visual perception. Horibuchi's work has been included in exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), PATRON (Chicago), KMAC Museum (Louisville), and the Chicago Cultural Center. Horibuchi received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

About A Tale of Today

Formally titled *A Tale of Today: New Artists at the Driehaus Museum*, the contemporary art series launched in 2019 and was conceived to continue at least three years, with variations on the program that explore new perspectives and feature new artists. The series takes its name from *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*, the 1873 book by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner that gave the era its name. *A Tale of Today: Yinka Shonibare CBE* – the artist’s first museum exhibition in Chicago in more than five years – launched the series. *A Tale of Today* also includes a fellowship program that engages with Chicago-based emerging artists, promoting their careers and expanding their networks.

About the Richard H. Driehaus Museum

The Richard H. Driehaus Museum explores the Gilded Age through the art, architecture, and design of the late 19th century to the present. Once known as Chicago’s “Marble Palace” and located just steps from the Magnificent Mile, the collection of period decorative arts is presented in an immersive experience within the mansion. Temporary exhibitions organized by the Driehaus Museum and its partners place the Gilded Age in context, as do vibrant educational and cultural programs designed to illuminate the history, culture, and urban fabric of Chicago.

Richard H. Driehaus, the museum’s founder and namesake, is a Chicago entrepreneur and preservationist with a long history of supporting projects in the arts and culture.

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