

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM

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Contact: Erin Lauderman, 612.625.9685, elauderm@umn.edu

Baggage Claims

February 2 through May 12, 2019



Avery McQuaid Nelson Lawrence, *Arranging Suitcases*, 2012, performance still.
Photo credit: Ross McDermott © Avery McQuaid Nelson Lawrence. Image courtesy of the artist.

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota presents *Baggage Claims* (February 2 through May 12, 2019). This exhibition presents the work of an international group of seventeen artists who explore the impact of the vast scale of population mobility. While baggage has always symbolized migration and freedom, in the context of the current global atmosphere it has become an emblem of uncertainty, fear, and change. On an intimate level, baggage transports and holds personal belongings, and by implication is a rich metaphor for individual and family histories. The term baggage also carries significant psychological meaning, referring to the burdens or blessings of those things in life that cannot be left behind.

Baggage Claims is especially timely as issues of movement dominate the news daily. Tariffs and trade deals concern the transfer of goods while changes in immigration policy affect the travel of migrants and refugees.



Yoan Capote, *Nostalgia*, 2004-13, suitcase, bricks, cement.
Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

Baggage Claims highlights individual stories of movement and change and at the same time addresses the political and economic forces that are the root causes of these journeys. Yoan Capote's *Nostalgia*, for example, is built of objects from his personal experiences, but the work clearly alludes to the strained political relationship between the United States and Cuba. The work consists of the actual suitcase he carried as he left his native Cuba, now filled with bricks found near his new home in Manhattan. The juxtaposition of the soft suitcase and hard bricks symbolizes the very real political barriers that separate many Cuban immigrants from the homes they left behind. Capote explains that the piece refers to the "impossibility of returning and also the barriers we carry in life."

Baggage Claims provides the opportunity for viewers to think about global movement and travel while reflecting on journeys they have taken in their own lives, be it visiting a new city, immigrating to a different country, or leaving home for college. As a physical object and as a psychological concept, baggage is something that we all carry with us as we move through life.

The exhibition features work by artists Richard Artschwager, Mieke Bal & Shahram Entekhabi, Taysir Batniji, Walead Beshty, Yoan Capote, Abel Carranza, Hussein Chalayan, André Leon Gray, Mohamad Hafez, Dan Halter, Avery McQuaid Nelson Lawrence, Joel Ross, Clarissa Tossin, Kathleen Vance, Yin Xiuzhen, and Andrea Zittel.

Baggage Claims is the first exhibition to present a new body of work by contemporary artists who are examining these timely themes. *Baggage Claims* is organized by the Orlando Museum of Art and curated by Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox, c² - curatorsquared.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Exhibition Preview Party February 1, 2019 | 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Contemplate the meaning of "baggage" and how your migration or travels have influenced your life; explore how objects create spaces for people to feel safe with CarryOn Homes; and view a short film on what the idea of home means for migrants. Enjoy a playlist of songs

inspired by the travel and migration of the artists featured in *Baggage Claims* created by DJ Chamun and nosh on small bites.

FREE admission. Register at z.umn.edu/BaggageParty FREE admission.

What Do We Carry? | Unpacking Baggage February 6 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of *Unpacking Baggage* with presentations by Syrian artist and architect, Mohamad Hafez; public history scholar and cofounder of the Mapping Prejudice Project, Kristin Delegard; and the collaborative artistic duo behind the Radio Rhizome project, Nooshin Hakim Javadi and Pedram Baldari. Moderated by Ellen Engseth, curator at the Immigration History Research Center Archives and head of the Migration and Social Services Collections at the University of Minnesota. Register at z.umn.edu/UnpackingBaggage

On View: *Human Flow* by Ai Weiwei February 26 through March 1

Human Flow is an epic film journey led by the internationally renowned artist Ai Weiwei that gives a powerful visual expression to this new era of massive human migration. Captured in twenty-three countries, over the course of an eventful year, the film follows a chain of urgent human stories that stretches across the globe. *Human Flow* is a witness to its subjects and their desperate search for safety, shelter, and justice. Directed by Ai Weiwei, 2017 (2 hours 30 minutes). Film will run continuously during museum hours, Tuesday through Friday.

ABOUT WAM

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

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