

AICA/USA DISTINGUISHED CRITIC LECTURE AT THE NEW SCHOOL

# ARUNA D'SOUZA, WRITING IN THE REPARATIVE MODE



**NOVEMBER 26, 2018  
6:30-8:00 PM**

Vera List Center for Art and Politics  
The 8th Floor  
17 West 17th Street  
New York City

## **AICA**

AICA-USA is the United States section of the Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art (hence our acronym), which was founded in 1950 in Paris to revive the critical discourse that had suffered under fascism and the Second World War and to develop international co-operation in the fields of artistic creation and cultural development. At present there are 63 member nations representing more than 5,000 art critics. Headquartered in New York, AICA-USA is one of the association's largest national sections with over 450 distinguished critics, curators, scholars, and art historians working throughout the United States.

Each year, we present the AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture in partnership with The New School's Vera List Center for Art and Politics. We also provide mentorship programs for emerging art critics in partnership with the The Creative Capital | Andy Warhol Foundation Art Writers Grant Program and the Cue Art Foundation. [www.aicausa.org](http://www.aicausa.org)

## **VERA LIST CENTER FOR ART AND POLITICS**

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is a research center and a public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society's investment in the arts. A pioneer in the field, the center serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policy makers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change.

We champion the arts as expressions of the political moments from which they emerge, and consider the intersection between art and politics the space where new forms of civic engagement must be developed. We are the only university-based institution committed exclusively to leading public research on this intersection. Through public programs and classes, prizes and fellowships, publications and exhibitions that probe some of the pressing issues of our time, we curate and support new roles for the arts and artists in advancing social justice. [www.veralistcenter.org](http://www.veralistcenter.org)

## PROGRAM

Aruna D'Souza delivers the twelfth annual AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture in partnership with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics and with the support of The 8th Floor.

When she returned to art writing two years ago, after a five-year absence, Aruna D'Souza decided she would like her approach to the task to atone for past failures—failures of politics, of style, of generosity. She had just read Ta-Nehisi Coates' *A Case for Reparations* and began to wonder what, in the era of Black Lives Matter and #SayHerName, a reparative mode of criticism might look like. Her talk will explore some of her thinking—and set out some further questions about what art criticism might offer in our urgent political moment.

**Aruna D'Souza** writes about modern and contemporary art and politics, and how museums shape our views of each other and the world. Her work appears regularly in *4Columns.org*, where she is a member of the editorial advisory board, as well in *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNN.com*, *Art News*, *Garage*, *Bookforum*, *Momus*, *Art in America*, and *Art Practical*. Her book, *Whitewalling: Art, Race, and Protest in 3 Acts* was published by Badlands Unlimited in May 2018. She is editor of the forthcoming volumes, *Making It Modern: A Linda Nochlin Reader*, which will be published by Thames & Hudson, and *A Presence Which Signals Absence: Lorraine O'Grady Collected Writings 1977-2018*.

The AICA-USA Distinguished Critic Lecture at The New School is an annual celebration of an exemplary writer whose lecture addresses seminal issues in contemporary art criticism. Previous lecturers have been Michael Brenson, Linda Nochlin, Roberta Smith, Holland Cotter, Peter Schjeldahl, Michelle Kuo, Lucy Lippard, Carolyn Christoph-Bakargiev, Naomi Beckwith, Negar Azimi and, most recently, Paul Chaat Smith.

*The lecture is organized by the U.S. chapter of the International Association of Art Critics in partnership with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics. The collaboration fuses AICA-USA's dedication to art criticism as a rigorous discipline with the Vera List Center's commitment to discourse on how the visual and performing arts respond to some of the most pressing social and political issues of our time. The organizations' robust partnership is amplified through the Vera List New School Art Collection Writing Awards, an educational program that supports the creative and critical thinking of New School students, inviting them to write about any of the 2,000 works in the university's art collection with the editorial oversight of a member of the AICA community. Thank you to The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation at The 8th Floor for hosting this program.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**Vera List Center for Art and Politics**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH: A CURRICULUM FOR STUDIES INTO DARKNESS

**FEMINIST MANIFESTOS**

**Monday, December 3, 2018 6:30-8:30 PM**

THE NEW SCHOOL, THERESA LANG COMMUNITY AND STUDENT CENTER  
55 WEST 13TH STREET, 2ND FLOOR

CONVERSATION

**ALL VISIBLE DIRECTIONS BETWEEN SKY AND WATER**  
**WITH NATALIE DIAZ AND MARIA HUPFIELD**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:30-8:30 PM**

THE NEW SCHOOL, THE OROZCO ROOM  
66 WEST 12TH STREET, ROOM 712

**THE 8TH FLOOR**



**THE NEW SCHOOL**

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**VERA LIST CENTER**  
**FOR ART AND POLITICS**

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