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**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM TO PRESENT
*LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER: THE LAST CRUZE***



(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) announced today that the acclaimed travelling exhibition, *LaToya Ruby Frazier: The Last Cruze*, will be on view at CAAM September 8, 2021 – March 20, 2022.

“CAAM is dedicated to presenting some of the most important exhibitions by Black artists today, including national and international traveling exhibitions,” says Executive Director Cameron Shaw. “This presentation of the work of LaToya Ruby Frazier, a powerful melding of art and activism, demonstrates that commitment.”

In *The Last Cruze*, artist LaToya Ruby Frazier chronicles the lives of workers at the General Motors plant in Lordstown, Ohio. Due to a confluence of circumstances, including the global outsourcing of labor, rapid automation, and the growing demand for electric cars, GM’s Lordstown facility stopped production in 2019 after more than fifty years of operation. This shutdown presented Lordstown facility workers with limited choices: relocate, sometimes leaving behind family and support networks, or find work elsewhere. Across the country, the trickle-down effect of economic decline and the corporate response to this decline disproportionately affects large groups of workers who have very little decision-making power within big corporations. And yet, their labor remains vital to the development and success of these businesses.

Through sixty-seven photographs, video, and an architectural installation that echoes the Lordstown assembly line, *The Last Cruze* extends Frazier’s long-standing commitment to visualizing how working-class people—in places such as Flint, Michigan; her hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania; and the Borinage mining region in Belgium—are impacted by industrial exploits, environmental injustice, and systemic racism.



"The Last Cruze exhibition by LaToya Ruby Frazier is a profound and rigorous photo documentation project that offers us an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of labor movements in the U.S and in California, made particularly by people of the global majority," says Taylor Renee Aldridge, visual arts curator and program manager, who is organizing CAAM's presentation.

The Last Cruze was commissioned by the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, where it was curated by Karsten Lund and Solveig Øvstebø. The exhibition at CAAM is organized by Taylor Renee Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator and Program Manager.

The exhibition and related programs are presented in partnership with USC School of Architecture and USC Roski School of Art and Design. A slate of public programs will engage select artists, architects, scholars, and activists to elaborate on themes in the exhibition that are also amongst the greatest struggles facing California, including environmental racism, gentrification, labor inequities, and homelessness.

About the Artist



LaToya Ruby Frazier (b. 1982) works in photography, video, and performance in order to build visual archives that address industrialism, rustbelt revitalization, environmental justice, health care inequity, family, and communal history. In 2015 she received the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellows Award.

Frazier is Associate Professor of Photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has previously held posts at Rutgers University and Yale University. In 2010–11, she participated in the Whitney Independent Study Program and in 2014 she was named a Guggenheim Fellow in Creative Arts. Also in 2014, Aperture published her first book, *The Notion of Family*, which was awarded the 2015 Infinity Award for best publication by the International Center of Photography (ICP).

She has exhibited widely, including solo and group exhibitions at MUDAM, Luxembourg; CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, France; MAC's Musée des Arts Contemporains de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Belgium; Carré d'Art, Nîmes; The Brooklyn Museum; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Seattle Art Museum; the 2012 Whitney Biennial; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, among others.

Her work is featured in public collections internationally including The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Guggenheim Museum; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Brooklyn Museum of Art; Carnegie Museums, Pittsburgh; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; FMAC (Municipal Fund for Contemporary Art), Paris; Kadist Foundation, Paris; Seattle Art Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and others.

About the California African American Museum

CAAM explores the art, history, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the West. Chartered by the State of California in 1977, the Museum began formal operations in 1981 and is a state-supported agency and a Smithsonian Affiliate. In addition to presenting exhibitions and public programs, CAAM houses a permanent collection of more than four thousand works of art, artifacts, and historical documents, and a publicly accessible research library. caamuseum.org

Visitor Information

Admission to the California African American Museum is free. Masks are required.

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays (except MLK Day) and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The California African American Museum is located in Exposition Park at the corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition Boulevard, west of the 110 (Harbor) Freeway. Exposition Park parking is available for \$15 (daytime) at 39th and Figueroa Streets. The Metro Expo line Expo Park/USC station is a five-minute walk through the Exposition Park Rose Garden to the Museum.

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Images:

Page 1: *LaToya Ruby Frazier: The Last Cruze*, Installation view, 2019. Photo: Useful Art Services

Page 2: LaToya Ruby Frazier
Louis Robinson, Jr., UAW Local 1714, Recording Secretary, at UAW Local 1112 Reuther, Scandy, Ali union hall, (34 years in at GM Lordstown Complex, die setter), Lordstown, OH, 2019, 2019
Gelatin silver print
20 x 16 inches (50.8 x 40.6 cm) print
© LaToya Ruby Frazier
Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels

Page 2: LaToya Ruby Frazier portrait. Photography by Steve Benisty