



Donald R. and Joan F. Beall  
**Center for Art + Technology**  
University of California, Irvine

University of California, Irvine  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
beallcenter.uci.edu  
949-824-6206

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 12-6pm

Press Contacts:

David Familian, Beall Center Artistic Director: [dfamilia@uci.edu](mailto:dfamilia@uci.edu)

Kimberli Meyer, *American Monument* co-leader: [theamericanmonument@gmail.com](mailto:theamericanmonument@gmail.com)

## For Immediate Release



## ***American Monument* Think Tank Marathon** **The Beall Center for Art + Technology**

March 6 and 7, 12:00 – 7:00 pm



Donald R. and Joan F. Beall  
**Center for Art + Technology**  
University of California, Irvine

University of California, Irvine  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
beallcenter.uci.edu  
949-824-6206

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 12-6pm

**February 20, 2020, Irvine CA:** The Beall Center for Art + Technology at University of California Irvine (UCI) presents the final public program for *American Monument*, the Think Tank Marathon, on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7, from 12:00 – 7:00 pm. Free and open to the public, but space is limited, reservation link at: <https://beallcenter.uci.edu/exhibitions/american-monument>

In recent years, evidence of police violence has reached a new level of exposure, allowing increased public access to formal investigations of police brutality. In 2014, artist/cultural organizer Lauren Woods began to examine police records and court transcriptions in cases where a police officer killed an unarmed black civilian. She focused on officers' claims citing "fear for their own lives," ultimately used to justify the killings as lawful. This work grew into *American Monument*, an interactive sound sculpture, research project, and mode of public engagement and education.

*American Monument's* first full iteration, 22/2019, launched at the Beall Center for Art and Technology at UCI on October 4, 2019 and is installed through April 4, 2020. The artist and her collaborator Kimberli Meyer are Black Box researchers in residence at the Beall, and have partnered with leading thinkers across disciplines at UCI, resulting in collaborations with the School of Law and the departments of African American Studies, Social Ecology, Art History, and Art. During the Fall 2019 quarter, collaborators led think tanks on topics such as sound and the law, the fourth amendment, linguistics in relation to racial bias in law enforcement, and community activist response strategies.

For Think Tank Marathon, *American Monument* is inviting scholars, lawyers, community activists, civil rights leaders, students, artists, and the public to process and discuss issues addressed by the monument. Working inside the installation at the Beall Center, a chain of sessions will take up multiple threads raised by the artwork. The program is co-sponsored by UCI Law's Center for Law, Equality, And Race (CLEAR).

Participants include:

- David Goldberg, Digital Media Theorist, Strategist and Developer
- Kaaryn Gustafson, Professor and Associate Dean, UCI Law; Director, CLEAR
- Sora Han, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, UCI
- Taylor Jones, PhD Candidate, University of Pennsylvania, Linguistics
- Hamid Khan, Organizer, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
- James Lamb, JD Candidate 2020, UCI Law
- Sara Mokuria, Co-founder, Mothers Against Police Brutality
- Jasson Perez, Senior Research Analyst, Action Center on Race and the Economy
- Jared Sexton, Professor of African American Studies, UCI
- Aziz Sohail, MFA Candidate in Art (Critical and Curatorial Studies), UCI

More to be announced.

Sign up for updates here (link)

<http://laurenwoodsartist.com/american-monument-mailing-list.html>



Donald R. and Joan F. Beall  
**Center for Art + Technology**  
University of California, Irvine

University of California, Irvine  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
beallcenter.uci.edu  
949-824-6206

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 12-6pm

*American Monument* is a participatory inter-media monument conceived as nomadic and continually expanding, moving across the country year-to-year, “unveiled” at universities, museums, storefronts, community centers, and churches. The artwork provides a vehicle for analyzing the complex relationship between the construction of race, material violence, structural power, and monumentality itself.

In 2018, *American Monument* initiated an extensive Freedom of Information Act request process. Close readings of use-of-force reports, prosecutor reports, witness testimonies, 911 calls, and body and dash cam videos revealed a consistent and disturbing problem: police use of white dominant cultural constructions and stereotypes of “Blackness,” mined from pop culture, to justify fatal violence.

The centerpiece of *American Monument*, *Archive I*, is an interactive sound sculpture. Encountering a grid of silently spinning black and white turntables on pedestals, visitors may choose to play an acetate record of audio materials gleaned from record requests, setting the apparatus and sound in motion. Each turntable represents one police murder. Supporting the main sculpture are reflection spaces to ponder law as a culture, including *Archive II*, which displays documents associated with each case represented in *Archive I*.

*American Monument* and its Think Tank Marathon is made possible by the generous support of the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts, a founding and continuing grantor to the artwork; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the University of California Humanities Research Institute; UCI Advance Program for Equity & Diversity; Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvous; and the Beall Family Foundation. Additional backing comes from Grand Central Art Center, Santa Ana.

Special thanks to collaborators Sara Daleiden, Sora Han, Simon Leung, and Carol Zou

FREE admission

**Iteration Dates:**

October 6, 2019 – April 4, 2020

**Gallery Hours:**

Monday - Saturday: 12pm – 6pm

Closed: Sundays

Free admission and docent tours

**Location:**

712 Arts Plaza, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697

**Parking:**

Student Center Parking Structure: 311 W. Peltason Drive, Irvine, CA 92697

Mesa Parking Structure: 4000 Mesa Road, Irvine, CA 92697

\*all campus parking requires payment; \$2 per hour, \$7 half day, \$10 full day, credit and debit cards accepted  
For maps, driving directions and parking information go to: <http://www.parking.uci.edu/maps/imap.cfm>



Donald R. and Joan F. Beall  
**Center for Art + Technology**  
University of California, Irvine

University of California, Irvine  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
beallcenter.uci.edu  
949-824-6206

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 12-6pm

**lauren woods** is a conceptual artist whose hybrid media projects—film, video and sound installations, public interventions and site-specific work—engage history as a lens by which to view the socio-politics of the present. Challenging the tradition of documentary/ethnography as objective, she creates ethno-fictive documents that investigate invisible dynamics in society, remixing memory and imagining other possibilities. She also explores how traditional monument-making can be translated into new contemporary models of commemoration, substituting the traditional marble and granite for new media. Recently, woods unveiled *Drinking Fountain #1*, a new media monument to the American civil rights movement, past and present activists/organizers, and the spirit of resistance, located underneath the remnants of a recently rediscovered Jim Crow “White Only” sign. Part sculpture, part intervention, located in the Dallas County Records Building in Dallas, Texas, the installation is part of the larger public artwork, *A Dallas Drinking Fountain Project*.

Born in Kansas City, Mo. and raised in Texas, woods holds a B.A. in radio, television and film and a B.A. in Spanish with a sociology minor from the University of North Texas. In 2006, she received her Master of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and internationally, including Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Dallas and Miami, as well as Puerto Rico, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Mali and France. She has been the recipient of grants and awards from numerous institutions including the Creative Capital Foundation, The Tribeca Film Institute, College Art Association, Alliance of Artists Communities and The San Francisco Foundation.

**Kimberli Meyer** is a curator, writer, architectural designer, and cultural producer. She recently led the University Art Museum at Cal State Long Beach, and previously was the director of the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, for nearly fourteen years. Major projects there include initiating and co-curating, with Gloria Sutton, Lisa Henry, and Nizan Shaked, *How Many Billboards? Art In Stead*, an exhibition in which 21 artists were commissioned to make new work for a Los Angeles billboard (2010); co-curating and co-authoring, with Susan Morgan, the exhibition and publication *Sympathetic Seeing: Esther McCoy and the Heart of American Modernist Design* (2011); and organizing myriad projects with contemporary artists and architects. She was the Commissioner for U. S. Presentation at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Cairo Biennial, and the recipient of numerous grants and awards. She has been working with woods on *American Monument* since its conception.

**David Familian** is the Artistic Director and Curator at the Beall Center. He began working at the Beall Center in 2005 and was appointed Artistic Director and Curator in 2009. An artist and educator, he received his BFA from California Institute of the Arts in 1979 and his MFA from UCLA in 1986. For the past thirty years, Familian has taught studio art and critical theory in art schools and universities including Otis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Santa Clara University, San Francisco Art Institute and U.C. Irvine. Familian initiated Black Box Projects at the Beall Center, which produces collaborative exhibitions in which artists work with scientists and other experts in areas such as Cognitive Robotics, Computational Genetics, and Information Science. He has curated one-person exhibitions of artists Shih Chieh Huang, Golan Levin, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Chico MacMurtrie, Jennifer and Kevin McCoy, Nam June Paik, and others. He has also curated numerous group exhibitions that explore topics such as data visualization, new forms of gaming and narratives, real-time data, interactive installations, and sound art. He currently teaches the Beall Center's Digital Arts Exhibition course at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts.



Donald R. and Joan F. Beall  
**Center for Art + Technology**  
University of California, Irvine

University of California, Irvine  
Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697  
beallcenter.uci.edu  
949-824-6206

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 12-6pm

**The Beall Center** is an exhibition and research center located on the campus of the University of California, Irvine. Since its opening in 2000, the Beall Center’s exhibitions, research, and public programs have promoted new forms of creation and expression. For artists, the Beall Center serves as a proving ground — a place between the artist’s studio and the art museum — and allows them to work with new technologies in their early stages of development. For visitors, the Beall Center serves as a window to the most imaginative and creative innovations in the visual arts occurring anywhere. The Beall Center promotes new forms of creative expression by: exhibiting art that uses different forms of science and technology to engage the senses; building innovative scholarly relationships and community collaborations between artists, scientists and technologists; encouraging research and development of art forms that can affect the future; and reintroducing artistic and creative thinking into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) integrated learning in K-12 to Higher Education. The Beall Center’s curatorial focus presents a diverse range of innovative, world-renowned artists, both national and international, who work with experimental and interactive media. Many of these artists have shown their works primarily within group exhibitions or have a limited number of solo exhibitions in the US. The Beall Center is committed to exhibiting these artists in a way that more fully expresses their individual body of work. We strive to present a direct connection between our programs and the larger trajectory of the history of video, installation art, kinetic and cybernetic sculpture. Our approach is not to exclusively emphasize the technological aspects of works, but to present experimental media projects that are equally strong aesthetically, conceptually and technically. The Beall Center received its initial support from the Rockwell Corporation in honor of retired chairman Don Beall and his wife, Joan; the core idea being to merge their lifelong passions - business, engineering and the arts - in one place. Today, major support is generously provided by the Beall Family Foundation.

### **About UC Irvine’s Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

*Times Higher Education* ranked UC Irvine first among U.S. universities under 50 years old and fifth worldwide. Since its founding in 1965 as one of UC Irvine’s original schools, the School of the Arts (renamed for actress Claire Trevor in 2000) has become one of the nation’s leading educators in visual and performing arts. Awarded "Best Arts Organization" in Orange County 2014 by the Coast Community Awards, the School offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art, Dance, Drama and Music, a minor in Digital Arts and Digital Filmmaking, and one of the few university doctoral programs in Drama. The UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts is located at 4000 Mesa Road, Irvine, CA 92617. For more information, please visit [www.arts.uci.edu](http://www.arts.uci.edu).

Photo by David Familian, courtesy of lauren woods and the UC Regents.

Additional images available upon request.

###