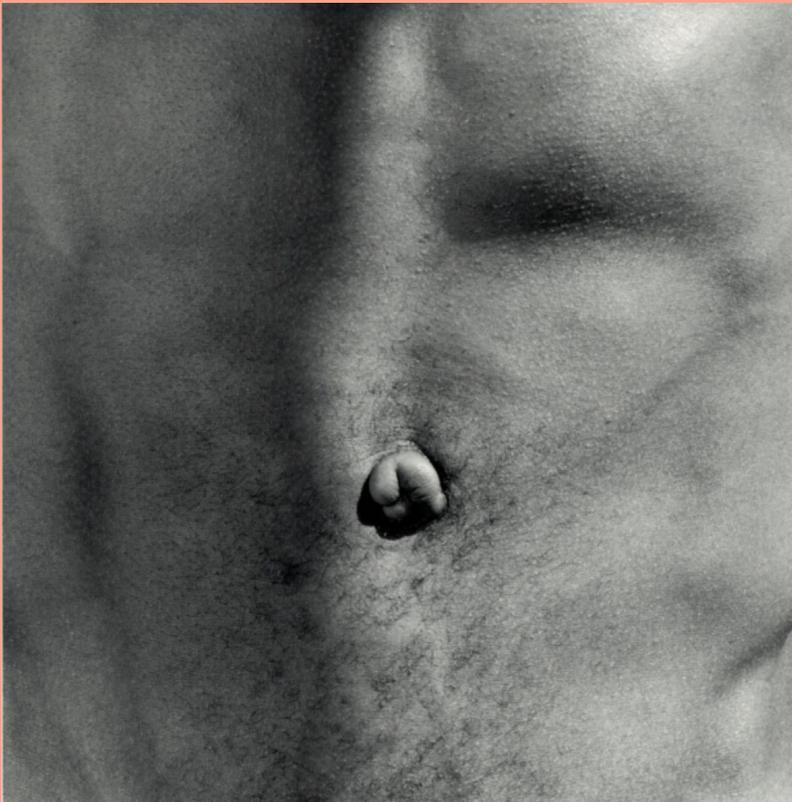


# Taylor Davis Selects: *Invisible Ground of Sympathy*

**On view January 31, 2023 – January 7, 2024**

**Opening reception: February 15, 2023, 7–9 PM**

*Organizing works of precarity, wonder, violence, and beauty, Davis situates the viewer at center of the ineffable complexity of making sense of the present, and of not having language for an experience in the moment...*



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Belly Button*, 1987. Gelatin silver print. 44 x 44 inches (111.8 x 111.8 cm). Gift of Stephen Mindich and Maria Lopez © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

**With artists:**

Sadie Benning	Ana Mendieta
Louise Bourgeois	Zanele Muholi
Charles Burchfield	Ron Nagle
Jimmy De Sana	Brandon Ndife
Willie Doherty	Senga Nengudi
Shannon Ebner	George Ohr
Noriko Furunishi	Catherine Opie
Claudette Gacuti	Conny Purtil
Nan Goldin	R.H. Quaytman
Françoise Grossen	Halsey Rodman
Mona Hatoum	Robert Rohm
Eva Hesse	Cindy Sherman
Leslie Hewitt	Laurie Simmons
Sheila Hicks	Nancy Spero
Fanny Howe	Oliver Strand
Liz Larner	Charline von Heyl
Isabel Mallet	James Welling
Robert Mapplethorpe	Joseph Yoakum

Jeffrey De Blois,  
*Associate Curator*

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Museums often invite artists to offer a unique perspective on their permanent collection. *Invisible Ground of Sympathy* is organized by Boston-based artist Taylor Davis, the first artist to be invited to curate an exhibition based on the ICA's collection.

A long-time and critically acclaimed member of the Boston arts community, Davis has taught at Massachusetts College of Art and Design since 1999, is a member of the ICA's Artist Advisory Council, and is represented in the collection with two works. Davis—whose work explores the relationship between object and viewer, often through precise manipulations of form and careful attention to materials—carries forward her artistic ideas in *Invisible Ground of Sympathy*. The exhibition is conceived as an open field in which constellations of artworks are assembled to activate their different emotional and psychological resonances. The exhibition's title and thematic grounding are drawn from Chang Chung-yuan's book *Creativity and Taoism* (1963), in which sympathy is described as an unseen, but intuitive knowledge of the interconnectivity of all things.

Alongside creative combinations of well-known works from the ICA collection by Ana Mendieta, Senga Nengudi, and Cindy Sherman are others on view for the first time by Liz Larner, Ron Nagle, and James Welling. Guided by her artistic sensibility, Davis has also brought together a selection of historical and contemporary artworks from outside the collection, as well as from a group of her frequent collaborators. These include a torqued ceramic bowl by self-proclaimed "Mad Potter of Biloxi" George Ohr, a shimmering landscape by Charles Burchfield,

a newly commissioned poem from Fanny Howe, a suite of drawings by Conny Purtill, and furniture made by Oliver Strand and Brandon Ndife. Considering themes of precarity, wonder, violence, and beauty, and situating the viewer at the exhibition's center, Davis presents a personal take on the ineffable complexity of making sense of the present, and of not having language for an experience in the moment.

***Invisible Ground of Sympathy* is organized by Taylor Davis, Guest Curator, with Jeffrey De Blois, Associate Curator and Publications Manager.**

[taylordavis.net](http://taylordavis.net)

**#InvisibleGroundofSympathy**



Ana Mendieta, *Untitled*, from the series *Siluenta Works in Mexico*, 1973–77/1991. Pigmented inkjet print. 13 1/4 x 20 inches (33.7 x 50.8 cm). Gift of Barbara Lee, The Barbara Lee Collection of Art by Women. Courtesy the Galerie Lelong. © The Estate of Ana Mendieta Collection, LLC.