



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Yto Barrada, *Hand-Me-Downs*, 2011. 16mm and 8mm film transferred to digital video, color, sound; 15 minutes. © Yto Barrada 2015. Courtesy Pace Gallery, London; Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Hamburg, Beirut; and Galerie Polaris, Paris.

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

YTO BARRADA FIVE FILMS BY YTO BARRADA

SCREENING ON HIGH LINE CHANNEL 14

**MAY 14 – JULY 8, 2015, DAILY BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM
14th STREET PASSAGE, ON THE HIGH LINE AT WEST 14TH STREET**

New York, NY (May 11, 2015) – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce the screening of selected films by Yto Barrada, including *A Guide to Trees for Governors and Gardeners*; *Hand-Me-Downs*; *Beau Geste (Kind Gesture)*; *La Contrebandière (The Smuggler)*; and *Le Magicien (The Magician)*. Presented on High Line Channel 14, a series of outdoor projections of art videos in the semi-enclosed passageway on the High Line at West 14th Street, this program will be on view daily from Thursday, May 14 through Wednesday, July 8, 2015, from 7:00 PM until the park closes.

Yto Barrada was born in Paris in 1971 and grew up in Tangier, Morocco, a city whose complex colonial history and present generation's restricted mobility she reveals through sculpture, photography, and film. Barrada's films sketch informal portraits of individuals in her community, her own family, and the larger encapsulating governing conditions of Tangier, humanizing larger political concerns through intimate portrayals of ordinary individuals. In much of Barrada's work, she focuses on Tangier's relationship to Spain, a coastline only nine miles away, which was all but closed to Moroccan immigrants after the signing of the 1991 Schengen agreement, and the dissecting





body of water – the Strait of Gibraltar – that defines much of how the artist understands contemporary life in Morocco.

For her High Line Channel program, Barrada presents five works. *A Guide to Trees for Governors and Gardeners* (2014) follows a mechanized motorcade as it processes down the street to the sound of beating drums and cheering fans. *La Contrebandière (The Smuggler)* (2005) and *Le Magicien (The Magician)* (2003) portray two people in the performance of their titular role: the smuggler exposing how she transports fabrics from Ceuta, Spain to shop owners in Tangier, and the magician performing his idiosyncratic spectacle. *Beau Geste [Kind Gesture]* (2009) and *Hand-Me-Downs* (2011) are both narrative, longer form works. The former reveals nuances about land use, ownership, and regulation in Tangier through a story about neighbors rescuing a plot of land and a palm tree. The latter film, *Hand-Me-Downs*, takes found family film footage and pieces it together under a voice-over narrating 16 different myths of unreliable family stories.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Yto Barrada (b. 1971, France) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013 – 2014); and MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2012). Notable group exhibitions include *Here and Elsewhere*, New Museum, New York (2014); *XL: 19 New Acquisitions in Photography*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2013 – 2014); and *Fruits de la Passion*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2012 – 2013). Barrada's work has been featured in major biennials including the Istanbul Biennial (2013); the 54th and 52nd Venice Biennales (2011, 2007); the Sharjah Biennial (2011); and the Biennale Internationale, AIM Festival, Marrakech (2010). She was also the founding director of the Cinematheque de Tanger.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

High Line Art is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Major support for High Line Art comes from Donald R. Mullen, Jr. and The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, with additional support from Vital Projects Fund, Inc. High Line Art is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE AND FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

The High Line is an elevated freight rail line transformed into a public park on Manhattan's West Side. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line. Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line's preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under the threat of demolition. It is now the non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy. In addition to overseeing maintenance, operations, and public programming for the park, Friends of the High Line works to raise the essential private funds to support more than 90 percent of the park's annual operating budget, and to advocate for the transformation of the High Line at the Rail Yards, the third and final section of the historic structure, which runs between West 30th and West 34th Streets.

For further information on High Line Art, please visit art.thehighline.org.

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