

# LIVING TOGETHER

**JANUARY  
–SEPTEMBER  
2018**

**MUSEUM  
OF ART AND  
DESIGN**

**MIAMI  
DADE  
COLLEGE**

---

## **PERFORMANCE SERIES**

Miami Light Project  
at The Light Box

**January 12**

**KAREN FINLEY**

*Unicorn Gratitude Mystery*

# LIVING TOGETHER

*Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* is the first event in the 2018 schedule of *Living Together*, an exciting cross-disciplinary series of programs that will galvanize Miami audiences with thoughtful and challenging performances and exhibitions that draw from art, music, theater, politics, and poetry. Spread across the city at a wide array of venues, the series features performances, exhibitions, film and video screenings, readings, talks, and workshops that will reflect the cultural, social, and political realities of how we live now. *Living Together* seeks to find new ways to think about civic space and citizenship, to instigate actions and conversations that may help us to reimagine our cities and our lives.

*Living Together* will take place at various sites across the greater Miami area from January to September 2018 and will include works by seventeen of the most acclaimed national and international artists, art collectives, musicians, and writers. Events in the series will be produced by the Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College (MOAD MDC), in collaboration with a range of other Miami institutions, and most events will be free and open to the public.

The mission of MOAD MDC is to provide open, critical, and collaborative frameworks for artistic experimentation and interdisciplinary risk-taking that explores the intersections of art, design, and other art forms with cultural action. The Museum advances Miami Dade College's core values, contributing to the intellectual life of the college, engaging students and audiences from the community and the world beyond.

To better serve our audiences, MOAD is currently undergoing an exciting period of renovations through April of 2018. While the building is closed to the public, the Museum will continue bringing engaging offsite exhibitions, film screenings, and education and public programs.

**KAREN FINLEY**  
*Unicorn Gratitude Mystery*



Pioneering artist **Karen Finley** created her gripping and uproarious one-woman performance *Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* during 2016's unprecedented presidential election campaigns. Updated for the present moment, *Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* delves into American politics and culture as only Finley can, with dark humor, piercing insight, and take-no-prisoners portrayals of hypocrisy and malfeasance.

Perhaps the artist explains it best. *Unicorn Gratitude Mystery*, Finley writes, "takes on citizenship, gender disparity and abuse of power. The individual price of public relationships at the price of privacy becomes divisive with searing psychosexual dynamics of wit and seething revelation. The performance explores magical beings, aggressive thankfulness, and collective intimacy through Shakespearean family nation dramatic traumatic. This is an experimental nonlinear poetic text that creates a jolt of intuition, analysis and unnatural disaster of the human kind."

**Karen Finley** is a New York-based artist whose raw and transgressive performances have long provoked controversy and debate. Her performances have been presented at Lincoln Center, New York; the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis; American Repertory Theater at Harvard; the ICA, London; the Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago; and the Bobino, Paris. Her artworks are in collections including the Centre Pompidou in Paris and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. She has received numerous awards and fellowships including a Guggenheim, two Obies, two Bessies, Ms. Magazine Woman of the Year, NARAL Person of the Year, and NYSCA and NEA Fellowships.

In 2016, *Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* ran for several months in New York and Chicago. Finley recently collaborated with Bruce Yonemoto on *Far East of Eden*, a video about immigration policy, which was screened at The Museum of Modern Art in 2017. That same year, Finley was included in *Documenta* in Athens. Her new book, *Grabbing Pussy*, forthcoming from OR books, examines the psychosexual politics of America today. Ms. Finley lectures internationally and is currently an Arts Professor in Art and Public Policy at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

**Karen Finley:** *Unicorn Gratitude Mystery*  
Written and created by Karen Finley  
Set and costume design: **Violet Overn**

**Video**  
Unicorn montage: **Violet Overn**  
Blue Dress/Hillary: **Casey Wyman**  
Trump/Blonde Hair: **Violet Overn**  
Blue curtain creation and construction: **Becky Hubbert**

**Production**  
Legal: **Michael Overn**  
Backstage assistance and documentation: **Dona Ann McAdams**  
Production Manager: **Eddy Davis**,  
**Avid Arts Management**

### Special acknowledgements

A section of the text was first performed by the artist at Montalvo Art Center as an artist-in-residence with Bruce Yonemoto. A section of the Trump speech was also included as part of the film, *Far East of Eden*, made with Bruce Yonemoto and commissioned by Montalvo. Ms. Finley would like to thank Montalvo for their support. Thank you, Bruce, for your friendship and collaboration.

*Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* was first produced by Spin Cycle at the Laurie Beechman Theater on 42nd Street in NYC. It has also been produced at the Steppenwolf, Chicago; Hallwalls, Buffalo; La MaMa, NYC; and REDCAT, Los Angeles. Selections have been performed at La Pietra NYU in Florence.

The artist would like to acknowledge all of the wonderful art institutions that have supported her work through the years. And she would like to thank New York University for the intellectual environment for research, education and support of her art practice. Ms. Finley would like to acknowledge the support, creativity, and ingenuity of Violet Overn for her costumes, videos, production design, originality, and humor. It is a joy to collaborate with you! And to Dona Ann McAdams, a thank you for all of your support, wisdom, and collaboration these many years. And thank you for your incredible photography!

Thank you, Casey Wyman, for your blue video. Ms. Finley would like to thank all her family, her friends, her colleagues, and her students.

*Unicorn Gratitude Mystery* is part of **Living Together**, a series organized and produced by the Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College and curated by Rina Carvajal and Joseph Wolin.

Tonight's performance is produced in collaboration with the Miami Light Project at The Light Box at Goldman Warehouse.

**Living Together** is made possible by the generous support of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council; the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.



---

MIAMI BEACH



---

M . O

. A .

D . . .

Miami Dade College

