



International
Center of
Photography



Yto Barrada, *Tumbling Blocks 49*, 2017. © Yto Barrada, Courtesy Pace Gallery

For Immediate Release

Yto Barrada: Part-Time Abstractionist **May 22–September 2, 2024**

NEW YORK, NY (March 26, 2024)—This summer, ICP will present a solo exhibition of work by internationally acclaimed multi-disciplinary artist, Yto Barrada. This 10-year survey of Barrada’s photographic and film practice comprises over 40 works, nearly all of them unique, including new work exploring the space of the darkroom. *Part-Time Abstractionist* offers insight into the ways Barrada utilizes abstraction to examine the social, political, and industrial structures that have and continue to shape society.

A specific focus on play, childhood, and learning will course throughout the show, including works from found-object photogram series—*Bonbon* (2016-17), colorful, abstract works made with candy wrappers, *Blockhead Toy* (2017), printed with a child’s set of blocks, and *Practice Piece* (2017), contact prints of found sewing lessons—as well as her work with homemade rural North African toys from the collection of the

Musée du quai Branly, Paris. In acknowledgement of ICP's school and active darkroom classes, many of these series use alternative darkroom processes, including the more recent *Untitled (burning and dodging tools)* (2021), which will also be on view.

Curator Elisabeth Sherman has remarked, "Barrada has kept a deep commitment to photography and image making throughout her career, while always questioning the boundaries of these categories and their relationship to painting, sculpture, craft and the unexplored origins of a modernist vocabulary. These investigations, coupled with her uncovering of hidden histories and their shaping of our present, make Barrada one of the most important artists of her generation."

Yto Barrada: Part-Time Abstractionist is the first exhibition in a new series focusing on alumni of ICP's school. Barrada graduated from ICP's Full-Time Documentary program in 1996.

The exhibition is curated by Elisabeth Sherman, Senior Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections at ICP.

On view concurrently with *Yto Barrada: Part-Time Abstractionist* will be *Shared Spaces: 2024 ICP Recent Graduates Exhibition* and *Selections from ICP at 50: From the Collection, 1845–2019*.

About the Artist

Yto Barrada (b. 1971, Paris) is a Moroccan-French artist recognized for her multidisciplinary investigations of cultural phenomena and historical narratives. Engaging with the performativity of archival practices and public interventions, Barrada's installations reinterpret social relationships, uncover subaltern histories, and reveal the prevalence of fiction in institutionalized narratives. In 2006, Barrada founded the artist-run Cinémathèque de Tanger, North Africa's first cinema cultural center, now an internationally appreciated institution. Her work has been exhibited at the Stedelijk Museum, Mass MoCA, Tate Modern, the Barbican, The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Renaissance Society, the Walker Art Centre, and the 2007 and 2011 Venice Biennales. Barrada has received multiple awards, including the Mario Merz Prize (2022); the Queen Sonja Print Award (2022); the Roy R. Neuberger Prize (2019); the Abraaj Group Art Prize, UAE (2015); Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography (2013); Deutsche Guggenheim Artist of the Year (2011).

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Exhibition and Programming Access

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Exhibition Support

Exhibition support for *Yto Barrada: Part-Time Abstractionist* is generously provided by the ICP Exhibitions Committee.

Exhibitions at ICP are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

About The International Center of Photography

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to champion "concerned photography"—socially and politically minded images that can educate and change the world. Through exhibitions, education programs, community outreach, and public programs, ICP offers an open forum for dialogue about the power of the image. Since its inception, ICP has presented more than 700 exhibitions, provided thousands of classes, and hosted a wide variety of public programs. ICP launched its new integrated center on Manhattan's Lower East Side in January 2020. Located at 79 Essex Street, ICP is the cultural anchor of Essex Crossing, one of the most highly anticipated and expansive mixed-use developments in New York City. ICP pays respect to the original stewards of this land, the Lenape people, and other Indigenous communities. Visit icp.org to learn more about the museum and its programs.

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