

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Mar. 29, 2019

***Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen* Wins 2018 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award**  
Definitive Monograph on the Work of Acclaimed Artist Honored for Excellence in Art Publishing

Richmond, Virginia—The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is delighted to announce *Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen* has won the 2018 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award. The comprehensive catalogue accompanied the exhibition of the same name held at VMFA and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago in 2018. Co-curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver, VMFA Sydney and Frances Lewis family curator of modern and contemporary art, and Naomi Beckwith, Manilow senior curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the exhibition was the first major survey of the New York-based artist's five-decades-long career. The book—edited by Cassel Oliver and Beckwith and published by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and Prestel—features essays by the co-curators, along with contributions from artists, art historians and curators, as well as a selection of texts by Pindell and full-color reproductions of the artist's work.



Valerie Cassel Oliver with the catalogue *Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen*, which she co-edited with Naomi Beckwith, Manilow Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Arts Chicago.

“Valerie is one of the most dynamic and respected contemporary curators in her field,” said Alex Nyerges, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Director. “*Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen* represented her curatorial debut at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and was met with critical acclaim. To have her work honored with such a prestigious award is a wonderful recognition of the talents she brings to her role at the museum on a daily basis.”

The George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award is given annually and honors the memory of George Wittenborn, an art book dealer and publisher who championed the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) in its foundational years. VMFA's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education Michael Taylor was a previous recipient of the award for his 2009 catalogue *Marcel Duchamp: Étant donnés*, which accompanied an exhibition he curated during his tenure at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Cassel Oliver and Beckwith were presented with the 2018 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award at a private ceremony during the annual ARLIS/NA conference, which took place on March 28 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“It is an honor to bring further attention and dialogue to Pindell's profound work and innovative career,” says Cassel Oliver. “She was the first female African American curator hired by MoMA in the late 1960s, in a time and a place where you did not see black bodies authoring exhibitions, where you did not see them bringing works into collections that spoke of the African American experience. It is my hope that through this book more people will be exposed to her groundbreaking work that challenges staid traditions of the art world.”

*Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen* can be ordered online ([vmfa.museum/shop/](http://vmfa.museum/shop/)) or by contacting the VMFA shop at 804.340.1525.

**About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose

is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 40,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, and French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting, and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan, and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its history.

**The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804.340.1400 or visit [www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum).**

**# # #**

**Media Contacts**

Jan Hatchette | 804.204.2721 | [jan.hatchette@VMFA.museum](mailto:jan.hatchette@VMFA.museum)  
Ellie McNevin | 804.204.2680 | [ellie.mcnevin@VMFA.museum](mailto:ellie.mcnevin@VMFA.museum)  
Lillian Dunn | 804.340.1517 | [lillian.dunn@VMFA.museum](mailto:lillian.dunn@VMFA.museum)

200 N. Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220