

Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels

October 7, 2016–October, 2017

Stairwell

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 6, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
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Detail of installation
rendering

New York – As part of its ongoing stairwell initiative, The Drawing Center commissions artist Gary Simmons (b. 1964, New York, NY) to create a site-specific wall drawing in the lobby stairwell. Simmons’s installation will be the second in the series following Abdelkader Benchamma’s *Representation of Dark Matter* (April 2015–August 2016). Curated by Claire Gilman, Senior Curator.

Mining the iconography of American popular culture, Gary Simmons’s work addresses personal and collective experiences of race and class. He is best known for his “erasure drawings,” which he began working on in the late 1980s in an abandoned school in New York City that contained an abundance of blackboards. Using white chalk on slate-painted panels or walls, Simmons blurred the drawings with his hands resulting in hazy but persistent images that evoke faded memories or classrooms at the end of the school day. For The Drawing Center, Simmons will create a text-based work consisting of names of African American actors and actresses from the early days of silent film. The artist describes the installation, whose format recalls the scrolling of closing film credits frozen in mid-motion, as invoking “the memories of actors that have been blurred in the history of Hollywood film . . . a kind of silence in both voice and visibility.”

ABOUT GARY SIMMONS

Gary Simmons was born in 1964 in New York. He earned a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York, and an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. In 2015, he was included in the Venice Biennale and the Sharjah Biennial, as well as Prospect 3, New Orleans. His recent solo

exhibitions include Metro Pictures, New York; Perez Art Museum, Miami; Ikkan Art Gallery, Singapore (all 2014); and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, 2013.

CREDITS

Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels is made possible by the support of Jeffrey A. Hirsch and Alyssa Fanelli.

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ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

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AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Cecily Brown: Rehearsal</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Olga Chernysheva: Vague Accent</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 8: Planes and Corridors</i>	October 7–November 6, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 9</i>	November 18–December 18, 2016
<i>Mateo López: Undo List</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Jackson Mac Low</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Amy Sillman</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Mark Dion: Tropical Research Lab</i>	April 14–June 25, 2017
<i>Open Sessions 10</i>	April 14–June 4, 2017

Installations

<i>Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels</i>	October 7, 2016–October 2017
<i>Jackie Ferrara: Lines</i>	Through March 2017

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