



Press Contact: Andy Cushman, <u>Andy@artatatimelikethis.com</u> For immediate release: May 14th, 2024



Top Row: Shirin Neshat, Dread Scott, Lorena Wolffer, Demian DinéYazhi', Bottom Row: Octopizzio, Coco Fusco, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Jasmine Wahi

DANGEROUS ART / ENDANGERED ARTISTS Presented by Art At A Time Like This x Artists at Risk Connection

June 7th and June 8th @ BRIC, 647 Fulton, Brooklyn

(NEW YORK) - Art at a Time Like This (ATLT) and Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) are joining forces to host "Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists," a summit bringing together socially-engaged artists and cultural workers to discuss the rising and unprecedented threats to free expression globally. Taking place on June 7th and 8th, 2024, the summit will feature a stellar lineup of today's leading artists, musicians, authors, thought leaders and performers.

"Our goal is dialogue, not divisiveness," says ATLT co-founders Anne Verhallen and Barbara Pollack.

The "Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists" Summit has invited speakers around the world to offer a wide range of perspectives. Confirmed speakers include Iranian visual artist, Shirin Neshat, journalist and author of The 1619 Project Nikole Hannah-Jones, writer and art critic Aruna D'Souza, Palestinian-American pioneer artist Samia Halaby, American visual artist Dread Scott, Pakistani-American visual artist Shazia Sikander, founder and co-director of Project for Empty Space Jasmine Wahi, co-founder of ArtLords and Afghan artivist Omaid Sharifi, Kenyan musician Octopizzio, Native American artist and activist Demian DinéYazhi'.

"Powerful oppressors and their flunkies are terrified by artists and others raising their voices against injustice; the words and courage of the rapper Toomaj in Iran in support of Women, Life, Freedom and voices and action of college students across the United States demanding an end to the genocide against Palestinians is inspiring more people to resist." says American artist Dread Scott adding, "This expression is needed more than ever yet it faces retaliation by mullahs in Tehran and by university presidents and cops from New York to Los Angeles."

"Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists' ' will feature performances by celebrated international musicians: Kenyan rapper Henry Ohanga AKA Octopizzio (Kenya) and Vietnamese singer and sound artist Mai Khoi, who explains "I was born in Vietnam where freedom of expression and artistic freedom have always been suppressed; I have had to become an activist to protect my right to be an artist because the artist inside me doesn't want to be killed by the censorship system."

ATLT and ARC have observed a dramatic increase in artistic censorship over the past few years with a sharp rise in artists seeking assistance to have their works seen and their lives saved. Amid the immense destruction of life, art and cultural heritage in Gaza, and critical elections in at least 64 countries this year, the Summit will convene renowned socially engaged artists and cultural workers to explore the strong links between art and human rights.

The first iteration of "Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists" took place on May 10th at the Independent art fair. The full-day of discussions featured such artists as <u>Dan Perjrovschi</u> (Romania/US), <u>Lesia Khomenko</u> (Ukraine/US), <u>Rudy Loewe</u> (UK), <u>Sibila Sotomayor Van Rysseghem</u>, Member of <u>LASTESIS</u> (Mexico) and <u>Jenin Yaseen</u> (US/Palestine) as well as curators and rights activists <u>Xiaoyu Weng</u> (China/US), <u>Laura Raicovich</u> (US), <u>Tania El Khoury</u> (Lebanon/US), <u>Elizabeth Larison</u> (US), and <u>Emma Shapiro</u> (US/Spain).

Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists Schedule of Events June 7: Summit Day 1

- Doors open at **4:30pm**
- 5:00 pm Opening remarks: Anne Verhallen, co-founder and co-director, ATLT
- **5:05 pm** Keynote speaker: <u>Shirin Neshat</u> (Iran/US)

In conversation with Barbara Pollack, co-founder and co-director, ATLT and Julie Trebault, artistic director, ARC)

- 6:05 pm Performance Henry Ohanga AKA Octopizzio (Kenya)
- **6:20 pm** Artists at the forefront of social movements

<u>Dread Scott</u> (US) and <u>Samia Halaby (Palestine/US)</u>

- **7:05 pm** Resiliency in Exile
 - Rania Mamoun (Sudan/US)
 - Mai Khoi (Vietnam)
- 7:50 pm: Closing Remarks: Julie Trebault, director, ARC (US)
- 8:00 pm: Reception

June 8: Summit Day 2

- 10:30 am Registration + Coffee
- 11:15 am Here and Now: Censorship as a Political Tool in the United States
 - Nikole Hannah-Jones (US)
 - Aruna D'Souza (US)
- 12:15 pm Global Censorship: What It Looks Like, Who Does It, How to Combat It
 - Coco Fusco (Cuba/US),
 - Omaid Sharifi (Afghanistan)
 - Khaled Jarrar (Palestine)
 - Henry Ohanga AKA Octopizzio (Kenya),
 - Moderated by <u>Mari Spirito</u> (US/Turkey)
- 2:00 pm Lunch Break
- **3:30 pm** Is Censorship Discriminatory?
 - Lorena Wolffer (Mexico)
 - <u>Demian Diné Yazhi</u> (US/Navajo Nation)
 - <u>Shahzia Sikander</u> (Pakistan/US)
 - Moderated by Jasmine Wahi (US)
- 6:30 pm: Performance with Mai Khoi

Ticket price

\$50 for both June 7 and 8 / \$30 for students \$30 for June 7 or June 8 / \$15 for students

Tickets available at **Eventbrite**

About the Organizers

Art at a Time Like This (ATLT) is a 501c3 arts organization that serves artists and curators facing the 21st century, presenting art in direct response to current events. Founded by Barbara Pollack and Anne Verhallen, ATLT presents art in online and public contexts, highlighting art as an invaluable conveyor of content, rather than commodity. Our mission is to show that art can make a difference and that artists and curators can be thought-leaders, envisioning alternative futures for humanity.

About Artists at Risk Connection

Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) safeguards the right to artistic freedom of expression and ensures that artists and cultural professionals everywhere can live and work without fear. Since its inception in 2017, ARC has assisted more than 500 individual artists and cultural professionals from over 63 countries by connecting them to a wide range of services, including emergency funds, legal assistance, temporary relocation programs, and fellowships.

Art at a Time Like This thanks Julie Trebault, director of Artists at Risk Connection for their enormous support of the Dangerous Art/Endangered Artists campaign. Thanks also to the New York State Council on the Arts, The Glenmede Trust Company and the Kettering Family Foundation for support of the Dangerous Art, Endangered Artists Campaign. Thanks also to Sue Stoffel, Jessica Silverman, Kerry Gaertner, Jane Lombard and many others.

###

Note to Editors: All participants, Art at a Time Like This, and Artists at Risk Connection Leadership are available for interviews.