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# Carrie Mae Weems

**A Great Turn in the Possible**

**October 6th 2022  
– January 15th 2023**



Exhibition organised in collaboration  
with Fundació Foto Colectania,  
Barcelona i Württembergischer  
Kunstverein, Stuttgart



**Württem  
bergischer  
Kunst  
verein  
Stuttgart**



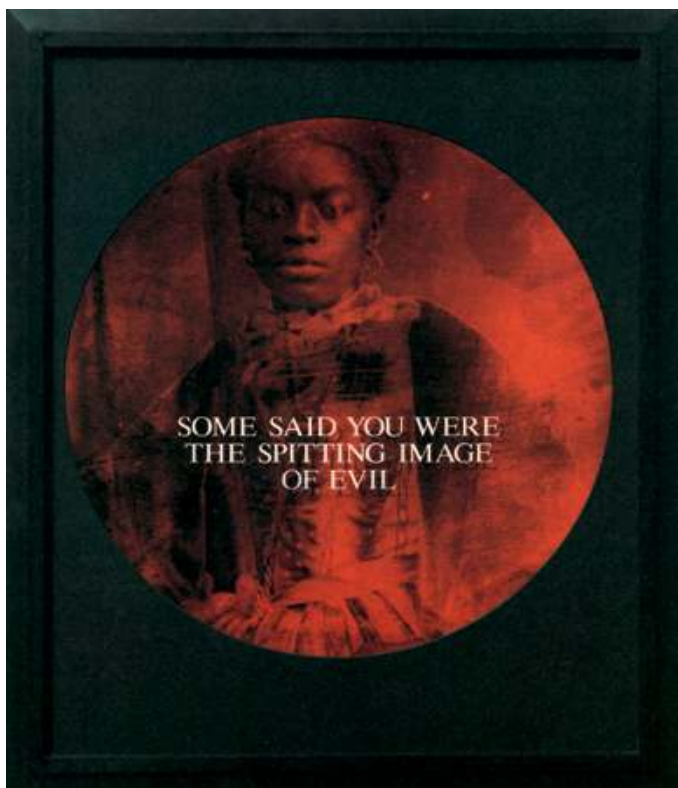
*Does the Door close?*, 2019

Since the outset of her career in the early 1980s, the artist Carrie Mae Weems (born Portland, Oregon, 1953) has focused in her work on reformulating the identity of the African American community and of women while also exploring the mechanisms that lie behind power, who exercises it and over whom it is exerted. Weems's output primarily comprises photography but also extends beyond that medium to encompass other fields including performance, video and installation, giving rise to works that are characterised by their commitment to the struggle against injustice and violence in the hope of making a better world.

Since her first series, *Family Pictures and Stories* (1978-1984), Weems has questioned history and the visibility and invisibility of those who have contributed to its construction with the aim of subverting, reconfiguring and influencing the prevailing discourse. In order to do so she has made use of racial, sexual and political stereotypes that allow her to offer a profound critique of the system and of artistic practice itself. Weems's work transcends the specific and reflects on a complex past that she projects with hope onto the future, connecting different generations. In a number of her series the artist presents herself as a new narrator of history, sometimes in a literal manner by photographing herself from behind in many scenes as an anonymous figure, a woman and a present/absent Black body in a performative pose that has accompanied her throughout her career since she studied dance at the outset of her activities.



*Golden Yella Girl* from the series *Untitled (Colored People)*, 2019



*Some Said You Were the Spitting Image of Evil* from the series *From here I saw what happened and I cried*, 1995–1996. Courtesy of Tate. Presented by the Tate Americas Foundation, purchased using funds provided by the North American Acquisitions Committee and endowment income 2019



*The Edge of Time. Ancient Rome from the series Roaming, 2006*

Carrie Mae Weems lives and works in Syracuse, New York. Her artistic life began in 1974 when she studied photography and design at the City College of San Francisco. A year later she spent time in Europe, after which, in 1978, she started work as an assistant in Anthony Barboza's studio and also undertook detailed research on black artists, with a particular interest in Roy DeCarava. Between 1984 and 1987 Weems studied folklore at the University of California in Berkeley. She lived in Paris from 1993 to 1994 where she received her first important commission, from Weston Naef and the Getty Museum. Carrie Mae Weems is one of the most highly regarded artists working in the United States today due to her complex body of work which spans a range of disciplines including photography, text, audiovisuals, installation, digital images, performance and video. Her work has been seen in numerous solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York; the First Center for Visual Arts in Nashville; and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo in Seville, among many others.

Weems's work is also represented in some of the world's most prestigious public and private collections, notably those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Tate Modern, London. Among the prizes and grants she has received are the Prix de Rome 2006 and The



*Mahalia* from the series *The Push de Call the Scream the Dream*, 2010

National Endowment of the Arts; in 2013 Weems was the recipient of a MacArthur research grant; and in September 2015 the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research awarded her the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal.

The exhibition *Carrie Mae Weems: "A Great Turn in the Possible"*, one of the most extensive to be devoted to the artist in Spain to date, encompasses her entire career, making use of a chronological and conceptual presentation. Organised by Fundación MAPFRE in collaboration with Fundació Foto Colectania and the Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart (WKV), it offers a chronological and thematic survey of the artist's work through her series, some of which are on display in the Foto Colectania exhibition space, including *Kitchen Table Series* (1990) and *And 22 Million Very Tired and Very Angry People* (1991). In addition, the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona will be presenting the installation *Lincoln, Lonnie, and Me* (2012) in conjunction with the exhibition.

## KBr Fundación MAPFRE

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## Dates

October 6, 2022  
– January 15, 2023

## Curatorship

Elvira Dyanganani Ose

## Opening hours

Mondays: Closed  
Tuesdays – Sundays  
(and public holidays):  
11am–7pm  
Last entry: 6:30pm

Visitors must leave the galleries  
10 minutes before closing time

## Admissions

Standard ticket: 5 €  
Ticket with reduction: 3 €  
Free standard ticket: Tuesdays  
(except public holidays)  
Groups: 3 € / per person

## Audio guide services




Available in English, Catalan  
and Spanish

## Guided tour (cultural mediation service)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: 4–7pm  
Fridays & Saturdays:  
12–2pm, 4–7pm  
Sundays & public holidays: 12–2pm  
(Information at the reception)

## Bookshop

Librería KBr by Juan Naranjo  
Tel. (+34) 933 568 021  
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the exhibition: #KBrWeems

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exhibitions/CarrieMaeWeemsKBr](https://kbr.fundacionmapfre.org/en/exhibitions/CarrieMaeWeemsKBr)



Cover: *Slow Fade to Black* (Josephine Baker) from the series  
*Slow Fade to Black*, 2009–2011

All images: © Carrie Mae Weems, courtesy Jack Shainman Gallery,  
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