



University Art Gallery  
712 Arts Plaza  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
University of California, Irvine  
Irvine, CA 92697-2775  
(949) 824 9854  
gallery@uci.edu  
uag.arts.uci.edu

Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm

## PRESS PREVIEW KIT

### ***AFTER BEFORE***

Solo exhibition by Sharon Hayes

Curated by Juli Carson

**On View: October 1 - December 10, 2016**

**Opening Reception: October 1, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**



**IRVINE, Calif. (September 1, 2016)** -- The University Art Gallery (UAG) at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts is proud to present – for the second time – the inaugural exhibition of our *Critical Aesthetics Program* Sharon Hayes' *After Before* curated by UAG Director Juli Carson. The exhibition will open Saturday, October 1 in the Room Gallery with a reception open to the public from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and will exhibit through Saturday, December 10, 2016.

Commissioned as the first exhibition in the UAG's *Critical Aesthetics Program*, Hayes's *After Before* constructed a quasi-fictional, quasi-documentary multi-channel film, in which two figures interview people on the streets of New York City throughout the month of September 2004 – just two months before the 2004 US Presidential Elections – in an attempt to illuminate the state of the nation. Interrogating mythic and imagined constructions of “nation,” “people” and “choice, the interviewers also interrogate their own desire for knowledge and communication. As an artwork, moreover, *After Before* engaged and disrupted the libidinal temporality intrinsic to that unique moment of all elections: a single day – much anticipated – that would shape the future of the nation. In this spirit, Hayes performatively filmed *After Before* in preparation for her UAG exhibition in the Summer of 2004 *before* the presidential election to re-elect President George W. Bush occurred that Fall and opened her installation in Spring 2005, *after* Bush's inauguration.

Today, we are re-staging *After Before* along a similar time line, installing it on the eve of what activists and politicians predict will be “the most consequential presidential election in US history” without yet knowing what the outcome will be. In so doing, is to encounter what Craig Owens called the “allegorical impulse” in art. In this *mise-en-scène*, two moments in time, 2004 / 2016, are (re)staged and perceived *neither* as sequential *nor* as simultaneous. Rather, these moments are imbricated in an uncanny temporal duet, one in which two U.S. elections are seen – one depicted, the other evoked – alternately as a moment of truth, a moment of possibility and an already determined fate – a non-moment. In each instance, *After Before* continues to present a heterogeneous moment onto which



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we, as participants, may project contested ideas of what it means to be a U.S. citizen, in both historical and contemporary terms.

“Sharon Hayes’s documentary film installation *After Before* asks us to ponder what it means to be *present* in a given moment we know is *about to* become history. It’s a poignant thought experiment about time, right now, on the eve of what expect to be the most consequential presidential election in our life time.” – Juli Carson

*After Before* celebrates the first decade of the University Art Gallery’s *Critical Aesthetics Program* started in 2005 by Juli Carson. As UCI’s creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit <http://uag.arts.uci.edu/>.

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### About the Artist

**Sharon Hayes** is an artist whose video, performance, and installation investigates intersections between history, politics, and speech, and interrogates the present political moment as one reaching simultaneously backwards and forwards. Selected recent exhibitions include: *See you at the barricades*, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, 2015; and *In My Little Corner of The World*, Studio Voltaire, London, 2016. Hayes lives and works in Philadelphia.

### About the Curator

**Juli Carson** received her PhD from M.I.T. in the History, Theory and Criticism of Art Program in the Department of Architecture. Currently, she is Professor of Art History in the Art Department at UC Irvine, where she directs the Critical and Curatorial MFA Program and the University Art Galleries. She is author of *Exile of the Imaginary: Politics, Aesthetics, Love* (Vienna: Generali Foundation, 2007) and curator of the archival exhibition accompanying Mary Kelly's *Post-Partum Document* (Vienna: Generali Foundation, 1998). Her essays on conceptual art and psychoanalysis have been published in *Art Journal*, *Documents*, *October*, *Texte Zur Kunst* and *X-Tra*, as well as in numerous international anthologies and catalogues. Her most recent book is *The Limits of Representation: Psychoanalysis and Critical Aesthetics* (Buenos Aires: Letra Viva Press, 2011). Her forthcoming book, *The Conceptual Unconscious: A Poetics of Critique* will be published by PoLYpen, a subsidiary of b\_books.



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### *After Before* Fact Sheet

#### **Exhibition:**

Exhibition Dates: October 1 - December 10, 2016

Solo exhibition by Sharon Hayes

Curated by Juli Carson

#### **Events:**

Opening Reception: October 1, 2016, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

#### **Location:**

Room Gallery

712 Arts Plaza, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

#### **Description:**

The UAG is proud to present – for the second time – the inaugural exhibition of our Critical Aesthetics Program: Sharon Hayes' *After Before*. Originally commissioned in 2004, *After Before* constructs a quasi-documentary multi-channel film where two actors conduct interviews on the streets of New York City– two months prior to the US Presidential Elections – in an attempt to illuminate the state of the nation. Its re-staging along a similar timetable today continues to project contested ideas of what it means to be a U.S. citizen.

#### **Gallery Hours:**

Tuesday - Saturday from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Free Admission. Public is Welcome

#### **Parking:**

UC Irvine [Mesa Parking Structure](#), 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

#### **More Info:**

[www.arts.uci.edu](http://www.arts.uci.edu)

<http://www.arts.uci.edu/event/after-sharon-hayes>

#### **Note to editors:**

Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from

[Google Drive](#)

(Key to images attached)



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**Room Gallery, Claire Trevor School of the Arts**  
*After Before* by Sharon Hayes

Curated by Juli Carson

### Press Images:



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(4)



(5)

1. *After Before*, 2005, Performers: Kemba Bloodworth and Ewa Einhorn, video still (Courtesy of the artist)
  2. *After Before*, 2005, Performers: Kemba Bloodworth and Ewa Einhorn, video still (Courtesy of the artist)
  3. *After Before*, 2005, Performers: Kemba Bloodworth and Ewa Einhorn, video still (Courtesy of the artist)
  4. *After Before*, 2005, *Exile of the Imaginary: Politics Aesthetics Love* installation view, 2007 © Generali Foundation. Photo: Werner Kaligofsky
  5. *After Before*, 2005, *Exile of the Imaginary. Politics / Aesthetics / Love*, exhibition view © Generali Foundation, Vienna, photo: Werner Kaligofsky
- The images are approved only for publication in conjunction with promotion of the exhibition

***After Before***. Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing.



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### **About the UAG**

The University Art Galleries are committed to promoting an inter-generational dialogue between 60s/70s neo-avant-garde art and contemporary visual culture. Accordingly, the curatorial mission is to keep an eye on the modernist past while promoting the most innovative aesthetic and political debates of the post-modern present. From this vantage, the projects commissioned provoke intelligent debate on the subject of art in its most expansive poetic definition. What distinguishes the program is its unwavering commitment to publishing scholarly texts in catalogue/book form in order to disseminate research-based information into the community, providing a venue for the promotion of innovative discourse surrounding mixed media production today. The UAG program provides several exhibition platforms for inter-generational and interdisciplinary dialogue. The Major Works of Art Series commissions original projects by canonical artists working today. The Emerging Artist Series features solo projects by a set of younger artists informed by the legacies showcased in the Major Works series. The Critical Aesthetics Program commissions new work by internationally renowned mid-career artists. Augmenting this inter-generational dialogue, UAG also produces larger thematic group exhibitions alternately showcasing historical and contemporary art and film projects. UAG further promotes an active dialogue between UCI residents and the local and international art communities through colloquia, conferences, visiting artist lectures and theme-based films series, all of which are open to the public. As the galleries continue to mature, they stand committed to being an experimental exhibition space different from the current - but largely traditional - art biennial and film festival platforms.

### **About UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

As UCI's creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit [www.arts.uci.edu](http://www.arts.uci.edu).