



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAP UCLA presents
Constance Hockaday's
*Artists-In-Presidents: Fireside Chats for 2020***

Sept. 14 – Nov. 13; Online



“Ultimately, Hockaday’s intentions are not to trick her audience, but to instill a new sense of possibility.” ~ Sarah Burke, Hyperallergic

[UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](#) presents Constance Hockaday’s *Artists-In-Presidents: Fireside Chats for 2020* from Tuesday, September 14, through Friday, November 13, 2020 over radio, podcast and social media. This project is one of this season’s micro-commissions and serves as an example of CAP UCLA’s institutional commitment to artists, especially during this season of financial uncertainty. While *Artists-In-Presidents* will be free to enjoy, CAP UCLA is asking members of the community to support if able.

Artists-In-Presidents: Fireside Chats for 2020 is a creative project directed by visual artist Constance Hockaday that recasts the presidency with a multi-vocal entourage. Hockaday has invited fifty artists to assume authority over a collective future. Alongside the 2020 presidential campaign, artists, including CAP UCLA fellow Ann Hamilton, critically-acclaimed playwright Daniel Alexander Jones, United States Artists President and CEO Deana Haggag, filmmaker and writer Miranda July and CAP UCLA alum Toshi Reagon, will write and deliver national addresses.

Hockaday and the invited artists are not calling for a fireside chat re-do, but rather an acknowledgement that many of the national narratives of liberation have erased Indigenous voices and the voices of people that make up the majority of this country— Black, LGBTQIA, people of color, persons with disabilities, and women. The time for an update is overdue.

Inspired by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Depression-era fireside chats, *Artists-In-Presidents* draws many parallels between today's America of crippling social and economic fallout of a global pandemic and the upheavals of the Great Depression. The world has arrived at a moment of crisis and possibility once again and the assembled artists are acutely apt to address it.

Like every American president, Hockaday has offered participating artists access to professional speechwriters who will support them in finding their presidential voice. Each artist will also create a presidential portrait of themselves for social media and a future gallery exhibition. For more information and the full list of participating artists please visit artistsinpresidents.com.

Artists-In-Presidents is directed by Constance Hockaday and produced in partnership with UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance and with support from The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and TED. Funds for *Artists-In-Presidents* is provided in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

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Tuesday, Sept 14 – Friday, November 13, 2020

Distributed over radio, podcast, and social media

Micro-commission call for support:

CAP UCLA is seeking passionate and visionary philanthropists to help create financial support for the artists participating in this initiative. While *Artists-In-Presidents* will be free to enjoy, CAP UCLA is asking members of the community to make a gift if in a position to do so. Those interested can underwrite a single Fireside Chat or sponsor the entire series of Fireside Chats. To learn more about supporting this initiative, please contact Sarah Sullivan, Director of Development at sarah.sullivan@arts.ucla.edu or support this project [here](#).

Artists website: [Constance Hockaday](#)

ABOUT CONSTANCE HOCKADAY

Constance Hockaday is a Chilean American visual artist who grew up on the water in Port Isabel, Texas, 5 miles from where the Rio Grande River dumps into the Gulf of Mexico. She has created outsider maritime projects for more than 15 years, from a boat hotel *the Guardian* called “a New York City success story” to a floating peep show bobbing in the San Francisco harbor that highlighted the loss of spaces for the Bay

Area's queer community. Hockaday began working with boats at a young age. At 19, she joined up with the Floating Neutrinos, a renowned family of wanderers who sailed around the world in handmade rafts who taught Hockaday to craft boats from found materials. In 2006 she began a three-year collaboration with the street artist SWOON for Deitch Projects called Swimming Cities. SWOON, Hockaday and the other participants sailed floating sculptures and handcrafted vessels along the Hudson and Mississippi Rivers as well as the Adriatic Sea. Hockaday coordinated safety and logistics on the boats and captained her own vessel across the Adriatic to crash the Venice Biennale. In 2011 she created the Boatel in NYC's Far Rockaways, a floating hotel and arts space made of refurbished salvaged vessels that hosted residents and art goers for overnight visits and performances in an effort to reconnect New Yorkers to the waterfronts and urban waterways of their cities. The project brought in audiences of over 5000 people and garnered press and critical acclaim everywhere from *the New York Times* and *The Guardian* to *NPR* and *El Pais*. Her most recent performance installation, "All These Darlings and Now Us," commissioned by Southern Exposure in San Francisco, was described by the New York Times as a powerful "commentary on the forces of technification and gentrification roiling San Francisco."

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing research and presenting organization for the performing arts at the University of California, Los Angeles—one of the world's leading public research universities. We are housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture along with the Hammer and Fowler museums. The central pursuit of our work as an organization is to sustain the diversity of contemporary performing artists while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives. Our programs offer audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Through the lens of dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and collaborative disciplines, informed by diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways of seeing that expands our understanding of the world we live in now.

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PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS: Contact Geena Russo, Communications Manager at geena@arts.ucla.edu.

IMAGES: Available by request.