

Bellwethers: The Culture of Controversy Tuesdays on May 21, May 28, and June 4

A New Program Series

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Director of Communications*, The Drawing Center
212 219 2166 x119 | mgross@drawingcenter.org

April 17, 2019

BELLWETHERS

New York – Reviving its decades-long history of hosting vital cultural and political voices, The Drawing Center will inaugurate a new series of public programs in May 2019 guest curated by Alison M. Gingeras in collaboration with the art magazine *Affidavit*.

Bellwethers: The Culture of Controversy will convene a prominent group of writers, cultural critics, and artists to respond to a cultural “bellwether” and take it in their own interpretative direction. Each session will examine a timely indicator, word, or phrase emblematic of a polemical socio-political topic of our moment and that impacts art as well as broader cultural production.

Two or more speakers will be invited to read a paper, a manifesto, a poem, or conceive a performative response to the evening’s theme. Following the presentations, at The Drawing Center’s guest curator Alison Gingeras, who will also introduce each session, will lead a discussion. At the conclusion of the series, *Affidavit* will publish a selection of papers generated by the Bellwethers series.

Bellwethers: The Culture of Controversy is made possible by The Evelyn Toll Family Foundation. Design elements were provided by the design firm Team.

Bellwethers: The Culture of Controversy
Tickets \$10 via Eventbrite

Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30pm

MANIFESTO

With Chiara Bottici, Sam McKinniss, Adrian Matejka, and Audrey Wollen

From those written by the Futurists to the Surrealists, the Black Panthers to the Unabomber, the manifesto remains a charismatic genre that persists despite the waning of utopic politics and unified avant-garde movements. This session invites contributors to engage with this form and its myriad applications as a: call to action, theatrical exercise, prescriptive fiction, or a platform for extremist philosophizing or paradoxical pontification.

Chiara Bottici is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research. Professor Bottici has written on myth, imagination, ancient and early modern philosophy, the Frankfurt School, psychoanalysis, feminism, and contemporary social and political philosophy. She is currently at work on a book on Anarcha-feminism.

Sam McKinniss is an artist and writer based in New York. McKinniss's writing is regularly published in *Artforum*. His manifesto will address how an artist should be.

Adrian Matejka is the author of *The Devil's Garden* (2003) and *Mixology* (2009). His third collection of poems, *The Big Smoke* (2013), was a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book of poetry (*Map to the Stars*), was published in 2017. Among Matejka's other honors are a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He is the Ruth Lilly Professor of Poetry at Indiana University Bloomington and currently serves as Poet Laureate for the state of Indiana.

Audrey Wollen is a writer and artist who lives in New York. Most recently, Wollen's artwork has appeared at the Museum of Modern Art Warsaw; Barischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; the Washington Square Windows at 80wse gallery, New York; as well as in a one-artist exhibition at Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles. Her critical writing has appeared and is forthcoming in *Affidavit*, *The Nation*, and *Bookforum*. She is currently pursuing a PhD at The Graduate Center, CUNY. She will present a manifesto on men.

Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30pm

PANIC

With Andrea Long Chu and Jamieson Webster

"Panic" is a pervasive, if abused, term used to describe our reaction to our contemporary landscape and is affixed to any number of issues: gender identity, immigration, climate, globalism, Brexit, Trump, and Russia. Our current Age of Anxiety is super charged by the 24-7 newstainment cycle, designed to keep us flickering through states of hysteria and scandal, worry and outrage. Is there any relief from this panic? How does this time relate to other periods of collective hysteria?

Andrea Long Chu is a writer, designer, doctoral candidate, and sad trans girl in Brooklyn. Chu's writing has been published by the *New York Times*, *Affidavit*, *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, and *n+1*. She also publishes a monthly journal on television called *Paper View*. Her first book *Females* will be published by Verso this October.

Jamieson Webster is a psychoanalyst and cultural critic based in New York. Weber is the author of *The Life and Death of Psychoanalysis* (2011) and *Conversion Disorder: Listening to the Body in Psychoanalysis* (2018); she also co-wrote, with Simon Critchley, *Stay, Illusion! The Hamlet Doctrine* (2013). She teaches at the New School and supervises doctoral students in clinical psychology at the City University of New York. She co-writes a regular column for *Spike* with Alison Gingeras.

Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30pm

CANCELLATION

With Anna Khachiyan and Natasha Stagg

Forget the old style of enforcing political correctness—the new culture of cancellation is socially swift and unilaterally unpredictable. On the one hand, “cancel culture” has been used to swiftly punish perceived criminal behavior; on the flip side, it can operate as a means to extinguish nuanced debate and cast out public figures in trials by Twitter. How do we navigate this phenomenon that some see as inherently undemocratic and anti-nuanced and others praise as effective in a world in which the law is statistically proven to fail women and people of color? How does cancellation impact revisionist artistic and political histories?

Anna Khachiyan is a writer based in New York, and the co-host of the leftist podcast *Red Scare*.

Natasha Stagg is a writer based in New York. Stagg’s work has appeared in *Affidavit*, *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *CR Fashion Book*, *DIS Magazine*, *n+1*, *The Paris Review*, *Spike Art Quarterly*, among many other publications. Stagg’s debut novel *Surveys* was published by Semiotext(e)/Native Agents in 2016, and her book of critical essays will be published by Semiotext(e) later this year.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the *Drawing Papers* publication series; and education and public programs.

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.
212.219.2166 | info@drawingcenter.org | drawingcenter.org

FACEBOOK: [/TheDrawingCenter](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrawingCenter)

TWITTER: [@drawingcenter](https://twitter.com/drawingcenter)

INSTAGRAM: [@drawingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/drawingcenter)

AT THE DRAWING CENTER

Neo Rauch: Aus dem Boden / From the Floor April 12–July 28, 2019
As If: Alternative Histories from Then to Now April 12–July 28, 2019

INSTALLATIONS

Inka Essenhigh: Manhattanhenge in the Stairwell Through August 2019

###