

PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY

CARRIE MAE WEEMS



Carrie Mae Weems, *Kitchen Table Series: Untitled (Woman Standing Alone)*, 1990, gelatin silver print, 70 x 70 cm

Carrie Mae Weems is a socially motivated artist whose works invite contemplation of race, gender, and class. Increasingly, she has broadened her view to include global struggles for equality and justice. Comprehensive in scope, her recent retrospective primarily featured photographs, including the groundbreaking *Kitchen Table Series* (1990), but also presented written texts, audio recordings, and videos. The exhibition traces the evolution of Weems's career over the last 30 years, from her early documentary and autobiographical photographic series to the more conceptual and philosophically complex works that have placed her at the forefront of contemporary art. Although Weems employs a variety of means to address an array of issues, all of her work displays an overarching commitment to better understanding the present by closely examining history and identity. It also contains a desire for universality: while African Americans are typically her primary subjects, Weems wants "people of color to stand for the human multitudes" and for her art to resonate with all audiences.

Carrie Mae Weems was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1953. She earned a BFA from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia (1981), and an MFA from the University of California, San Diego (1984), continuing her studies in the Graduate Program in Folklore at the University of California, Berkeley (1984–87). Awards include the Anonymous Was a Woman Award (2007); Skowhegan Medal for Photography (2007); Rome Prize Fellowship (2006); and the Pollack Krasner Foundation Grant in Photography (2002), among others. Weems's work has appeared in major exhibitions at Savannah College of Art and Design (2008); W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University (2007); Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown (2000); and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1998); and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2009), Tate Liverpool, UK (2010).

Her major retrospective, *Carrie Mae Weems: Three Decades of Photography and Video*, debuted at Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, Tennessee in 2012 before doing a national tour, and finishing at the Guggenheim Museum, New York in May 2014.