

— For Immediate Release

Contact: Public Art Fund  
tel: (212) 980-4575  
e-mail: [press@publicartfund.org](mailto:press@publicartfund.org)

**Public Art Fund presents...**

**Janet Cardiff**  
***Her Long Black Hair***

***A new site-specific audio walk for Central Park***  
**June 17–September 13**

***“Walking is very calming. One step after another, one foot moving into the future and one in the past. Did you ever think about that? Our bodies are caught in the middle. The hard part is staying in the present. Really being here.”— From *Her Long Black Hair*.***

New York, NY – This June, internationally acclaimed artist Janet Cardiff will create a new audio walk for Central Park, her first-ever outdoor work in New York. *Her Long Black Hair*, a 35-minute journey that begins at Central Park South, transforms an everyday stroll in the park into an enthralling psychological and physical experience. Like Cardiff’s previous walks—which she has created for libraries, gardens, forests, museums, and city streets—*Her Long Black Hair* guides listeners on a site-specific walk, weaving Central Park’s historic landmarks, from Balto to the Bandshell, into the fabric of its soundtrack of spoken words and sound effects. This new commission is sponsored by Bloomberg LP with additional support from the James Family Foundation.

*Her Long Black Hair* takes each listener on a winding, mysterious journey through Central Park’s 19<sup>th</sup>-century pathways, retracing the footsteps of an enigmatic dark-haired woman. Relayed in Janet Cardiff’s quasi-narrative style, *Her Long Black Hair* is a complex sensory investigation of location, time, sound, and physicality, interweaving stream-of-consciousness observations with fact and fiction, local history, opera and gospel music, and other atmospheric and cultural elements. At once cinematic and non-linear, *Her Long Black Hair* uses binaural technology—a means of recording that achieves incredibly precise three-dimensional sound—to create an experience of startling physical immediacy and complexity. As Cardiff’s soundtrack overlaps with the actual sounds surrounding the listener, past and present intertwine to form a multilayered, open-ended reality.

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The walk echoes the visual world as well, using photographs to reflect upon the relationship between images and notions of possession, loss, history, and beauty. Each person will receive an audio kit that contains a CD player with headphones as well as a packet of photographs. As Cardiff's voice on the audio soundtrack guides listeners through the park, they are occasionally prompted to pull out and view one of the photographs. These images link the speaker and the listener within their shared physical surroundings of Central Park, shifting between the present, the recent past, and the more distant past.

Janet Cardiff is perhaps best known for her signature audio walks, which she has made in London, Rome, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and elsewhere. Her gallery installations—often made with George Bures Miller, Cardiff's husband and artistic collaborator—use the narrative and technical language of film noir to create lush, suspenseful sound and video works. Cardiff and Miller represented Canada at the 2001 Venice Biennale with *The Paradise Institute*, a 16-seat movie theater where viewers watch a mystery film and become entangled as witnesses to a possible crime that plays out in the audience and on screen.

Janet Cardiff was born in Canada; she and Miller currently live and work in Berlin. They have recently had exhibitions at Luhring Augustine, New York (2004); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2003); Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2002); and National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (2002). A recent mid-career retrospective, *Janet Cardiff: A Survey of Works, Including Collaborations with George Bures Miller*, opened at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, Queens, in 2001 and has since traveled to Montreal, Oslo, and Turin.

**There will be a press preview for *Her Long Black Hair* on Wednesday, June 16, 10am – noon.**

**Please call 212-980-4575 to schedule a time to take the audio walk.**

**Janet Cardiff's *Her Long Black Hair* is sponsored by Bloomberg LP  
with additional support from the James Family Foundation.**

**Details and schedule for *Her Long Black Hair***

- **Location:** The audio kit for *Her Long Black Hair* will be available at a kiosk at Sixth Avenue and Central Park South.
- **Hours:** Thursday – Monday 9:30am to 5pm. The last audio kit pick-up time is 5pm.
- **Reservations:** Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 212-446-9529 by 4pm the day before.

- **Other information:** Viewers will be asked to leave a drivers license or credit card in exchange for the audio equipment and should allow at least 50 minutes for *Her Long Black Hair*. The work's running time is 35 minutes and then the audio kit must be returned to the kiosk at 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Sixth Avenue. A map with the return route will be included.
- **Subways:** N, R, Q, to 57<sup>th</sup> Street or N, R to Fifth Avenue; A, B, C, D, 1, 9 to Columbus Circle.

### **About the Public Art Fund**

The Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations and exhibitions in public spaces. With over 25 years of experience and an international reputation, the Public Art Fund identifies, coordinates and realizes a diversity of major projects by both established and emerging artists throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled public encounter with the art of our time.

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