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# CREATIVETIME

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## CREATIVE TIME ANNOUNCES ANNUAL SUMMIT TO BE HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WASHINGTON, DC

*Summit considers the state of global democracy in advance of the 2016 election*



**Oct. 14 – 16, 2016**  
**The Lincoln Theatre 1215 U St. NW, Washington, DC**  
***Registration Required***

NEW YORK, NY — (September 21, 2016) — This October, the annual [Creative Time Summit: Occupy The Future](#) will be held in Washington, DC for the first time. Running **Oct. 14 – 16** the Summit will feature over 50 speakers including Black Lives Matter co-founder **Alicia Garza**; artistic director at the Serpentine Galleries, **Hans Ulrich Obrist**; Minor Threat and Fugazi frontman **Ian MacKaye**; *Guardian* and *Harper's* columnist **Thomas Frank**; genderqueer artist **Vaginal Davis**, actor and designer, **Waris Ahluwalia**; and artist **Carrie Mae Weems**. **Occurring just weeks before the 2016 Presidential Election**, the Summit will take this moment to collectively consider what it might mean to radically transform the current state of democracy, and move beyond the

political horrors of the present cleverly dramatized by Pedro Reyes in this fall's Creative Time exhibition, [Doomocracy](#).

"The question of democracy is up for debate, and elections around the world are reflecting a certain disillusionment with the electoral process and its candidates. As the largest conference on the intersection of art and social change in the world, there could be no better place to challenge the center of power than to hold the 2016 Creative Time Summit in Washington, DC," says **Nato Thompson**, Artistic Director, Creative Time.

## **SPEAKERS**

The full list of speakers and participants includes **Alicia Garza, Anna Hutsol (FEMEN), Andrea Bowers, Carrie Mae Weems, Casa Taft 169 & La Maraña, Crew Peligrosos, E. Ethelbert Miller, Elissa Blount-Moorhead & Arthur Jafa (TNEG), Eva Barois De Caebel, Haneen Zoabi, Gelitin, Gluklya & Anna Bitkina, Hank Willis Thomas & Eric Gottesman, Hans Ulrich Obrist with Eileen Myles, Ian MacKaye, Janani Balasubramanian (Dark Matter), Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Khalid Albaih, Liberate Tate, Jonas Staal, Journal Rappé, Jun Yang, Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung, May Boeve, Melissa Mays, Newton Harrison, Nut Brother, Patricia Ariza, Pedro Reyes, Peter Svarzsbein, Radio SouriaLi, RAQs Media Collective, Ryan Hammond, Sheila Pree Bright, Sheldon Scott, Step Afrika, Terike Haapoja, Thomas Frank, Vaginal Davis, Voices of a People's History of the United States, and Waris Ahluwalia.**

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Thursday, October 13**

The Summit kicks-off with a welcome party at DC's [Blind Whino](#) former church turned art and music venue, co-hosted by Transformer. Performances by the **Gogo Allstars** featuring **Michelle Blackwell**, artist **Martha Wilson (as Donald Trump)**, and more.

### **Friday, October 14 & Saturday, October 15**

Keynotes, short talks, and performances by over 50 luminaries from 20 countries, unfold over the first two days at the Lincoln Theatre. Thematic sections include *Occupy Power*, which will reevaluate and provide alternatives to current dominant power structures; *Do It Yourself*, which pays homage to Washington, DC's prominent place in the history of DIY by looking at international models that share a similar ethos; and *Troubled Democracy*, which explores the complexities of representation, democracy, and global responsibility. Other key topics will include the construction of queerness, life in the age of the Anthropocene, and organizing in the face of systemic violence and immediate threat. The Summit will also include a special series that embraces the irrational upon the occasion of the 100th year anniversary of Dada. Additionally, the Summit will offer unique opportunities for attendees and presenters to engage over lunch with art collective the **Great Tortilla Conspiracy**, evening events hosted by local establishments, and inside the **Culturerunners RV**, a mobile art space and community center exploring common concerns between the United States and Middle East.

### **Sunday, October 16**

Held at the **Corcoran School of Art and Design**, and co-organized with **Provisions Library**, day three begins with a performance and political rally as part of *Sheldon for DC*, a grassroots campaign for DC's first Minister of Culture, initiated by artist **Sheldon Scott** and **Washington Project for the Arts**. Followed by over 35 hour-long breakout

sessions led primarily by DC- and Baltimore-area artists, activists, educators, and community leaders, selected via open call. Other sessions will be led by Summit presenters such as Senegalese news rappers, **Journal Rappé**; anti oil sponsorship artist collective, **Liberate Tate**; and activist and founder of Ukraine's FEMEN movement, **Anna Hutsol**. Small group conversations, field trips, and workshops will address a myriad of social and political issues, as well as topics central to artists and students practicing today. Highlights include a workshop on how to fight an internet shutdown with writer **Deji Bryce Olukotun**; a roundtable with #BLM community leaders **Omolara Williams** and **Tanya Bernard**; a special tour and conversation in the Dupont Underground, the subterranean former streetcar station under Dupont Circle; and a field day of political *New New Games* with artist **Robby Herbst** on the lawn of the National Mall.

**Session Leaders:** Andy Fernandez, Ben Ashworth, Bruce McKaig, Carmen Montoya, Carol Dyson, Critical Exposure, Culture Runners, Deji Bryce Olukotun, Dupont Underground, Erik Moe, Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop, Garth Ross, Giovanna Chesler, Gretchen Coombs, Hamiltonian Gallery, Kymone Freeman, Kayleigh Bryant Greenwell with Adriel Luis & Sheldon Scott, Maen Hammad, Matthew Slaats, Niama Safia Sandy, Oak Hill, Omolara Williams & Tanya Bernard, Pam Korza & Jessica Solomon, Robby Herbst, Natalie Campbell & Saisha Grayson, Sanjit Sethi & Richard Saxton, Words, Beats, and Life & Murals DC, and more.

### **SPECIAL COMMISSIONS**

The Creative Time Summit DC features two special commissions by photographer **Sheila Pree Bright** and DC's Floating Lab Collective. In her photographic series, **Sheila Pree Bright** followed #BlackLivesMatter throughout the spring and summer as they protested in Baton Rouge, Atlanta, and outside the DNC in Philadelphia. Portraying the stunning energy of the growing movement, Bright's images show the joy, pain, hardship, and determination of those fighting to end violence against people of color. Bright's images will be shown on screen at the Summit and are featured in an ongoing series on Instagram titled #PowerArtistsPeopleSeries.

DC's Floating Lab Collective has been commissioned to create the stage set for *Occupy the Future*. Their design takes inspiration from Michelangelo's *Sistine Chapel*, reimagining the visual metaphors for social progress found in the great Renaissance work to into the key figures, movements and symbols of contemporary social change. Created specifically for the historic Lincoln theatre, the design will celebrate Pussy Riot, Occupy, Hong Kong's Umbrella protests, Black Lives Matter, the three finger salute in Thailand, and others from around the world.

### **SUMMIT CURATORS**

**Creative Time Summit: Occupy The Future** is curated by **Nato Thompson** and **Sally Szwed**.

### **PASSES & MORE INFORMATION**

Passes to the Summit can be purchased [here](#). Coverage and press passes must be arranged in advance by email at [creativetime@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:creativetime@culturalcounsel.com)

For more information, and further details on registration, please visit <http://creativetime.org/summit>.

## **ABOUT THE LINCOLN THEATRE**



Photograph courtesy The Lincoln Theatre

The Lincoln Theatre, built in 1922 and located on “Washington’s Black Broadway”, was a cultural center of D.C., predating and influencing Harlem’s renaissance. The Lincoln served Washington D.C.’s African American community when segregation kept them out of other venues. The theater included a movie house and a ballroom, and hosted Washington natives Duke Ellington and Pearl Bailey, who were joined by nationally acclaimed artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong, and Sarah Vaughn, performing regularly on the storied stage. President Franklin D. Roosevelt celebrated his birthday parties at the Lincoln Colonnade, a party hall once located at the theater. The theater closed after the 1968 race-related riots and reopened in 1994. In June 2013, I.M.P. was selected by the District of Columbia to operate the theater. I.M.P. also operates the award-winning 9:30 Club in the District and Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD.

## **ABOUT CREATIVE TIME**

Creative Time a nonprofit public arts organization is committed to working with artists on the dialogues, debates and dreams of our time. Since 1974, Creative Time has presented the most innovative art in the public realm and provided new platforms to amplify artists voices, from the Creative Time Summit, the largest international convening of art and social change, to Creative Time Reports, an on going op-ed by artists responding to the pressing issues of our times co-published with The Guardian.

The New York-based nonprofit has produce more than 350 groundbreaking public art projects that have ignited the public’s imagination, explored ideas that shape society, and engaged millions of people around the globe. Creative Time seeks to convert the power of artists’ ideas into works that inspire social change and stimulate public dialogue on timely issues, while initiating a dynamic conversation among artists, sites, and

audiences.

For more information on Creative Time please visit [www.creativetime.org](http://www.creativetime.org). To connect with us via twitter use @CreativeTime and find us on Instagram @CreativeTimeNYC. To promote the Summit use #CTSummit #CreativeTime

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