

NEWS RELEASE
August 10, 2022

Press Contact:
USF Contemporary Art Museum
Don Fuller, fuller@usf.edu

USF Contemporary Art Museum
Presents Two Exhibitions

Jesse Murry: Rising and
***Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry
& Lisa Yuskavage***

August 26 – December 3, 2022

(TAMPA, FL – AUGUST 10, 2022) The USF Contemporary Art Museum, part of the Institute for Research in Art in the USF College of The Arts, is proud to present two concurrent and interrelated exhibitions, ***Jesse Murry: Rising*** and ***Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage***.

Co-curated by Jarrett Earnest and Lisa Yuskavage—and first staged at David Zwirner gallery in New York in September of 2021—***Jesse Murry: Rising*** serves as an important introduction to the art, poetry, and criticism of an exceptional and polymathic American talent. ***Rising*** brings together paintings from the last five years of Murry's life as well as recordings of influential voices attesting to Murry's enduring legacy. This work—made while confronting his impending mortality from AIDS-related illness—testifies to Murry's lifelong belief in the capacity of painting to hold the complexity of human meaning, at the meeting of a material fact and a location within the mind.

Jesse Murry: Rising is accompanied by the first publication of Murry's poetry and art criticism, *Painting Is a Supreme Fiction: Writings by Jesse Murry, 1980–1993* (Sobercove Press, 2021), edited by Jarrett Earnest and with a foreword by Hilton Als.

Jesse Murry and Lisa Yuskavage met while attending Yale School of Art, where they received their MFAs in 1986. The bonds of their creative friendship are explored in USFCAM's concurrent exhibition ***Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage***. Besides giving proof to the idea that artistic friendship can transcend simple influence and achieve higher dimensions of collaboration spurred on by mutual learning, respect, and love, ***Necessary Angels*** features rarely seen paintings on paper by Murry and celebrated paintings and watercolors by Yuskavage. Organized by USFCAM Curator-at-Large Christian Viveros-Fauné, the exhibition constitutes only the second time since their Yale 1986 MFA thesis show that Murry's and Yuskavage's work has been presented under the same roof.

Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage was curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné, and organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum.

MUSEUM INFO // Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm; Thursday 10am-8pm; Saturday 1-4pm; Closed Sundays and University Holidays (Sept. 5, Nov. 11, 24, 25); Special Hours August 26, 6:30-9pm. **Admission:** All events are free and open to the public. **Contact:** (813) 974-4133 // 24HR Info Line (813) 974-2849 // caminfo@usf.edu // cam.usf.edu



Jesse Murry, *Untitled (Rising/Abyss Study)*, 1992. Oil and wax on canvas. 20 x 20 inches (50.8 x 50.8 cm). © 2022 The Jesse Murry Foundation, New York. Courtesy of The Jesse Murry Foundation, New York. Photograph by Kerry McFate.

ABOUT JESSE MURRY // Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and raised in White Plains, New York, Jesse Murry (1948–1993) studied art and philosophy at Sarah Lawrence College. Following his graduation in 1976, Murry moved to New York City, where he immersed himself in the contemporary art world. His essays on artists such as Hans Hofmann and Howard Hodgkin appeared in a range of publications and catalogues, including *Arts Magazine*. In 1982, he curated *Currents: The Reverend Howard Finster* at the New Museum. After two years of teaching art history and exhibiting at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Murry enrolled in the Yale School of Art at the age of thirty-six, where he took classes with Andrew Forge, Jake Berthot, and Harold Bloom. Murry received his MFA in 1986 and staged his first New York solo exhibition at Sharpe Gallery the following year. During this period, he was awarded the Mellon Individual Project Grant and the Pollock-Krasner Grant.

ABOUT LISA YUSKAVAGE // Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Lisa Yuskavage (1962) is widely celebrated as one of the world's most important and influential painters. She received her BFA from the Tyler School of Art in 1984 and her MFA from the Yale School of Art in 1986. Yuskavage's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at numerous institutions worldwide and is held in prominent public collections. In 2020-2021, The Baltimore Museum of Art and the Aspen Art Museum co-organized a solo presentation of the artist's work, *Wilderness*, focusing on the ways she has used landscape in her work since her earliest watercolors. Yuskavage's monumentally scaled painting *Bonfire* (2013–2015) is currently on view at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, as part of the permanent collection exhibition *Knowledge of the Past Is the Key to the Future*. Her large-scale 2021 painting *Pink Studio (Rendezvous)* is currently on view on the second floor of the Museum of Modern Art.

ABOUT JARRETT EARNEST // Jarrett Earnest is the author of *What it Means to Write About Art: Interviews with Art Critics* (2018), editor of *Hot, Cold, Heavy, Light: 100 Art Writings 1988–2018* by Peter Schjeldahl (2019). He recently curated *Ray Johnson: WHAT A DUMP* at David Zwirner, New York (Spring 2021).

RELATED EVENTS // Visit cam.usf.edu/events for the latest information. All events are free and open to the public.

Friday, August 26, 2022

Gallery Tour + Opening Reception

6:30pm – 9:00pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Join us to celebrate the opening of CAM's two fall exhibitions, *Jesse Murry: Rising* and *Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage*. At 6:30pm, curators Christian Viveros-Fauné and Jarrett Earnest will tour visitors through the galleries while leading a conversation about the exhibitions. An opening reception follows until 9:00pm.

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Lisa Yuskavage Artist Talk

7:00pm, USF School of Music Concert Hall (MUS 177)

Join us for a talk with artist Lisa Yuskavage about her art, relationship with Jesse Murry, and CAM's two fall exhibitions, *Jesse Murry: Rising* and *Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage*. Refreshments will be served in the Concert Hall lobby after the talk. This event is free and open to the public. *Note: CAM is open with extended evening hours prior to the talk if guests wish to see the exhibitions.*



Lisa Yuskavage, *Snowman*, 2008. Oil on linen. 72 x 57-1/2 inches (182.9 x 146.1 cm). © Lisa Yuskavage. Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner. Private collection.



Jesse Murry, *Untitled (CR7)*, n.d. Paint on paper. 10-1/4 x 14-1/8 inches (26 x 35.9 cm). © 2022 The Jesse Murry Foundation, New York. Courtesy of The Jesse Murry Foundation, New York. Photograph by Will Lytch.

ART Thursday, October 20, 2022

Concert for *Rising and Necessary Angels*

7:00pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum exterior

USF School of Music students, alumni, and faculty join forces with CAM to feature performances and compositions in response to the exhibitions *Jesse Murry: Rising and Necessary Angels: Jesse Murry & Lisa Yuskavage*.

ART Thursday, November 3, 2022

CAM Club presents Films on the Lawn

7:00pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum

Settle in on the lawn to watch *Girl with a Pearl Earring* under the stars. Bring a blanket, a picnic, and a friend. Popcorn and refreshments provided. Presented by CAM Club.

EXHIBITION WORKBOOK // A full color, 52-page workbook is available to exhibition visitors without cost and includes essays by Jarrett Earnest and Christian Viveros-Fauné.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM // USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works.

SPONSORS // These exhibitions and related programs at USFCAM are supported in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; the Stanton Storer Embrace the Arts Foundation; the Lee & Victor Leavengood Endowment; the ACE (Art for Community Engagement) Fund Patrons; Strategic Property Partners and Water Street Tampa; and the USF student organization CAM Club.



Lisa Yuskavage, *Tit Heaven for Hippies*, 1993. Watercolor on paper. 11-7/8 x 8-1/4 inches (30.2 x 21 cm). © Lisa Yuskavage. Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner. Private collection.



###