

**NEW
235 BOWERY
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MUSEUM**

**NEW MUSEUM ANNOUNCES JEREMY O. HARRIS AND
ARTHUR Jafa AS THE 2021 STUART REGEN
VISIONARIES**

In Conversation Friday, November 12, at 6:30 PM



New York, NY...The New Museum is pleased to announce that **Jeremy O. Harris** and **Arthur Jafa** will be featured as its **2021 Visionaries**. The Stuart Regen Visionaries Series is an annual program at the New Museum honoring individuals who have made major contributions to art and culture and who are actively imagining a better future. On Friday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. EST, Harris and Jafa will appear in conversation onsite in the New Museum Theater; simulcast in the Museum's seventh floor Sky Room; and online via livestream.

This event marks the first time Jeremy O. Harris and Arthur Jafa have been in public dialogue, and the New Museum's first in-person public event since March 2020. This year's honorees both work at the vanguard of culture, creating across disciplines and mediums in highly collaborative ways. Harris's work includes theater, film, television, and fashion, with Jafa's practice spanning film, sculpture, and photography. Furthermore, each has developed a capacity for artmaking and resource sharing within their respective communities and beyond, and in this discussion they will explore what arts and culture can and should offer broader society.

Jeremy O. Harris (b. 1989) is a playwright, actor, producer, and philanthropist who currently resides in New York City. Harris is the creator of the Broadway play *Slave Play* (2018), which was nominated for a record twelve Tony awards and won the 2018 Kennedy Center Rosa Parks Playwriting Award, the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, and The Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences. Harris co-wrote A24's critically-acclaimed film *Zola* (2021) with director Janicza Bravo. He is currently adapting the sci-fi epic *The New World* (forthcoming) by Ales Kot for Warner Bros. Pictures. Harris also has an overall deal with HBO and is a co-producer on the television series *Euphoria* (2019–); and is currently co-creating and co-showrunning an adaptation of Brit Bennett's best-selling novel, *The Vanishing Half*, with Aziza Barnes for the network. As an actor, Harris recently appeared on HBO Max's *Gossip Girl* (2021) reimagining, and will next be seen in season two of Netflix's *Emily In Paris* (2021). His major philanthropic work began in 2020 when he pledged and redistributed significant portions of his earnings to The New York Theater Workshop, libraries across the United States, and microgrants to support emerging theatrical talent. His honors and awards include the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Vogel Playwrighting Award, a 2016 MacDowell Colony Fellowship, an Orchard Project Greenhouse artist, a resident playwright with Colt Coeur, and a commission from Lincoln Center Theater and The Public Theater. His full-length plays include: *"Daddy"*; *Xander Xyst, Dragon: 1*; and *WATER SPORTS; or insignificant white boys*. His work has been presented or developed by Pieter Performance Space, JACK, Ars Nova, The New Group, New York Theatre Workshop, and Performance Space New York. Harris holds a Master of Fine Arts in playwrighting from Yale School of Drama.

Arthur Jafa (b. 1960) is an artist, filmmaker and cinematographer. Across three decades, Jafa has developed a dynamic practice comprising films, artefacts, and happenings that reference and question the universal and specific articulations of Black being. Jafa's films have garnered acclaim at the Los Angeles, New York, and Black Star Film Festivals and his artwork is represented in museum collections worldwide including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Studio Museum in Harlem; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Dallas Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Luma Foundation; Perez Art Museum Miami; Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; and Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others. Jafa has recent and forthcoming solo exhibitions of his work at the Pérez Art Museum Miami, United States; the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives, United States; Galerie

Rudolfinum, Czech Republic; Moderna Museet, Sweden; and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark. In 2019, he received the Golden Lion for the Best Participant of the 58th Venice Biennale “May You Live in Interesting Times.”

Previous Visionaries include author **Claudia Rankine** and theorist **Judith Butler** (2020); writer **Rachel Kushner** (2018, in conversation with novelist Ben Lerner); explorer **Erling Kagge** (2017); essayist and critic **Fran Lebowitz** (2016, in conversation with filmmaker Martin Scorsese); critic and author **Hilton Als** (2015); director, screenwriter, and producer **Darren Aronofsky** (2014, in conversation with novelist and critic Lynne Tillman); writer, director, and producer **Matthew Weiner** (2013, in conversation with writer A.M. Homes); artist and architect **Maya Lin** (2012); chef, author, and activist **Alice Waters** (2011); founder of Wikipedia **Jimmy Wales** (2010); and choreographer **Bill T. Jones** (2009), whose talk inaugurated this signature program.

Tickets are on sale now for the event, which will be onsite at the New Museum and available via livestream, as follows: admission to the New Museum Theater (\$30; Members: \$25); admission to the Museum’s Sky Room for an onsite simulcast of the event (\$20; Members: \$15); and via livestream (\$5; Members Free). Please visit newmuseum.org/events for more information and to purchase tickets.

Note to press: To request a press ticket, please contact press@newmuseum.org. Priority will be given to media on assignment due to the limited capacity in the Theater.

ABOUT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

SUPPORT

The Visionaries Series at the New Museum honors special individuals who have made major contributions to art and culture, and are actively imagining a better future. The series is made possible by the Stuart Regen Visionaries Fund, established by a gift from Barbara Gladstone in honor of her son Stuart Regen.

Additional support for the Visionaries Series is provided by the Charlotte and Bill Ford Artist Talks Fund.

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Image: (L) Jeremy O. Harris. Photographer: Micaiah Carte. (R) Arthur Jafa. Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels. Photographer: Robert Hamacher