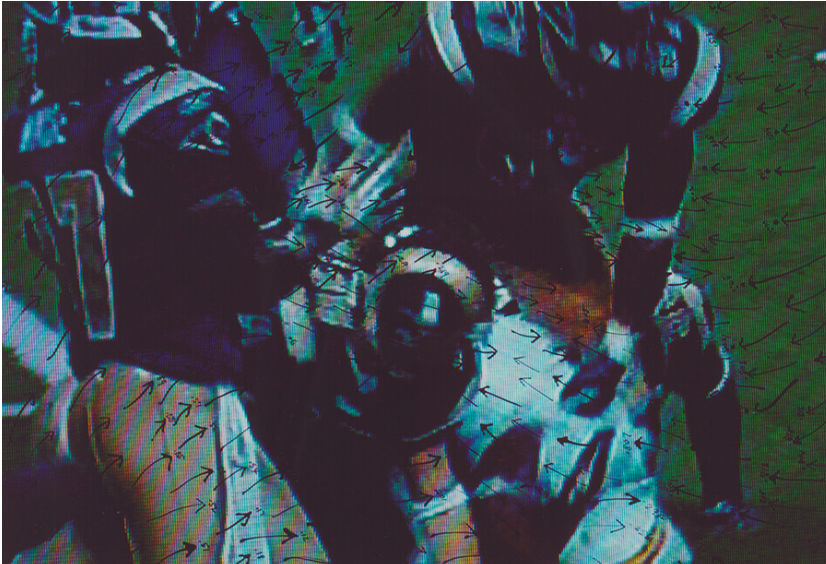


University Art Museum presents *ACE: art on sports, promise, and selfhood*

On view June 28 - December 7, 2019

Artists' Reception: Friday, September 13, 5 – 7 pm



1. Howardena Pindell, *Video Drawings: Football*, 2007, Cibachrome print, Courtesy of the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York

2. Ashley Teamer, *Black Whole*, 2019, Acrylic, Flashe, and latex paint over inkjet print on plywood, Courtesy of the artist and Larrie, New York

ALBANY, NY (May 20, 2019) — The University Art Museum at the University at Albany is pleased to present *ACE: art on sports, promise, and selfhood* featuring over a dozen emerging and internationally recognized artists who use sports and athletic culture to explore how youth, gender, race, promise, and identity are intertwined with athleticism. The exhibition looks at sports' unique ability to shape one's identity, define broader cultural codes and rituals, and engender community. While there have been several exhibitions that address similar themes, *ACE* will focus on topics specifically relevant to the university campus.

Widely ranging in identity and beliefs, the artists in *ACE* reflect the diverse demographic of UAlbany's student and academic body. Foregrounding non-conforming persons, women, and artists of color, the exhibition sets out to address themes of aspiration, rivalry, commodification, and reach from a multiplicity of perspectives. The participating artists include **Kevin Beasley, Petra Cortright, Darío Escobar, Radamés Juni Figueroa, Baseera Khan, Ari Marcopoulos, Catherine Opie, Sondra Perry, Paul Pfeiffer, Howardena Pindell, Cheryl Pope, Ronny Quevedo, Ashley Teamer, Hank Willis Thomas, and Wendy White.**

This multigenerational group of artists work in a wide-range of media such as painting, sculpture, video, works on paper, and immersive installation. Addressing our contemporary moment as well as issues of our recent past, their work draws parallels between physicality and performance in the arenas of art and sports and addresses how athletes and artists balance their passions between rigor, achievement, and the complicated prospect of thwarted expectations.

Moving freely across artistic disciplines, *ACE* will offer multiple points of entry for visitors to consider. Artists Kevin Beasley, Ari Marcopoulos, Sondra Perry, Ashley Teamer, and Hank Willis Thomas look at political, social, and cultural implications embedded in the game of basketball. Beasley's sculptural work, comprised of acoustic foam and torn basketball jerseys emblazoned with the surname of former New York Knick's player Derrick Rose, references the media's attempt to both magnify

and stigmatize a persona. Marcopoulos's 58-minute film *The Park* (2017-18) presents the basketball court as a social space in constant flux where participants propose a variety of social codes linked to the unfolding events of the game. A live-recorded improvised soundtrack by renowned musician Jason Moran accompanies the film. Perry's video, *IT'S IN THE GAME '17* (2017), features the artist's twin brother, Sandy Perry—who was a Division I basketball player for Georgia Southern University and whose physical likeness and statistics were sold by the NCAA to video game developers without his knowledge or consent. Ashley Teamer's paintings pay homage to WNBA superheroes and the legacy of her grandmother's basketball team, the Dillard Bleu Devils, which she founded and coached for 30 years at the historically black Dillard University in New Orleans. Hank Willis Thomas's video work *Overtime* (2011) reveals a single basketball player taking shots at a net in the guise of a hangman's noose.

Artists Petra Cortright, Darío Escobar, and Paul Pfeiffer explore a wide range of topics such as peer exclusion, deferred dreams, and how the media shapes athletic achievement. Other works in the exhibition include football, climbing, tennis, and track. Catherine Opie's seminal football landscapes and portraits of middle and high school boys taken in different parts of the U.S. challenge conventional representations of athletic rigor and prowess. Her large-scale color photographs portray local athletic communities, while the portraits reflect adolescent posturing and vulnerability. Wendy White's bright, photo-based paintings of figures such as Serena Williams, Michelle Akers, and Joba Chamberlain speak to the athletes' ability to persevere through obstacles. Baseera Khan's presentation includes three components: a rock climbing wall—in which the handholds are formed by casting corners of the artist's body; Nike Air Force mid-tops upon which variations of the word Muslim are inscribed through Nike's ID tag project; and a reading room that includes literary and theoretical texts that foreground the experience of struggle and resilience.

In accordance with the University Art Museum's mission to present artist-driven projects, the Museum has invited several artists to realize and activate components of their work on-site. Artists will participate in two-day residencies that will include a performance and realization of new work with the assistance of UAlbany undergraduate and graduate students. Artists will engage students and faculty as well as the public in informal cross-disciplinary conversations, workshops, and public engagements. By inviting artists to lead these programs, the audiences will be presented with the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of their work as well as delve into the relevant and pressing issues that the exhibition raises.



1. Baseera Khan, *BRAIDRAGE*, 2017-2019, 99 Holds, Indoor rock-climbing wall made from 99 unique poured dyed resin casts of the corners of the artist's body. Embedded with wearable Cuban chains, hair, and hypothermia blankets, Courtesy of the artist and Simone Subal Gallery, New York **2.** Catherine Opie, *Josh*, 2007, C-print, © Catherine Opie, Courtesy Regen Projects, Los Angeles and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, and Seoul **3.** Wendy White, *Michelle Akers (The Warrior)*, 2014, Inkjet and acrylic on UV vinyl, wood and gold mylar artist's frame, gold mirror appliqué, custom sticker, Courtesy of the artist

News Release:

Support for the University Art Museum exhibition and programs is provided by the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, The University at Albany Foundation, UAlbany Strategic Allocation of Resources Fund, University Auxiliary Services and generous support from John '83 and Jennifer Troiano.

Museum Summer Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 11 am – 4 pm; closed July 4.

Museum Hours: (after August 26) Tuesday 10 am – 7 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Saturday noon – 4 pm. For more information, call (518) 442-4035 or visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum.

Contact: Naomi Lewis, Exhibition and Outreach Coordinator, nlewis@albany.edu



About the University at Albany:

A comprehensive public research university, the University at Albany offers more than 120 undergraduate majors and minors and 125 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, engineering and applied sciences, informatics, public administration social welfare, and sociology taught by an extensive roster of faculty experts. It also offers expanded academic and research opportunities for students through an affiliation with Albany Law School. With a curriculum enhanced by 600 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.

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