Logan Center Exhibitions presents
Candice Lin: A Hard White Body, a Porous Slip

CHICAGO (August 22, 2018) - From September 14 to October 28, 2018, Logan Center Exhibitions is pleased to present Candice Lin: A Hard White Body, a Porous Slip. For her first solo exhibition in Chicago, Lin presents a fragile sculptural landscape composed of porcelain fragments submerged in liquid porcelain slip. Rotting plant material and other debris soak in the shallow pool, coloring the white liquid and dirtying the ceramic surfaces. Alongside archival documents, organic material, and finely crafted objects, the immersive installation also includes a video projected above the pool. The resulting environment visualizes the histories of power that are inscribed into bodies and into the natural world.

Building on a series of related exhibitions that have unfolded at Bétonsalon - Centre d’art et de recherche & Villa Vassiliev, Paris, and Portikus, Frankfurt/Main over the last year, Lin’s installation extends her ongoing exploration of material and non-human histories alongside the biographies of three historical figures: novelist James Baldwin, botanist and first woman to circumnavigate the globe Jeanne Baret, and naturalist Maria Sibylla Merian. Each of these protagonists negotiated complex power relations vis-à-vis normative constructions of race, gender and sexuality throughout their lifetime. Material artifacts and organic matter in the exhibition speak to their diverging and intersecting biographies as well as the instrumentalization of non-human agents in racialized, gendered...
and classist narratives. Porcelain fragments, for example, are the remnants of a sculpture of a bedroom inspired by Baret’s ship cabin as well as Baldwin’s novel *Giovanni’s Room*, now broken and testifying to an irrecoverable loss. Research documents, a suitcase, maps, plant remnants, and herbal teas are collected, stored, and presented in the exhibition as references to the life and often unrecognized work of both Baret and Merian.

“Lin’s installation is thoughtfully researched and meticulously presented,” said Yesomi Umolu, Exhibitions Curator at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, and curator of the exhibition. “The artist interrogates concepts of linear progress, the authority of the archive, and historical as well as contemporary notions of purity and contamination.”

In addition, *A Hard White Body, a Porous Slip* reflects on the history of the 1893 Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition, a part of which took place on the Midway adjacent to the Logan Center. The artist illuminates the presence and role of porcelain in the fair as a water filtration system and a signifier of purity, hygiene and taste. A newly commissioned installation also references the Columbian Exposition through a wall-sized illustration of the fairgrounds, scorched by a fire a year after its closing, placed alongside an image of a desiccated sugar cane field, a diagram of the sugar refining process, and the vaporized scent of burnt sugar and plastic. Referencing the preoccupation with sewage management during the Exposition, a low-fi circulatory system boils and distills urine—collected from the artist and the Logan Center’s staff—and moves it into the main exhibition space where it mingles with the milky pool of liquified porcelain.

“By drawing from elements present in the World’s Columbian Exposition, staged 125 years ago, Lin’s new work connects histories of destruction and violence with the technological advancements associated with distillation, refinement, and decontamination. Ultimately, Lin’s project challenges the underlying preconceptions of Western narratives of progress and modernity as they were espoused in the Exposition,” Umolu said.

Based in Los Angeles, Candice Lin creates fragile sculptural environments that breathe, seep, ferment, and decay. Working with an arsenal of sculptural forms that include finely crafted objects, organisms such as plants, insects, and bacteria, and natural compounds, Lin weaves together narratives of racial, sexual and gender marginality with processes of deterioration and contamination.

*Candice Lin: A Hard White Body, a Porous Slip* is presented by Logan Center Exhibitions and curated by Yesomi Umolu, Exhibitions Curator with Katja Rivera, Assistant Curator and Alyssa Brubaker, Exhibitions Coordinator. This exhibition is made possible by support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Reva and David Logan Foundation, and friends of the Logan Center. *Candice Lin: A Hard White Body, a Porous Slip* is produced in collaboration
Candice Lin’s work engages notions of gender, race, and sexuality, drawing from post/de-colonialism, citizen science, anthropology, and feminist and queer theory. She has presented solo exhibitions at Portikus, Frankfurt (2017); Bétonsalon, Paris (2017); Gasworks, London (2016); and Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles (2016). She has also exhibited widely in recent group exhibitions at Moderna Museet, Stockholm; New Museum, New York; HANGAR, Lisbon; Sculpture Center, New York; and Galeria Fortes Vilaça, Sao Paulo. A recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2017), Lin recently completed residencies at Centre les Récollets, Paris (2017) and Headlands Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2016). Lin received her MFA in New Genres at the San Francisco Art Institute in 2004 and her double BA in Visual Arts and Art Semiotics at Brown University in 2001. Lin is Assistant Professor of Art at UCLA.

About Yesomi Umolu, Logan Center Exhibitions Curator

Yesomi Umolu is Artistic Director of the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial and Exhibitions Curator at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. She directs a program of international contemporary art in the Logan Center Gallery and contributes to a number of strategic committees that drive the development of contemporary art, architecture and urbanism on campus. In addition to her curatorial role, Umolu also holds the position of Lecturer in the Humanities Division. She is a 2016 recipient of an Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Curatorial Fellowship.

Umolu has been a visiting lecturer, critic and speaker at a number of international universities including Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills; Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London and University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, among others. She currently serves on the curatorial advisory board for the United States Pavilion at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale, commissioned by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago.

About Logan Center Exhibitions

Logan Center Exhibitions presents international contemporary art programming at the Logan Center Gallery and throughout the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. Reflecting the spirit of inquiry at the university, Logan Center Exhibitions focuses on open, collaborative and process-based approaches to cultural production. Working closely with artists, students, scholars and community members, Logan Center Exhibitions presents innovative exhibitions by emerging and established artists; supports ambitious new commissions and research projects; disseminates knowledge through publications; and facilitates connections through talks and other public programs.

General Information
Logan Center Exhibitions is located at:
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Gallery Hours
Tue-Sat, 9am-9pm
Sun, 11am-9pm
Mon, closed