

June Show

June 14 - July 1, 2017

Nat Turner Project proudly presents *June Show*, an exhibition featuring artists Sharyll Burroughs and Jaleesa Johnston.

Sharyll Burroughs confronts the absurdity of racial propaganda by utilizing scale and creating opportunities via public performances for intimate and communal conversations about the multiplicity of experiences regarding race and identity.

Jaleesa Johnston confronts the violence and trauma of stereotypes via a re-staging of physical and metaphorical markings, as well as through performances that represent psychological, historical, and political disruptions of the Black body.

Burroughs and Johnston pull from their individual Black experiences and respectively from antebellum tropes which are deeply entrenched in our collective psyche; and from an AfroFuturist aesthetic response which builds new realities and narratives. Both artists use their bodies in direct conversations of race; both provocative yet approachable to reveal a more complex, undefined reality.

About the Nat Turner Project

Nat Turner Project (NTP) functions as a radical space seeking to fill a void in Portland, Oregon, one of the least diverse metropolitan cities in America. NTP allows artists of color to go beyond the usual expositions inherent in presenting the art of marginalized perspectives to a dominant culture; allowing them the freedom to create or express their own language within and without the parameters of racial commodification or designation. NTP creates an environment of inclusivity -- a communal harbor for artists previously silenced by institutional constraints -- and actively provides them spatial priority..

Nat Turner Project is made up of Melanie Stevens and maximiliano. Melanie has a background in Political Science, drawing, and sequential art. maximiliano does performance, installation, and poetry. They each bring a variety of skill sets to the project, ranging from curatorial and organizational experience to social practice and public relations.

About Jaleesa Johnston

Jaleesa Johnston is a mixed media artist currently living and working in Portland, OR. She holds a BA from Vassar College and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work explores the black female body as both subject and material through performance, video, photography, sculpture and collage. Jaleesa's work interrogates the defining power of the gaze and its relationship to the formation and destruction of the psychology of blackness.

About Sharyll Burroughs

Sharyll Burroughs is a mixedmedia/performance artist who attended the Santa Monica College of Design, Art, and Architecture, founded by MacArthur Genius Fellow, Joan Abrahamson. Her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Los Angeles, California and in Portland, Oregon where she now resides.

Jaleesa Johnston
Territories of (E/e)nlightenment

1. "Off White and Flesh"
Magazine prints, paper and glue on wood board
11 x 14 x 2 inches

2. "China White and Flesh"
Magazine prints, paper and glue on wood board
13.5 x 8 x 2 inches

3. "Crème White and Flesh"
Magazine prints, paper and glue on wood board
12 x 6 x 1.5 inches

4. "Snow White and Flesh"
Magazine prints, paper and glue on wood board
13.5 x 13.5 x 1 inches

5. "Food for Thought"
Video
3:33

6. "Strange Fruits of Labor" (performance remnant from Physical Law)
Synthetic hair and apples
dimensions variable

7. "Pure White and Flesh"
Inkjet prints, paper and glue on wood board
26 x 28 x 2.5 inches

Sharyll Burroughs
Reintegration

8. "The N-Word Sessions: subverting banalities"
Live performance
1:30:00

9. "Reintegration"
Projection
dimensions variable

