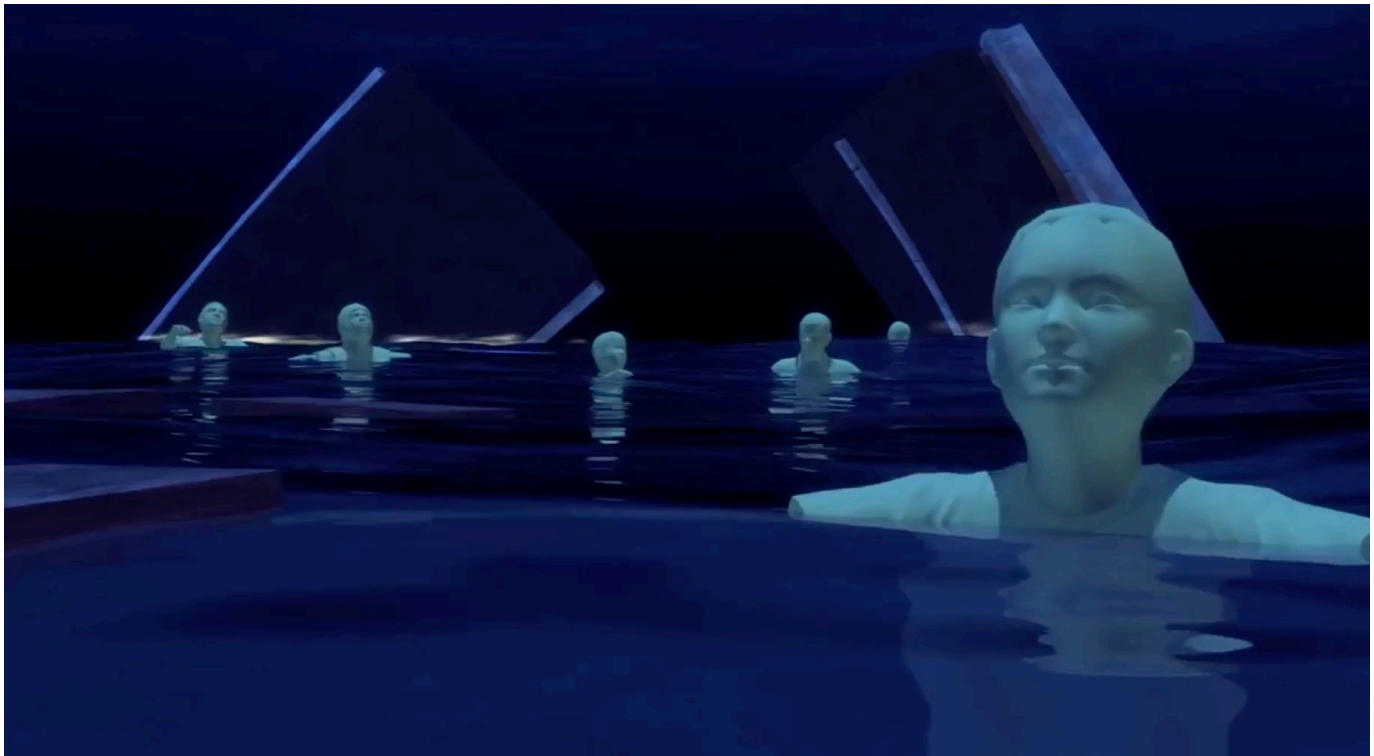


MEDIA RELEASE

Peggy Ahwesh: Unsettled States

**Opens September 16th at the New Media Artspace,
Baruch College, CUNY**



Video still from *The Blackest Sea*, Peggy Ahwesh, 2017.
Image courtesy of the artist and Microscope Gallery.

NEW YORK, NY- August 23, 2019 – [The New Media Artspace](#) at [Baruch College](#) presents *Peggy Ahwesh: Unsettled States*, a solo exhibition of single-channel videos by the renowned feminist filmmaker that attend variously to borders and their crossings. The exhibition is curated by Katherine Behar, Associate Professor of New Media Arts and is sponsored by the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center.

The show will open on September 16, 2019 and run through December 1, 2019 at the New Media Artspace gallery in Baruch's Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street. A public artist lecture will be held on Tuesday, November 26, from 6:00–8:00 PM, at the Baruch Performing Arts Center's Engelman Recital Hall. The New Media Artspace will host casual discussions with the artist for Baruch students on Friday, September 27, 2019 from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. and on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. in the New Media Artspace and room 415 in the Library and Information Building. Members of the public who wish to attend may RSVP to katherine.behar@baruch.cuny.edu.

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Ahwesh's work supplies a nuanced perspective on the theme of borders, at a time when hot button headlines about borders and immigration feature prominently in mass media. The treatment of these subjects in mainstream news coverage may leave viewers further entrenched in polarized camps; however, Ahwesh's videos take the opposite tack.

Specifically, by adopting a dynamic of *unsettling*, they refuse any form of entrenchment from the outset.

Significantly, *Unsettled States* addresses the external cartographic boundaries that delineate national territories, as well as the internal coordinate systems that define personal psychic terrains. Some works in this exhibition, like *Kansas Atlas*, *Border Control*, and *Re: The Operation*, address the borders of nation states and the political, ecological, and humanitarian crises that disrupt them. Others, like *She Puppet*, *The Falling Sky*, and *The Blackest Sea*, operate more existentially, unraveling the comforting confidence of belonging that borders seek to stabilize.

Spanning nearly two decades and diverse visual styles, the exhibition addresses these issues in manifold ways. Ethically, Ahwesh's video works trouble borderlines that violently sever families and communities; politically, their ecofeminist stance destabilizes the seemingly smooth operations of settler colonialism; conceptually, they disrupt territorial logics and structures; figuratively, Ahwesh portrays upheavals in wind and waves; and materially, she references the uncanniness of new technologies that document, simulate, and circulate our own unsettled states.

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Peggy Ahwesh is a media artist who got her start in the 1970's with feminism, punk and amateur Super 8 filmmaking. Her works have recently exhibited at The Kitchen, New York; Foxy Production, New York; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles; Maccarone, New York; Salon 94, New York; Murray Guy, New York; Chateau Shatto, Los Angeles, CA; Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, Berwick-upon-Tweed, UK; Gasworks, London, UK; and Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona, Spain; among others.

Her films and videos have been shown worldwide including at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; New Museum, New York; Film at Lincoln Center, New York; MoMA PS1, Queens, NY; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; The Tate Modern, London, UK; British Film Institute (BFI), London, UK; Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; among many other institutions.

Ahwesh has received grants and awards including from the Jerome Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, Creative Capital, NYSCA and the Alpert Award in the Arts. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA and currently lives and works between Brooklyn, NY and the Catskills.

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Peggy Ahwesh: Unsettled States is curated by Katherine Behar, Associate Professor in the Fine and Performing Arts Department in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College, CUNY. The exhibition is generously sponsored by the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center under the directorship of Professor Jessica Lang. The exhibition is made possible by support from the Baruch Computing and Technology Center (BCTC), the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and the Newman Library. Special thanks to Microscope Gallery, Elle Burchill, and Andrea Monti. All images appear courtesy of the artist and Microscope Gallery.

Gallery Location: New Media Artspace at Baruch College, Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

Gallery Hours: The New Media Artspace is open to the CUNY community during regular library hours. Members of the public may request access to the New Media Artspace at the security desk at the second floor entrance to the library. For this week's public hours, please check the gallery website: www.newmediartspace.info or dial a docent at 646-312-1664.

The New Media Artspace is a teaching exhibition space in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Baruch College, CUNY. Housed in the Newman Library, the New Media Artspace showcases curated experimental media and interdisciplinary artworks by international artists, students, alumni, and faculty.

About Baruch College:

[Baruch College](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/) is a senior college in the [City University of New York \(CUNY\)](http://www.cuny.edu/) with a total enrollment of more than 17,000 students, who represent 160 countries and speak more than 100 languages. Ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and the No. 4 public regional university, Baruch College is regularly recognized as among the most ethnically diverse colleges in the country. As a public institution with a tradition of academic excellence, Baruch College offers accessibility and opportunity for students from every corner of New York City and from around the world. For more about Baruch College, go to <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/>.

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