

Paddle8



BLUM & POE

***CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR WOMEN PRISONERS
ANNOUNCES BENEFIT AUCTION
TO COMBAT MASS INCARCERATION***

Artworks by Cindy Sherman, Kiki Smith, Louise Lawler, Janiva Ellis, Laurie Simmons, Torey Thornton and more exclusively on Paddle8 August 15-29



LOS ANGELES, CA, AUGUST 2018 – California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) today announces a [benefit auction](#) in partnership with online auction house **Paddle8** and L.A. gallery **Blum & Poe** to raise funds for the organization's mission to combat mass incarceration. The sale includes artworks by more than 40 artists, including works by **Carroll Dunham, Janiva Ellis, Louise Lawler, Cindy Sherman, Kiki Smith, Torey Thornton**, and **Michael Williams**, live to bidders worldwide **August 15 – 29** exclusively on Paddle8.

The launch event for the 2018 CCWP Benefit Auction will be Saturday, August 18, 7-10pm at Blum & Poe (2727 La Cienega). This event is open to the public and will showcase the donated artworks, celebrate CCWP's efforts, and educate about the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). The works may also be viewed at the gallery by appointment only August 16 and 17.

ABOUT CCWP and THE 2018 BENEFIT AUCTION

"The formation of CCWP was birthed out of fear for our lives," says L.A. chapter member Romarilyn Ralston. Founded in 1995, CCWP -- a volunteer-led social justice group, with members inside and outside of prison -- challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC).

Statistics for people in California's women's prisons are alarming. Nearly two thirds are serving time for non-violent convictions. A majority of those convicted for so-called "violent crimes" are survivors of domestic

violence. The population in California's women's prisons has soared to 160% capacity. The suicide rate at the California Institution for Women state prison is almost five times the national average. "The culture of prison is so dehumanizing," says Colby Lenz, a statewide CCWP organizer. "Prisons only worsen the social problems we pretend they will fix. We need to transform how we deal with poverty, trauma and violence. But in the meantime, we want to help people survive."

The funds raised from this project will help uplift CCWP's work: visiting California's prisons as legal and healthcare advocates, drafting and amplifying legislation to support the survival and release of prisoners, and creating paid work opportunities for formerly incarcerated people. Incarcerated people "face a multitude of life threatening conditions," says award-winning poet Claudia Rankine. "The work of CCWP disrupts the toxic intercession of punishment, racism, misogyny and homophobia that often cause debilitating harm."

CCWP's growing network of supporters, including many associated with the arts, helped create this benefit auction to mobilize their communities. "Art-making has always and continues to be central to movement-building: it brings us hope; it serves as medicine; it imagines alternate futures," says CCWP member and one of the benefit auction organizers, writer Cyrus Dunham. "This is as an opportunity to support the movement to dismantle the PIC and to sustain the leadership of those most impacted by its violence."

To donate, please visit www.womenprisoners.org/donate-now. To bid on artwork in the auction, please visit www.Paddle8.com on August 15th. If you would like to read more about the work of CCWP, please visit www.womenprisoners.org.

Image Captions (L to R):

Cindy Sherman, *Untitled (Male/Female Artist)*, 1980, 2012, two gelatin silver prints. Estimate \$10,000.

Laurie Simmons, *Walking Birthday Cake*, 1989, Cibachrome print. Est. \$2,000.

Celeste DuPuy-Spencer, *Laura Notices Heather, Who Is Blind, Smiling At Herself In The Washroom Mirror*, 2018, watercolor, ink, and graphite on canvas. Estimate \$7,200.

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ABOUT PADDLE8

Founded in 2011, Paddle8 brings the tradition-bound auction world into the 21st century. Offering a seamless online process, Paddle8 makes collecting and selling art online an easy, efficient and enjoyable experience. Paddle8 features specialist-curated auctions, non-profit auctions, private and buy-now sales in the categories of Contemporary Art, Prints and Multiples, Photographs, Street Art and Collectibles. Paddle8 is especially proud to partner with more than 350 nonprofit organizations worldwide to present their benefit auctions to a global community of 500,000 collectors, helping each organization expand its fundraising results.

ABOUT BLUM & POE

Timothy Blum and Jeffrey Poe founded Blum & Poe in September 1994 with the intent to show international contemporary art in all media. Blum brought over five years of experience in the Japanese art world, and Poe provided a strong awareness of emerging artists in Los Angeles. Together they have represented an increasingly influential roster of artists including Robert Colescott, Sam Durant, Anya Gallaccio, Mark Grotjahn, Mimi Lauter, Yoshitomo Nara, Solange Pessoa, Penny Slinger, Kishio Suga, and Henry Taylor. In 2009 Blum & Poe purchased and renovated their current 22,000 square foot complex on La Cienega Boulevard, where they have

since held museum-caliber surveys, examining the work of the Japanese Mono-ha artists (2012), the Korean Dansaekhwa monochrome painters (2014), and the European postwar movement Cobra (2015). In 2014, Blum & Poe opened galleries in New York and Tokyo to focus on intimately scaled projects in tandem with an expansive program of exhibitions, lectures, performances, book-signings, and concerts at its base in Los Angeles.