

**LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL  
ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL SEASON AND  
SEPTEMBER 19 OPENING OF  
LMCC'S ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND**



*Photo credit: Zachary Tyler Newton*

**PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:**

**YTO BARRADA:**

***THE POWER OF TWO SUNS***

**MICHAEL WANG:**

***EXTINCT IN NEW YORK***

**THE TAKE CARE SERIES WITH  
ARTISTS INCLUDING OLAFUR  
ELIASSON, JESSE PARIS  
SMITH, TATTFOO TAN, HOUSE  
OF TREES AND JÉRÔME BEL**

**OPEN STUDIOS WITH LMCC  
ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE**

**ALL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING FREE, ALL ARE WELCOME**

Today **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** announces that **LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island** will open to the public on **September 19** with inaugural season programming that includes commissioned site-specific exhibitions by internationally renowned artists **Yto Barrada** (with special guest artist **Bettina**) and **Michael Wang**, as well as the **Take Care** series, a fall public program that furthers ideas presented in the Arts Center's inaugural art installations and reframes art curation as a mindful practice stemming from the concept of care. Artists and collectives featured in the season include **Olafur Eliasson's Little Sun Sunlight Graffiti**, **Tatfoo Tan**, **Anne Mourier**, **Jérôme Bel**, **Jesse Paris Smith and Pathway to Paris**, **House of Trees** and **The Floor**, plus both Barrada and Wang. Signature **Open Studios** events will offer behind-the-scenes looks at the artistic process with the Center's inaugural **Artists-in-Residence**. See below for details, with full schedule available at [LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net). All programs and exhibitions are free and all are welcome.

**Lili Chopra**, LMCC's Executive Director of Artistic Programs, commented, "We are thrilled to open LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island, sharing the work of artists whose local and global sensibilities speak to our present moment. Yto Barrada and Michael Wang examine the complex power dynamics of the natural world. Their divergent approaches share an intense sensitivity that embraces the root meaning of curation—to care, to look after, to support. Through these exhibitions and the Take Care series, along with the work being developed by the inaugural family of artists-in-residence, we invite the public into the Arts Center at Governors Island to reflect on the world we inhabit. How can we better care for ourselves, those around us and the planet as a whole?"

LMCC's Executive Director of Finance & Administration, **Diego S. Segalini**, remarked, "For over 45 years, LMCC has championed artists and their visions in transforming urban spaces. LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is a gift to all New Yorkers in a time of intense economic inequity and ecological crisis. The Arts Center will be a space of conversation and thought. It reflects the mission and values of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to serve and connect artists and communities on a human and personal scale, completely aligned with Governors Island's commitment to the City, water and environment."

Conceived as an incubator for creative exploration and a gathering space to engage in dialogue, LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is the **first year-round, permanent home for artists and audiences on Governors Island**. Located within the Governors Island Historic District, LMCC's Arts Center features 40,000 square feet of space dedicated to public performances, exhibitions and artist residencies, visual and performing arts studios and a cafe. Work created and exhibited during the inaugural season investigates issues of ecology, sustainability, geography and history related to Governors Island and New York City at large. Artists will be in residence year-round with public programming to take place during Governors Island's public season, which runs May 1 through October 31.

As a welcoming hub for working artists and community engagement, LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island will host a broad range of events—including Open Studios, performances, exhibitions, talks, discussions and workshops—to convene artists and the public in an ongoing exchange of ideas and creative practice. Beginning September 19, the exhibitions are open to the public Thursdays through Sundays, 12–5 p.m. The Take Care series takes place every Saturday, 2–5 p.m.

Since 1973, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) has served tens of thousands of artists and arts groups in New York City with critical financial support, training, networking and long-term studio residency programs. As a champion of independent artists and a vital cultural force in city arts, LMCC connects audiences with public presentations of artists' work (including its flagship River To River Festival), creating innumerable cultural experiences and programs across Manhattan, free of charge and welcome to all.

Programming for the inaugural season is as follows (full schedule details available at [LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net)):

## **YTO BARRADA: *THE POWER OF TWO SUNS***

With special guest artist Bettina

September 19–October 31, Thursday–Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

Gallery at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island

Curated by Omar Berrada

If environmental catastrophe stems in part from the amplified solar radiation caused by the greenhouse effect, can solace be found in amplifying the power of solidarity? This question guides *The Power of Two Suns*, a new exhibition by Yto Barrada, a French-born and Moroccan-raised artist based in New York and Tangier. Showcased in the upper level gallery of LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island, *The Power of Two Suns* reflects Barrada's exploration of our individual and collective reactions to the onset of disaster, and her abiding interest in relationships across geography and time.

While researching her project at LMCC, Barrada visited Tangier Island, Virginia. There, faced

with the Chesapeake Bay's rising waters, local islanders are hoping for a sea wall to contain the flood. Through the lens and site of Governors Island and its long military history, Barrada's show acknowledges the temptation of insularity as protection from the world, but embraces hospitality instead, as an act of care and collective resistance. Barrada materializes this gesture by inviting a fellow artist into her space at Governors Island: Bettina, who once lost all her work to a devastating fire, before remaking it over decades from the solitary refuge of a room in the Chelsea Hotel.

Sharing an interest in collecting and documenting, grids and taxonomies, language and wordplay, and in that special place where the patience of craft meets the intelligence of concept, Barrada and Bettina's works spring from a careful observation of their respective environments. In the exhibition, curated by Omar Barrada, their method of documentary abstraction aims not at didactic exposé but at formal invention, channeling ideas through clear lines, simple shapes and a dramatically reduced palette—as though to convert the ominous sense of an ending into the primordial forms of a new, quieter beginning. *The Power of Two Suns* marks Barrada's first major presentation in Lower Manhattan and the first significant exhibition by special guest artist Bettina since 1980.

## **MICHAEL WANG: *EXTINCT IN NEW YORK***

September 19–October 31, Thursday–Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

Gallery at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island

Presented in partnership with Swiss Institute

LMCC and Swiss Institute present *Extinct in New York*, the first institutional exhibition in the United States by American artist Michael Wang. In the gallery, four greenhouses contain a selection of plant, lichen and algae species known historically from the natural environments of New York City, but which no longer grow wild in any of the city's five boroughs.

In the months leading up to the exhibition, Wang researched, sourced, planted and tended to seeds and seedlings of these former New York City natives in his garden and studio upstate. At LMCC's Arts Center on Governors Island, these organisms are sustained within a laboratory-like installation, under the care of a team of Arts Center staff, local students and volunteers. The gallery becomes a life-support system, temporarily housing these once native plants under artificial conditions. The exhibition is, in the words of Wang, “a snapshot of a process.” The artist intends the plants to remain in the city after the close of the exhibition, in the managed spaces of urban gardens—re-introduced to the lands where they once grew wild, but persisting now only under human care. The living plants in the gallery exhibition are accompanied by writings, photographs and botanical drawings that sketch stories of ecological disappearance. Against the backdrop of these narratives, life is cultivated.

Wang offers the following insight in this iteration of his work: “The modern city offers a microcosm of ecological catastrophe. Human and architectural density leaves little room for the rich and varied habitats that once were. But a hybrid nature persists, and in parks, gardens, and abandoned spaces, remnants of a lost ecosystem even return. *Extinct in New York* traces the disappearance of plant, algae and lichen species known historically from New York City. By returning these species to New York, I want to suggest a new kind of city: built not only for humans, but for the very organisms the city displaced. Against but alongside an overwhelming tide of eradication, the work is a gesture of nurture and care.”

## THE TAKE CARE SERIES

September 21–October 27, Saturdays, 2–5 p.m.  
LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island

Ecology, sustainability, diversity and the need to care for and protect one another and our planet are at the core of the Take Care series. Through events and participatory programs for all ages, Take Care offers audiences an opportunity to experience art, explore one's own creative potential and carry the work beyond the island. All events are free of charge. Programming includes: **Olafur Eliasson's** Little Sun *Sunlight Graffiti*, in which light becomes a vehicle to effect change; workshops led by artists **Yto Barrada** and **Michael Wang**; a banner-making workshop with **House of Trees** in partnership with the **Climate Festival at Governors Island**; and the merging of wellness with culture and civic engagement through movement classes by **The Floor**, an NYC-based studio and community space. **Jérôme Bel** will speak on his new creative process in response to the climate emergency and present an excerpt from his work on Isadora Duncan performed by **Catherine Gallant**. **Tattfoo Tan** brings peace and focus to participants in *Portable Altar* and a *New Earth Ceremony* in which visitors are invited to bring a memento and form connections with each other. **Jesse Paris Smith + Pathway To Paris** will curate a Saturday at the Arts Center bringing musicians, poets and artists into the space for performances and workshops. In the concluding and titular event of the series, **Anne Mourier** invites public appreciation of domestic ritual through her performance, *Taking Care Laundry*, inviting visitors to share favorite articles of white clothing to be hand washed by the artist, dried in the sun, ironed and folded with care, perfumed with fresh lavender and returned to their owners. Mourier's performance will be accompanied by workshops that share ways to breathe new life and connection into their old material items.

During **Open Studios** events, visitors are encouraged to connect with the Arts Center's **Artists-in-Residence** (see below) when the entire facility is accessible, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the artistic process.

Full schedule and information available at [LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net).

## LMCC'S ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND: 2019 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Integral to LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island are its year-round artist residency programs in which artists at various career stages explore themes of social justice/social practice, NYC Harbor and/or Governors Island history, climate change and water. Resident artists have access to the Arts Center five days a week, extending to seven days a week during the public season, where they receive their own dedicated studio space as well as access to all of the Arts Center's common/shared spaces. Opportunities for professional and creative development are programmed throughout the residency period, and Open Studios Weekends and events take place multiple times throughout the public season.

Yto Barrada  
Colleen Billing  
Baris Gokturk  
Maya Kaminishi Jeffereis  
Brendan Kiely  
Amy Khoshbin  
Hilary Lorenz

Hypokrit Theatre Company  
Jillian McDonald  
Ander Mikalson  
Lize Mogel  
Aviva Rahmani  
Leah Raintree  
Aida Šehović  
J. Soto  
Aaron Suggs  
Asiya Wadud  
Michael Wang

## VISITOR INFORMATION

LMCC's Arts Center is accessible by ferries to Governors Island operating to and from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. The Arts Center is a 2-minute walk from the Soissons Landing pier. For the Governors Island ferry schedule, please visit <https://govisland.com/visit-the-island/ferry>

LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island  
110 Andes Rd, New York, NY 10004, Building 110  
Google Map: [LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island](#)

## SUPPORTERS

This inaugural season of programming at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is made possible, in part, by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. *Yto Barrada: The Power of Two Suns* is supported in part by Art Matters and Pace Gallery. Additional funding is provided by Étant Donnés Contemporary Art, a program developed by the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, with lead funding from the French Ministry of Culture and Institut Français-Paris, the Florence Gould Foundation, The Ford Foundation, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Chanel USA, the ADAGP, and the CPG.

LMCC's Arts Center Residency program is supported, in part, by Cowles Charitable Trust, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Arts Center Residency is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

LMCC is also grateful to our many capital supporters. For a list of our capital supporters, please visit [our website](#).

LMCC additionally acknowledges our partnership with the Trust for Governors Island.

## ABOUT YTO BARRADA

Yto Barrada works with multiple media, including photography, film, sculpture and printmaking. Her work, which began by exploring the peculiar situation of her hometown Tangier (Morocco), concerns itself with reinterpreting social relationships, uncovering subaltern histories and revealing the prevalence of fiction in institutionalized narratives. Her work is held in the

collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate Modern, London.

## ABOUT BETTINA

Bettina was born in New York in 1928. Starting in the 1950s, she produced a remarkable body of work that includes photography, painting, printmaking, sculpture, film, drawing and text-based art. Following the loss of her work in a fire that destroyed her studio in 1966, she lived and traveled in Europe for ten years before moving back to New York and settling in the Chelsea Hotel where she still resides. Based on the observation of the city's daily activities, her work transforms movements and gestures into form, in an effort to apprehend the elusive, transitory energies of urban life. She has been the subject of several films, including *Bettina* (Sam Bassett, 2008) and *Girl with Black Balloons* (Corinne van der Borch, 2010).

## ABOUT OMAR BERRADA

Omar Berrada is a writer and curator, and the director of Dar al-Ma'mûn, a library and artists' residency in Marrakech. His work focuses on the politics of cultural translation and intergenerational transmission. Currently living in New York, he teaches at The Cooper Union where he co-organizes the [IDS Lecture Series](#).

## ABOUT MICHAEL WANG

Michael Wang (born 1981 in Olney, Maryland, lives and works in New York) uses systems that operate at a global scale as media for art: climate change, species distribution, resource allocation and the global economy. His works include *Carbon Copies*, an exhibition linking the production of artworks to the release of greenhouse gases, *World Trade*, a series tracing the trade in steel from the World Trade Center following the attacks of September 11, 2001; and *Extinct in the Wild*, a project that brings species that no longer exist in nature, but that persist under human care, into spaces of art. Wang's work has been shown in Europe, North and South America and Asia, most recently at Manifesta 12 in Palermo, Swiss Institute in New York, the Parque Cultural in Valparaíso and Fondazione Prada in Milan.

## ABOUT SWISS INSTITUTE

Founded in 1986, Swiss Institute is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution based in New York City's East Village. Dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental artmaking through innovative exhibitions, education and programs, Swiss Institute serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new contexts for celebrated work and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. Open to the public free of charge, Swiss Institute seeks to explore how a national perspective can foster international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design and architecture.

## ABOUT GOVERNORS ISLAND

Governors Island is a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor nestled between Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. Eight minutes from the energy and excitement of the City, the Island is a popular seasonal destination open to the public May 1-October 31. An award-winning new park is complemented by dozens of unique historic buildings, educational and cultural facilities, a rich arts and culture program and a 22-acre National Monument

managed by the National Park Service. Looking ahead, the Island will be activated year-round as a sustainable campus for learning and entrepreneurship, with plans for expanded commercial and non-profit uses in its future.

## **ABOUT LMCC**

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community.

### **LMCC serves artists through:**

- [Residencies](#) that enable artists to experiment and develop their work and ideas, with professional development, financial training and networking opportunities
- [Grant funding](#) to artists that support local/neighborhood projects
- [Presentation opportunities](#) that allow artists to share their work and creative process with the public

### **LMCC serves community through:**

- [Free public programs](#) in Lower Manhattan that activate neighborhoods and bring people together through performances and rich artistic experiences
- [Access to artists and the artmaking process](#) to build connections and dialogue between artists and audiences
- [Grant funding](#) for neighborhood arts and community-based organizations

Since 1973, LMCC has been the quiet champion for independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan.

**[www.LMCC.net](http://www.LMCC.net)**

**For more information, please contact**

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