

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2023

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) presents *Policing Justice*, an exhibition and related programming with local, national, and international artists.

**Opening Reception:** Friday, February 23, 2024 / 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Exhibition Dates:** February 23 – May 19, 2024

**Symposium:** March 9, 2024

**Location:** PICA, 15 NE Hancock Street, Portland, OR 97212

**Price:** Exhibition, Free / Workshops & Performances, free or sliding scale

**Website:** [pica.org/events/policingjustice](https://pica.org/events/policingjustice)

**Press Contact:** Leslie Vigeant, Director of Marketing and Communications  
[leslie@pica.org](mailto:leslie@pica.org)

Portland, OR - Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) announces a major forthcoming exhibition *Policing Justice*. Guest curated by Nina Amstutz, Associate Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at the University of Oregon, and Cleo Davis, local social construct artist, designer, educator, historian, and community leader, this exhibition examines policing practices in Portland, Oregon, and their relationship to longer local and national histories of oppression through the lens of artists who call Portland their home and those who have witnessed and documented police brutality across the globe.

**PICA**

The extended George Floyd protests in 2020, which lasted longer in Portland than in any other city in America and were met with over 6000+ documented instances of police use of force, serve as a point of departure to explore Portland's history of policing in relation to racial, environmental, spatial, and juvenile justice.

Local artists and activist groups reflect on these situated histories through a series of commissioned installations, including work by Don't Shoot Portland, Master Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. in collaboration with Blue, and Cleo Davis and Kayin Talton Davis in collaboration with Robert Clarke and Kimberly Moreland. Complementing these regional collaborations, a selection of works on loan by Alfredo Jaar, Sandy Rodriguez, and Carrie Mae Weems will situate what happened in Portland in a national context. *Policing Justice* will also showcase a three-part video installation by the British research and arts organization Forensic Architecture, which includes a recent investigation into the Portland Police Bureau's use of tear gas against protesters in 2020 and its environmental and health impacts. The exhibition will be accompanied by an active programming schedule, including a symposium, film series, workshops, and panel discussions, which center on locally impacted communities.

PICA thanks the American Art Dealers Association and the University of Oregon, College of Design's Tinker Hatfield Award for Innovation for supporting this exhibition.

Both curators, Nina Amstutz and Cleo Davis, are available for interviews. If interested, please contact Leslie Vigeant, Director of Marketing and Communications, at [leslie@pica.org](mailto:leslie@pica.org), for more information.

15 NE HANCOCK STREET  
PORTLAND OREGON 97212  
503 242 1419  
[pica.org](https://pica.org)

\*\*\* IMPORTANT TIME/DATE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW \*\*\*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION / DATES / TIMES

### **Exhibition Title**

*Policing Justice*

### **Artist**

Alfredo Jaar  
Blue  
Carrie Mae Weems  
Cleo Davis  
Don't Shoot Portland  
Forensic Architecture  
Kayin Talton Davis  
Kimberly Moreland  
Master Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.  
Robert Clarke  
Sandy Rodriguez

**Curators:** Nina Amstutz and Cleo Davis

**Consulting Curator/Producer:** Kristan Kennedy

**Exhibition Design:** Erté deGarces

**Curatorial/Production Assistant:** Liz "L" Quezada

### **Location**

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)  
15 NE Hancock St., Portland, OR 97212

### **Exhibition Dates**

February 23 – May 19, 2024

### **Gallery Hours:**

Thursday & Friday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. / Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### **Opening Weekend Events:**

**Opening Reception:** Friday, February 23, 2024, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.,  
walk through with curators and artists, 5:00 p.m.

**Artist Panel Discussion:** Saturday, February 24, 2024, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Moderator:** Mac Smiff

**Participants:** Tai Carpenter, Robert Clarke, Alfredo Jaar, Kimberly Moreland, Sandy Rodriguez, Master Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr., and Robert Trafford

**Screening of *Betrayal at Attica*:** Sunday, February 25, 2024, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Screening followed by a panel discussion with director Michael J. Hull and Attica Brothers

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**Symposium:** Saturday, March 9, 2023

This symposium will bring together panels of local community leaders for discussions on the history of police violence and racist policing in Portland, ongoing attempts to hold police accountable and reform policing practices, and burgeoning efforts to radically reimagine public safety in our communities.

**Keynote Address:** Alex Vitale, Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY

**Film Series at the Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St, Portland, OR 97202**

***Reimagining Safety*** (2023): Thursday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Short:** *Is Portland Dying?* (2024)

Q&A with directors Matthew Solomon and Cory Elia,  
moderated by Alex Vitale

***Arresting Power: Resisting Police Violence in Portland, Oregon*** (2015):

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

**Short:** *State of Oregon* (2017)

***Alien Boy: The Life and Death of James Chasse*** (2013):

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Short:** *Just a Dog* (2016)

***Do Not Resist*** (2016): Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

**Shorts:** *Conditioned Response* (2017)

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**Workshop:**

***Artist Power and Practices***: Saturday, March 23, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Don't Shoot Portland and M. Martinez Photo, *Artist Power and Practices*, brings together five different creators to facilitate a community conversation around the power artists hold and examine the ethics around creating. The event invites visual storytellers to discuss ethical practices while collaborating and connecting with other Portland creatives.

**Access:**

The exhibition *Policing Justice* contains an installation with loud sounds and flashing lights, some of which might be uncomfortable or unfamiliar to some visitors and attendees. Free earplugs will be available at the gallery entrance. You may exit and re-enter this contained installation at any time, at no cost.

To request or inquire about access needs for the exhibition, performances, and/or workshops in *Policing Justice*, please email [Liz@pica.org](mailto:Liz@pica.org). For ASL interpretation, audio description, and/or other forms of access that require advance scheduling, please submit a request at least two (2) weeks in advance of the date you require an accommodation so that we can do our best to meet your needs..

**COVID-19:**

Anyone experiencing or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19—or who has been in contact with others who are—is asked to stay home to avoid the risk of exposing others. Masks are encouraged while indoors.

**Transportation:**

PICA is located in the Boise-Eliot neighborhood of northeast Portland. We are close to bus lines 4, 6, 17, and 44. Stops for the A Loop and B Loop Streetcar are approximately 0.3 miles from our building. The nearest MAX station is Rose Quarter Transit Center which is approximately 0.5 miles away. On-street parking is available. Please be aware that we reside in a residential area and therefore ask that all PICA guests, staff, and audience members treat our neighborhood and neighbors, housed and unhoused, with the utmost respect.

**About Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) :**

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art. More information can be found at [pica.org](http://pica.org).

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