

POSTED FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Protesters Urge New York's MoMA to Remove Trump Advisor from Its Board

Last week dozens of protesters marched to New York's MoMA demanding that the museum remove CEO of Blackrock and Trump advisor Larry Fink from its board, Hrag Vartanian of Hyperallergic reports. As head of Blackrock, an American global investment management corporation, Fink manages over \$5.1 trillion in assets.

Artist Coco Fusco called for people to act during an interview with art historian Steven Nelson at the 2017 College Art Association Conference on Friday, February 17. She read a statement issued by Occupy Museums, which blasted Fink for being "on Trump's team," and said that "to advise this regime is to normalize White Supremacy."

It continued: "There is a long history of activism at MoMA. In fact, tonight's free museum entrance was brought to you by the Art Worker's coalition protests decades ago. So in this tradition, we are calling for MoMA to change its behavior. No more normalizing Trump. We are calling for Larry Fink to be kicked off the board as a sign to your public that you care for our values of human dignity."

People participating in the demonstration began to gather in the lobby of MoMA at 6PM Friday evening with banners that read "Resistance Against Fascism Is the Best Art" and "No More Normalization." Two protesters read "Poetry is Not a Luxury" by Audre Lorde and Walter Benjamin's "On History." After about an hour in the museum, the crowd moved to Fifty-Third Street where an illuminator was projecting several phrases above the museum's entrance, including "Fire Fink" and "Evict Trump from MoMA."

During the action, Nelson said, "This resistance is terrific and I hope it is a harbinger of bigger actions." Fusco added that she hopes the museum will respond and acknowledge what the artists are asking of them.

President Trump selected Fink as well as Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, and Jamie Dimon, CEO of J.P. Morgan, to be part of his Strategic and Policy Forum. Members of the forum will meet frequently with Trump to share their specific knowledge of the private sector. Trump said, "This forum brings together CEOs and business leaders who know what it takes to create jobs and drive economic growth. My administration is committed to drawing on private sector expertise and cutting the government red tape that is holding back our businesses from hiring, innovating, and expanding right here in America."

