Yto Barrada
TREE IDENTIFICATION FOR BEGINNERS

A Performa 17 Commission

Fri, Nov. 17, 7:00pm
Sat, Nov. 18, 7:00pm
Sun, Nov. 19, 7:00pm

Connelly Theater
220 E 4th Street

Duration: approximately 40 minutes
Curated by Adrienne Edwards

Film by Yto Barrada

Director of Photography: Steve Cossman

Animators: Yto Barrada & Steve Cossman

Editor: Kate Abernathy

Additional Editor: Maxwell Paparella

Sound Mixer: Matthew Curry

Producer: Sean Gullette

Producer: Maaike Gouwenberg

Technical Producer: Bob Wuss

Curtain Design: Yto Barrada

Curtain Production: Victoria Mangianello

with Jared Ellner and Johanna Castillo
Supported by the Ford Foundation, Performa Commissioning Fund, and Pace Gallery.

Special Thanks:

Amistad Research Center
Mounira Bouzid El Alami
The American Academy in Rome
Noémie Bablet
Mono No Aware
Marc Glimcher
Tamara Corm
Elodie Pong
Operation Crossroads Africa
Adrienne Edwards
Maaike Gouwenberg
Artist Yto Barrada weaves a multimedia refraction of her mother’s 1966 first visit to the United States, as part of a group of African students participating in the Operations Crossroads America program, a precursor to the Peace Corps. Rather than accept the capitalism-and-democracy narrative proposed by her hosts, the young Moroccan socialist saw through to the revolutionary potential of the Pan-African, Tricontinental Black Power, and anti-Vietnam war movements.

Barrada chronicles multiple layers of this history — overlapping, subjective and unreliable — using archival materials, film, textile painting and educational toys. *Tree Identification for Beginners* extends Barrada’s practice of creating synchronously across various mediums, often centering her work in the dialogue between social, historical, and political machinations and family history.

As in her earlier work, Barrada delves into ethnography, paleontology, natural history, and “abstract geology,” exploring child-centered educational methods and cataloguing personal objects and ephemera.
Image credit: Yto Barrada, Material for Tree Identification for Beginners, 2017
Yto Barrada is a Moroccan artist whose work includes photography, film, sculpture, prints, and installation. Her work has been exhibited at Tate Modern (London), MoMA (New York), The Renaissance Society (Chicago), Witte de With (Rotterdam), Haus der Kunst (Munich), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Whitechapel Gallery (London), and the 2007 and 2011 Venice Biennales. She was the 2011 Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year, the 2013 Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography (Peabody Museum at Harvard University), the 2015 Abraaj Group Art Prize winner and shortlisted for the 2016 Marcel Duchamp Award. Barrada is the founding director of the Cinémathèque de Tanger.
VOICES:
Yto Barrada
Sanford Biggers
Allen Frame
Ashley Fure
Sean Gullette
Arana Hankin
Ishion Hutchinson
T. Geronimo Johnson
Peter Benson Miller

FOLEY ARTISTS:
Yto Barrada
Steve Cossman
Rachel Abernathy-Guma
Nicholas Hlobo  
*umBhovuzo: The Parable of the Sower*  
Sat & Sun, Nov. 18 & 19  
10:00am & 2:00pm  
Harlem Parish, Free

Yvonne Rainer  
*Revision: A Truncated History of the Universe for Dummies. A Rant Dance*  
Sun, Nov. 19, 5:00pm – 6:00pm  
Performa 17 Biennial Hub, Free

Alex Schweder and Ward Shelley  
*The Newcomers*  
Nov. 10 - 19, All Day  
28 Liberty, Free

VISIT THE PERFORMA 17 HUB  
427 Broadway, Soho  
New York, NY 10013  
Noon – 8pm daily

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