

PRESS RELEASE

New Work by Sara VanDerBeek on View at the Minneapolis Institute of Art this Spring



Left:
Sara VanDerBeek
Women & Museums I,
2019
dye sublimation print
Courtesy of the artist and
Metro Pictures, New York
Right:
Sara VanDerBeek
Women & Museums III,
2019
dye sublimation print
Courtesy of the artist and
Metro Pictures, New York

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
artsmia.org

MINNEAPOLIS—February 21, 2019— The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) will show new work by New York-based artist Sara VanDerBeek (b. 1976) in the exhibition “Sara VanDerBeek: Women & Museums.”

Throughout her career, VanDerBeek has examined the ways in which museums collect and interpret historical objects. At Mia, VanDerBeek collaborated with museum staff to select and photograph collection objects that resonate with her experiences as an artist, a mother, and a woman.

The resulting exhibition, “Women & Museums” presents her photography in partnership with objects from Mia’s collection. Layering images of figures, faces, and vessels captured at multiple museums, VanDerBeek’s new series of the same name is as much a meditation on the lives of women as it is an exploration of institutional authorship and authority in the 21st century. Through color, combination, and scale, VanDerBeek makes evident the multifaceted and complex nature of interpreting material cultures—and underscores the role of photography in shaping our understanding of diverse histories. “Women & Museums” opens March 7 and is on view through July 28, 2019.

The six 96 x 48 inch photographs VanDerBeek created for the exhibition will be displayed as part of her assemblage of textiles, pottery, sculpture, and other objects drawn from Mia’s collection. Her curatorial intervention invites visitors into an ongoing conversation about the nature of collecting, interpreting, and internalizing the meaning of artwork in museum collections.

“Sara VanDerBeek’s photography materializes her efforts to explore the complex and layered histories embedded within museum collections,” said Casey Riley, Curator and Head of Mia’s Department of Photography and New Media. “Viewing art within an encyclopedic museum is a subjective endeavor, and both individual and cultural experiences influence our reception of the artwork. It can’t be avoided—our histories shape the way we see the external world. Sara’s work draws our attention to these truths, and considers the impact of museums upon contemporary identity formation.”

Mia

Conceived as a collaboration between Mia's Photography and New Media and Contemporary Departments, the show was co-curated by Riley and Nicole Soukup, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, who added: "Through her manipulation of the image, Sara highlights the role of photography in our lives. How images are created and mediated inform our understanding of art, and offer unique insights regarding how and why we create art collections—from personal collections to institutional."

VanDerBeek will discuss her work at a talk on March 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for My Mia members, and free for members of the Photography & New Media and Contemporary Art Affinity Groups. Register [online](#) or call 612.870.6323.

About Sara VanDerBeek

Sara VanDerBeek was born in Baltimore in 1976 and lives and works in New York. She has had one-person exhibitions at the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Baltimore Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Fondazione Memmo, Rome; and Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Kunsthalle Berlin; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Morgan Library and Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Press Contacts

Michaela Baltasar-Feyen

+ 1 612 870 3280

mbaltasar-feyen@artsmia.org

Tammy Pleshek

+ 1 612 870 3171

tpleshek@artsmia.org

About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–5pm

Thursday, Friday 10am–9pm

Sunday 11am–5pm

Monday Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org

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