

THE PRINT CENTER 94TH ANNUAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2020

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From left: **Miguel A. Aragón**, **Young Sun Han**, **Ron Tarver**

94th ANNUAL International Competition Solo Exhibitions

Miguel A. Aragón: Indices of Silence/Índices del silencio

Young Sun Han: The Unforever Parallel

Ron Tarver: An Overdue Conversation With My Father

(In the Zemel Family Gallery)

January 17 – March 21, 2020

Thursday, January 16

- Gallery Talk with the Artists 5:30pm
- Opening Reception 6:00 - 7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA, PA - (January 2, 2020) The Print Center is pleased to present solo exhibitions of new work by **Miguel A. Aragón** (born Ciudad Juárez, México; lives Staten Island, NY), **Young Sun Han** (born Evanston, IL; lives Brooklyn, NY) and **Ron Tarver** (born Fort Gibson, OK; lives Philadelphia, PA). These artists were selected from more than 500 international artists who applied to our **94th ANNUAL International Competition**. The jurors were **Charlotte Cotton**, Curator-in-Residence, California Museum

of Photography, Riverside and **Gretchen Wagner**, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Prints, Drawings, and Photographs, Saint Louis Art Museum.

The Print Center's **ANNUAL** is one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the United States. It highlights local, national and international artists who utilize photography and printmaking in intriguing ways, both in content and in process.

The **94th ANNUAL** solo exhibitions highlight new and recent work from three cutting-edge artists: Miguel A. Aragón, Young Sun Han and Ron Tarver, active in the fields of contemporary printmaking and photography. Because of the nature of the competition, our applicant pool always reveals something unexpected; this year – as is often the case – all three exhibitions are concerned with timely topics. They speak to a profound diversity in material, technique and subject. We are proud to exhibit the work of these artists and engage in the critical dialogs ignited by them.

- Ksenia Nouril, Jensen Bryan Curator

Miguel A. Aragón: Indices of Silence/Índices del silencio

Aragón pointedly addresses the deaths, arrests and corruption associated with the war on drugs unfolding in and beyond Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, a city bordered by El Paso, Texas. Using a variety of innovative print techniques, such as an industrial-grade hand drill to cut both large woodblocks and sheets of paper, he presents gripping portraits that humanize the victims of this violence.

Image: Miguel A. Aragón, *Embolsado*, 2018

Young Sun Han: The Unforever Parallel

Approaching loss from both personal and collective points of view, Han explores his family narratives through the geopolitical history of North and South Korea in the 20th century. He traces the immigrant experience across the 38th parallel north (the border between these two countries). His photo-based installations poetically depict the places rooted in these histories.

Image: Young Sun Han, *Passages From a Memoir: Dadaepo Beach, Dadaepo Horizon, and Busan Harbor*, 2019

Ron Tarver: An Overdue Conversation With My Father

Tarver reimagines the African American experience in the United States under Jim Crow, as interpreted through the lens of his father Richard Tarver, a photographer who captured this community in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma during the 1940s and 50s. By looking back at his father's archive and appropriating its imagery, Tarver reworks them to reflect on the deep history of the tight-knit African American community in Fort Gibson, re-presenting its triumphs and tribulations.

Image: Ron Tarver, *Hello Darling*, 2017

About the Artists

Miguel A. Aragón (born Ciudad Juárez, México; lives Staten Island, NY) received a BFA from the University of Texas at El Paso and an MFA from the University of Texas, Austin. Aragón has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY and the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists, Canada. His numerous awards and residences include KALA Art Institute, Berkeley, CA; Zygote Press, Cleveland, OH; as well as Till Richter Museum, Buggenhagen, Germany. His work is held in numerous private and public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago; and Minneapolis Institute of Art. Aragón's work has been published in numerous catalogs and books, including *A Survey of Contemporary Printmaking* (Greenville, NC: Wellington B. Gray Gallery, 2012) and *Peenemünde Project: Geschichte wird Kunst / Imprinting History* (Berlin: Edition Braus, 2017). The latter features Aragón's work made during a residency at the WWII-era power plant in Peenemünde, Germany, where he explored the history of the Nazi-era slave labor missile research center. Aragón is an Assistant Professor in Printmaking at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.

Young Sun Han (born Evanston, IL; lives Brooklyn, NY) is a visual artist, curator and educator, who is an American citizen of Korean heritage and a permanent resident of New Zealand. He holds a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where he currently teaches. He has completed additional studies at the Kunsthochschule für Medien, Cologne, Germany and Goldsmiths, University of London, England. Han has worked as Co-Director and Curator at City Art Rooms Project Trust, Auckland, New Zealand; Production Advisor for the Nasty Women Exhibition, Knockdown Center, Maspeth, NY, 2017; and Special Projects Coordinator at David Zwirner, New York. As an artist, he has exhibited at Elijah Wheat Showroom, Brooklyn; Jean Albano Gallery and Zolla/Lieberman, both Chicago; David Zwirner, Knockdown Center; Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ; LMAK books+design and Printed Matter Inc., both New York; as well as 4A Centre of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia; University of Sydney; Independent Brussels, Belgium; Anti-Art Fair London, England; and Sanderson Contemporary Art, Auckland, New Zealand; Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt, New Zealand; Suter Contemporary Art Biennial, Nelson, New Zealand. Han is the recipient of the Brovero Photography Prize, Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Fellowship and Fred Endsley Memorial Fellowship. He recently completed residencies at the Saas-Fee Summer Institute of Art, Berlin, Germany and Materia Abierta, Mexico City.

Ron Tarver (born Fort Gibson, OK; lives Philadelphia, PA) holds a BA in Journalism and Graphic Arts from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK and an MFA from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. He is Visiting Assistant Professor of Art specializing in photography at Swarthmore College. For 32 years, Tarver worked as a photojournalist at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he shared a 2012 Pulitzer Prize for his work on a series documenting school violence in the Philadelphia public school system. He had been nominated three previous times. His photographs have been published in numerous periodicals, including *Black & White Magazine*, *Life*, *Time*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*

and *Sports Illustrated*. He is co-author of the book *We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans* (New York: Harper Collins, 2004), which was accompanied by a traveling exhibition that debuted at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Tarver has exhibited nationally and internationally in over 30 solo and 50 group exhibitions. His photographs are found in many private, corporate and museum collections, including the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; Studio Museum, New York; Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City; Philadelphia Museum of Art; and National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Tarver's additional accolades include a Pew Fellowship in the Arts as well as fellowships from the Center for Emerging Visual Artists, Independence Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

About The Print Center's ANNUAL International Competition

The **ANNUAL** is one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the United States. Each year the **ANNUAL** is juried by distinguished colleagues. Artists who use printmaking and/or photography as critical components of their work, or whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional photographic and printmaking practices, are encouraged to enter. This reflects The Print Center's interest in the use of photography and printmaking in intriguing ways, both in content and in process.

Awards and Prizes for the ANNUAL include two prestigious museum purchase awards: the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Purchase Award and the Stinnett Philadelphia Museum of Art Collection Award. Additional recognitions include the Awagami Paper Award, *BOMB* Magazine Award, Callan/McNamara Award, Fish/Pearce Award, Olcott Family Award, *The Photo Review* Award, The Print Center Gallery Store Award, The Print Center Honorary Council Award, Renaissance Graphic Arts Award, Society for Photographic Education Award, Trinity Framing Award and the Jacqueline L. Zemel Prize for Printmaking.

An online exhibition of all the Finalists' and Semifinalists' works will be available in our gallery beginning January 2020.

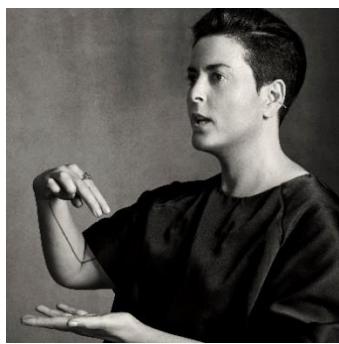
Finalists:

Miguel A. Aragón, Lucy Wood Baird, Elizabeth Corkery, Young Sun Han, Jon Henry, Priya Kambl, Yangbin Park, Rob Swainston, Ron Tarver, Guanyu Xu

Semifinalists:

Maggy Aston, Roxana Azar, Shawn Bitters, Lindsay Buchman, Elena Dorfman, Odette England, Enrique Figueiredo, Stephen Foster, Bang Geul Han, Alice Hargrave, Alison Judd, Larson Shindelman, Kate MacNeil, Chris Maddox, Charles Mason III, Jonathan McFadden, Alyssa Minahan, Marc Ohrem-Leclef, Lydia Panas, Kat Richards, Nadia Sablin, Sam Scoggins, Yesuk Seo, Alan Singer, David Temchulla

About the Jurors



Charlotte Cotton is a Los Angeles-based curator of photography and writer. She is Curator-in-Residence at the California Museum of Photography, Riverside and the author of *Photography Is Magic* (Aperture, 2015). Cotton has held several prestigious positions including Curator of Photographs at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and Head of Programming at The Photographers' Gallery, also London. She held the position of Curator and Head of the Wallis Annenberg Department of Photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Cotton has written and edited numerous influential books, including *Imperfect Beauty: The Making of Contemporary Fashion Photographs* (London: V&A Publications, 2000), *Guy Bourdin* (London: V&A Publications, 2003), *The Photograph as Contemporary Art* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2004), *Public, Private, Secret: On Photography and the Configuration of Self* (New York: Aperture, 2018) and *Fashion Image Revolution* (New York: Prestel Publishing, 2018).

(Photo: Christian McDonald)



Gretchen Wagner is the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Saint Louis Art Museum. In 2018, she co-curated and co-authored the exhibition and catalog *Graphic Revolution: American Prints 1960 to Now* and organized the exhibition *Printing Abstraction*. Wagner received a BS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA in Art History from Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

From 2004 - 2012, Wagner was a member of the Department of Prints and Illustrated Books at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), most recently as the Sue and Eugene Mercy, Jr. Assistant Curator. At MoMA, she worked extensively with the Gilbert and Lila Silverman Fluxus Collection and organized the exhibition *Thing/Thought: Fluxus Editions, 1962-1978*, 2012, as well as *Gabriel Orozco: Samurai Tree Invariants and Projects 98: Slavs and Tatars*, 2010. Her writings are included in *Dada in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art* (New York: MoMA, 2008) and *Modern Women: Women Artists at The Museum of Modern Art* (New York: MoMA, 2010).

Wagner has curated exhibitions at numerous institutions including *Artist's Artists: James Siena, Josh Smith, and Charline von Heyl Collect Prints* at the International Print Center New York; *David Scanavino: Candy Crush and Art of Its Own Making* at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis, all 2014; and contributed to the publication *German Expressionist Prints: The Marcia and Granvil Specks Collection at the Milwaukee Art Museum* (Hudson Hills Press, 2003). Currently, she is developing an exhibition and publication featuring the Thelma and Bert Ollie Memorial Art Collection of abstract paintings, sculpture and works on paper by African American artists working from the postwar period to today.

About The Print Center

For more than a century, The Print Center has encouraged the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts through exhibitions, publications and educational programs. The Print Center has an international voice and a strong sense of local purpose. Free and open to the public, it presents changing exhibitions, which highlight established and emerging, local, national and international contemporary artists. It mounts one of the oldest art competitions in the country, now in its 94th year and the Gallery Store offers the largest selection of contemporary prints and photographs available for sale in Philadelphia, as well as being available online.

Funders

Support for The Print Center is offered by Brilliant, Bryn Mawr Trust, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Forman Family Fund, Sheila Fortune Foundation, Freeman's, Fund for Children, Haverford College, Allen Hilles Fund, Lindback Foundation, Christopher Ludwick Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, Rosenlund Family Foundation, University of the Arts, University of Pennsylvania Office of Government and Community Affairs, Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial and our Board of Governors, Luminaries, members and friends.



The Print Center

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Free and open to the public
Tuesday through Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm

For information on events and programs visit www.printcenter.org
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