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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON PRESENTS  
WE THE PEOPLE, A MONUMENTAL INSTALLATION  
BY INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARTIST, NARI WARD,  
AND  
THE CO IN-PERSON VOTER REGISTRATION CENTER,  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEAUGE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER  
DAYTON AREA**

September 11–November 30, 2020.

DAYTON (AUGUST 21, 2020) – On September 11, 2020, [The Contemporary Dayton](http://TheContemporaryDayton.org) (The Co) is pleased to present Nari Ward's work, *We The People*, a 50-foot-wide wall installation that pairs some of the most humble of materials (shoelaces) with one of our country's most lofty and enduring ideas—the U.S. Constitution. Ward's materials and methods emanate from both the Jamaican folk traditions from his upbringing and the street scene of his current home in the Bronx, NY; taking the accumulation of everyday items and transforming them in astonishing ways.

*"Nari Ward has drawn many of his ideas from research into specific histories and places, often examining immigration and displacement as an American tradition,"* notes Michael Goodson, guest Curator, former Senior Curator, The Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, and longtime friend of Ward. *"In doing so, his work makes viewers aware of commonalities that link geographically and culturally disparate communities, providing insight into the strains between tradition and transformation."*

Additionally, The Co has partnered with the [League of Women Voters](http://LeagueofWomenVoters.org) of the Greater Dayton Area to transform a portion of the gallery into a voter registration center. Open to the general public and designed to engage new audiences, the partnership will hand-deliver registrations each day to the Montgomery County Board of Elections. Along with Ward's *We The People* hanging nearby—which will be lit and visible 24-hours a day—the galleries will provide a reminder that Americans are participating in one of the most crucial elections of our lifetime.

Please join us for the safely distanced Friends and Family Open House:

**Friday, September 11, 2020, 12–4 p.m.**

With special guests: **Mayor Nan Whaley**, Dayton City Commissioners, and Community Leaders from the Dayton Unit, NAACP; the NCCJ, and more. The Co's Director and guest Curator remarks will be at 3 p.m.

Ward's career has seen exhibitions at The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA; MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; The Walker Arts Center Minneapolis, MN; and The Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL. His career retrospective opened at The New Museum, NY in February 2019 and has since traveled to The Contemporary Arts Center, Houston, TX, and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

Nari Ward's, *We The People* can be viewed at The Co's gallery September 11– November 30, 2020. Please visit [thecontemporary.org](http://thecontemporary.org) for more information and gallery viewing hours.

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#### **ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON**

The Contemporary Dayton (The Co) was founded in 1991 and is the leading proponent of contemporary art in the Dayton area. The gallery in downtown Dayton presents a full schedule of innovative exhibitions each year that explore the variety and diversity of the visual arts in local communities and internationally. At its core, The Co's mission is to provide art for the community and a community for artists.

The Co is thankful for receiving operating support from the Ohio Arts Council, Culture Works, Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The Dayton Power & Light Foundation, the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, and The Co Members.

#### **ABOUT MICHAEL GOODSON, GUEST CURATOR**

Over the past 20 years, as Senior Curator of Exhibitions at the Wexner Center for the Arts, The Ohio State University, Director and Curator of Exhibitions at the Columbus College of Art and Design's Beeler Gallery and as Director at James Cohan Gallery, NY, Goodson has organized single artist exhibitions by Diana Al-Hadid, Charles Atlas, Leonardo Drew, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Donald Moffett, Carrie Moyer, Roxy Paine, Yinka Shonibare, Robert Smithson, and Fred Tomaselli, among many others.



The Contemporary Dayton | 118 N. Jefferson St. | Dayton, OH 45402

937/224.3822 | [www.thecontemporarydayton.org](http://www.thecontemporarydayton.org)

UPDATED Gallery Hours: 11a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday

Thursdays until 7 p.m.

Closed Sunday & Monday