

FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE



Senga Nengudi, *R.S.V.P.*, 1977, sculpture activated by Maren Hassinger, dimensions variable.

## SENGA NENGUDI: IMPROVISATIONAL GESTURES

**JANUARY 20 – APRIL 14, 2018**

**LOS ANGELES, USC FISHER MUSEUM OF ART** – Senga Nengudi is one of the seminal conceptual and performance artists of our time. Educated in Los Angeles in the 1960s, Nengudi left L.A. to study art in New York and Tokyo decades ago. She is now returning to Los Angeles, to major acclaim, with *Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures*, a comprehensive exhibition at USC Fisher Museum of Art on view from January 20 through April 14, 2018.

Nengudi emerged as part of a group of avant-garde African-American artists active in Los Angeles and New York in the 1970s and 1980s. Her peers, members of the Studio Z collective and what came to be known as the LA Rebellion, included the artists David Hammons, Maren Hassinger, Barbara McCullough, John Outterbridge, Noah Purifoy and others. Informed by a shifted sociopolitical consciousness, Nengudi's earliest work synthesized feminism, African and Japanese dance, music, and religious rituals in experimental sculptures and performances. These themes continue to inform Nengudi's interdisciplinary practice to this day. Nengudi's work often draws from collaboration with other artists and disciplines, including dancers and musicians. Blending natural and synthetic materials, including pantyhose, rubber and sand, her sculptures often await the activation of a human body, marking and mystifying the dynamic intimacy between us and the matter that we move through.

Fisher will be presenting a conference on the closing day, April 14, in collaboration with the California African American Museum, USC Roski School of Art and Design, and USC Dornsife's Department of Art History. Inspired by the exhibition *Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures* at the USC Fisher Museum of Art, this day-long symposium offers both new and familiar audiences an opportunity to explore and experience the work of Senga Nengudi, as well as investigate its intersections in contemporary art and performance. Panels, screenings, and a performance will bring together artists, students, activists, curators, writers, and intellectuals for a day of dialogue and discovery.

*Senga Nengudi: Improvisational Gestures* is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Galleries of Contemporary Art.

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**About the artist:** Senga Nengudi was born in 1943 in Chicago. Her work has been included in the group exhibitions *Out of Action: Between Performance and the Object*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 1998; *WACK! Art & The Feminist Revolution*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2007; and *Now Dig This!*, The Hammer Museum, 2011. In addition, her work is in the permanent collection of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; the Studio Museum in Harlem; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art; and the Brooklyn Museum, among others. Nengudi currently lives and works in Colorado Springs.

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**About USC Fisher Museum of Art:** The USC Fisher Museum of Art - established in 1939- is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center for intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC's goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC's present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists' talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

**Located on the USC campus.**

823 Exposition Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90089

**Admission is free.**

**Museum Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm

Saturday 12-4pm

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