

‘Ann Hamilton: Phora’ explores origins of public speaking

ANN HAMILTON: PHORA opens at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on the Lee campus of Florida SouthWestern State College with a public reception from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 20. Occupying the walls (nearly floor-to-ceiling) with more than 120 unique stills captured by the artist from close-up video taken of the mouths of carved medieval figures at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm, the silent, non-sentient, color-saturated facial features appear reanimated by this immersive installation of digital images.

Initially conceived for the architectural context of *la maison rouge* in Paris, France, the exhibition was inspired by two highly-symbolic locales – the Bastille (as the voice of civic demonstration) and the Bastille Opera (as a demonstrative public voice). ANN HAMILTON: PHORA thus explores the origins of public speaking from the first forums to on-going political debate, and is opening on the day of the U.S. Presidential Inauguration.

Presented for the first-time with THE FIRST LINE (Sounds for Drawing), an experimental drawing project and participatory installation by Ann Hamilton and Andrew Deutsch, this



component encourages visitors to take a “hands-on” role by contributing their own drawing in response to audio tracks played through a headset while a newly-commissioned composition featuring micro-loops of the artist’s voice is played aloud in the Gallery to provide further inspiration and a soundtrack both for THE FIRST LINE and PHORA.

Widely-celebrated for her site-sensitive, multimedia, participatory and performance-based work, Hamilton has enjoyed solo exhibitions and large-scale installations at The Museum of Modern Art (New York City), the Guggenheim Museum (New York City), Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden (Washington, D.C.), Musée d’art Contemporain (Lyon, France), Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum (The Netherlands), Tate Gallery (Liverpool, England) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles). The official United States representative at the 48th Venice Biennale in Italy and the 1991 São Paulo Biennial in Brazil, Ms. Hamilton was recipient of the prestigious MacArthur “Genius Award” Fellowship and a NEA National Medal of Arts Award (presented at the White House by President Barack Obama in 2015).

A press preview lecture and exhibition walk-through at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20 by FSW Humanities Professor Dr. Wendy Chase and special guest Andrew Deutsch (Ann Hamilton’s longtime collaborator and Professor of Sound Design & Video Arts at Alfred University) is also open to the public.



