



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JANUARY 20, 2015



THE
JACOB
LAWRENCE
GALLERY

SERIES: *Factory* **PROGRAM:** *Showroom*
TITLE: HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? - *Post-Speculation/thewayblackmachine*
DATES: February 4 – 28, 2015
OPENING RECEPTION: Tuesday, February 3, 5:00–8:00pm
PRESS PREVIEW: Tuesday, February 3, 3:00pm
LOCATION: Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Art Building, University of Washington, Seattle
HOURS: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am–5:00pm; Saturday, 1:00–5:00pm
CONTACT: Scott Lawrimore, Director, (206) 501-1231, lawris@uw.edu



**Factory Showroom: HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN?
Post-Speculation/thewayblackmachine
opening at the Jacob Lawrence Gallery**

The Jacob Lawrence Gallery is pleased to announce a new initiative to dedicate every February to artists and ideas relating to the African Diaspora in honor of the Gallery's namesake and Black History Month.

The Jacob Lawrence Gallery is privileged to inaugurate this new program with a special project by HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? as part of a city-wide presentation of these artists initiated by the New Foundation Seattle. The YAMS Collective (as they are also known) is self-described as “a collective of artists, writers, composers, academics, filmmakers and performers from around the world who collaborate across disciplines and cities.” For the Jacob Lawrence Gallery, YAMS will reboot their multi-media installation *Post-Speculation/thewayblackmachine* (2014), first shown at P! in New York last year in the wake of the police shooting of Michael Brown and the events in Ferguson. P! curators Prem Krishnamurthy and Carin Kuoni described the work as, “an internet archive of activism around black



embodiment inspired by the Wayback Machine (web.archive.org)...addressing contemporary conditions such as police brutality, American-funded international violence, and the ways that memes and hashtags collapse and make legible such threats to personhood.” This overwhelming, fully-immersive, multiple-screen and video projection piece will be presented along with a special sculptural and sound installation, as well as an ongoing library project organized, in part, by Seattle-based YAMS member, Christa Bell.

Funding for Post-Speculation/thewayblackmachine is provided by The Friends of Jacob Lawrence Gallery and the Nebula Project.

Image Caption:

HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? Video still from *Post-Speculation/thewayblackmachine*. Courtesy of the artists.

PARTNER EVENTS

At the invitation of the New Foundation Seattle, the Jacob Lawrence Gallery is pleased to be partnering with other cultural institutions in Seattle to present the art and ideas of the YAMS Collective including Town Hall Seattle, On the Boards, and the University of Washington School of Art + Art History + Design. Partner events include:

Good Stock on the Dimension Floor: An Opera

The New Foundation Seattle

January 8 – March 28, 11 am - 6 pm, Thursday-Saturday. Free and open to the public.

The Foundation will host the West Coast premier of Good Stock on the Dimension Floor: An Opera, a 34-part film-poem that reinterprets the traditional opera to pose a central question: “What happens to the black body when it is haunted by ‘a blackness,’ outside of it?”

Race, Art, and Being Black

Town Hall Seattle

January 28, 7-9 pm. Tickets \$5.

Town Hall will present a cinematic screening of Good Stock on the Dimension Floor: An Opera and host a discussion on race, black bodies, and politics of the black aesthetic between HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? mentor Greg Tate and collective members Christa Bell, Dawn Lundy Martin, Nana Adusei-Poku, and Sienna Shields.

Last Night A DJ Gave Me Life: DJ as Revolutionary, Dance as a tool of liberation. #DanceIn #Ferguson

On the Boards

Hosted by: The Illustrious Blacks – Manchilblack and Monstah Black with special guest Ashley Brockington. Co-conceptualized with Christa Bell.

February 7, 9 pm. Tickets \$10.

Music, politics, healing: members of the HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? collective host a dance-in with DJs and hosts acting as guides in a physical journey through sound. Current media events will serve as inspiration to investigate tension and release, shed layers of injustice, and instigate healing.

Critical Issues in Contemporary Art Lecture Series: Mitch McEwen

The Henry Art Gallery

February 12, 7-8 pm. Free and open to the public. Reservations required.

The University of Washington School of Art + Art History + Design, in conjunction with the Nebula Project, presents Mitch McEwen as part of its 2015 Critical Issues in Contemporary Art lecture series organized to accompany the course ART 361/595 taught by guest lecturer Eric Fredericksen. Mitch McEwen is a HOWDOYOUSAYYAMINAFRICAN? collective member, SUPERFRONT founder, and principal of McEwen Studio.

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