

New Museum Announces Free Public Event with Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter, in Association with Artist-in-Residence Simone Leigh

September 1, 2016, 4:30–8:30 PM



New York, NY...On Sunday, July 10, over one hundred black women artists gathered at the New Museum to form a collective force underground, known as Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter (BWA for BLM). Simone Leigh, the New Museum's current artist in residence, whose exhibition "The Waiting Room" is on view through September 18, convened this group in response to the continued inhumane institutionalized violence against black lives in the US.

The group will hold a **free public event in solidarity with Black Lives Matter at the New Museum on September 1 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

This evening will feature collectively organized healing workshops, performances, digital works, participatory exchanges, displays, and the distribution of materials throughout the New Museum Theater, Lobby, Fifth Floor, and Sky Room.

BWA for BLM focuses on the interdependence of care and action, invisibility and visibility, self-defense and self-determination, and desire and possibility in order to highlight and renounce pervasive conditions of racism.

Simone Leigh's "The Waiting Room" is the inaugural exhibition in the Department of Education and Public Engagement's annual research and development residency and exhibition program that foregrounds the New Museum's year-round commitment to community partnerships and to public dialogue at the intersection of art and social justice. Since its founding in 1977, the New Museum has been committed to presenting the work of diverse artists and viewpoints, and to championing art as a vital social force.

For updates and information on BWA for BLM, please follow the group on Twitter (#BWAforBLM), on Instagram (@BWAforBLM), and via @newmuseum.

Space is limited, and admission to this event is free with [RSVP](#). Please note pay-what-you-wish admission applies from 7 to 9 p.m. for guests who have not RSVPed. Press on assignment should email press@newmuseum.org to secure access and post-event photography.

BWA for BLM includes the following artists:

Elia Alba, Omololu Refilwe Babatunde, Firelei Báez, Chloë Bass, Suhaly Bautista-Carolina, Laylah Amatullah Barrayn, Aisha Tandiwe Bell, Joeonna Bellorado-Samuels, Michelle Bishop, Janice Bond, Alicia Boone-Jean-Noel, Charlotte Brathwaite, Sheila Pree Bright, LaKela Brown, Tracy Brown, Rashida Bumbray, Crystal Z. Campbell, Alexis Caputo, Tanisha Christie, Andrea Chung, Elvira Clayton, Pamela Council, Aimee Meredith Cox, Vivian Crockett, Una-Kariim A. Cross, Stephanie A. Cunningham, Tamara Davidson, Joy Davis, Sonia Louise Davis, Danielle Dean, Lisa Dent, Abigail Deville, LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, DJ Tara, Abby Dobson, Kimberly Drew, Dominique Duroseau, Tara Duvivier, Minkie English, Nona Faustine, Catherine Feliz, Yance Ford, Tia-Simone Gardner, Ja'Tovia M. Gary, Ebony Noelle Golden, Kearra Amaya Gopee, Stephanie Graham, Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves, Kaitlyn Greenidge, Deana Haggag, Carrie Hawks, Robyn Hillman-Harrigan, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Lehna Huie, Rujeko Hockley, Kemi Ilesanmi, Ariel Jackson, Tomashi Jackson, Ashley James, Shani Jamila, E. Jane, Fabiola Jean-Louis, Steffani Jemison, Jacqueline Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Ladi'Sasha Jones, Jay Katelansky, Daniella Rose King, Nsenga Knight, Ya La'Ford, Geraldine Leibot, Toya A. Lillard, Simone Leigh, Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow, Helen Marie, Brittany Martow, Nomaduma Rosa Masilela, Tiona McClodden, Paloma McGregor, Nina Angela Mercer, Joiri Minaya, Jasmine Mitchell, Elissa Blount Moorhead, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Shervone Neckles, Jennifer Harrison Newman, Mendi Obadike, Lorraine O'Grady, Adenike Olanrewaju, Sherley C. Olopherne, Jennifer Harrison Packer, Sondra Perry, Shani Peters, Julia Phillips, Sharbreon Plummer, Mary Pryor, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, Amber Robles-Gordon, Shellyne Rodriguez, Karen Rose, Clarivel Ruiz, Annie Seaton, Karen Seneferu, Derica Shields, Alexandria Smith, Tiffany Smith, Mikhaile Solomon, Kara Springer, Mary A. Valverde, Sam Vernon, Shannon Wallace, Camille Wanliss, Patrice Renee Washington, Fatimah White, Nafis White, Ayesha Williams, Saya Woolfalk, Lachell Workman, and Akeema-Zane.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION “SIMONE LEIGH: THE WAITING ROOM”

On view through September 18, 2016

Fifth Floor

“Simone Leigh: The Waiting Room” marks a new chapter in artist Simone Leigh’s ongoing exploration of black subjectivities, particularly those of women. In her work, Leigh (b. 1968, Chicago, IL) demands that the concerns, roles, and rights of women of color be recognized as central, rather than pushed to the margins. For her exhibition and residency at the New Museum, the artist considers the possibilities of disobedience, desire, and self-determination as they manifest in resistance to an imposed state of deferral and debasement. Whereas discourses of patience, pragmatism, and austerity often underscore political debates surrounding the failures of public health care and related conditions, Leigh finds inspiration in parallel histories of urgency, agency, and intervention within social movements and black communities, past and present. Troubling the notion of separate narratives, she implicates violent, institutionalized control and indifference as the conditions under which forms of self care and social care can become radical or alternative.

Focusing specifically on an expanded notion of medicine, “The Waiting Room” references a wide range of care environments and opportunities—from herbalist apothecaries and *muthi* [medicine] markets in Durban, South Africa, to meditation rooms and movement studios—and involves a variety of public and private workshops and healing treatments that the artist refers to as “care sessions.” Blurring the distinction between bodily and spiritual health, or between wellness and happiness—and, in doing so, countering the perception of holistic care as a luxury good—Leigh has convened practitioners who view social justice as integral to their work. The project also takes into account a history of social inequalities that have necessitated community-organized care, traditionally provided by women, from the United Order of Tents, a secret society of nurses that has been active since the time of the Underground Railroad, to volunteers in the Black Panther Party’s police-embattled clinics that were active from the 1960s to the 1980s. “The Waiting Room” suggests that creating a space for wellness may require both the making of a sanctuary and an act of disobedience against the systemic enactment and repudiation of black pain.

The exhibition is curated by Johanna Burton, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Engagement; Shaun Leonardo, Manager of School, Youth, and Community Programs; and Emily Mello, Associate Director of Education. It is accompanied by a broadsheet designed by Nontsikelelo Mutiti who also created the graphic identity for Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter.

SUPPORT

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ABOUT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art and is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas. For more information visit

newmuseum.org.

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