

SPONSORS

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If you would like to contribute to SPACES, please call: 216.621.2314 or visit spacescle.org

A PUBLIC TRUST

Elizabeth Emery, Angela Davis Fegan,
Leila Khoury, Ephraim Nehemiah,
and Jordan Wong

On view: August 21 - October 2, 2020

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Since 2016, and even prior, Americans have expressed decreasing levels of trust in government, institutions, and of each other. The erosion of public trust is impacting information sharing, public processes and, by extension, all aspects of daily life. Making matters worse, the piecemeal responses to our current pandemic and economic crisis have left many in this country feeling simply exhausted.

A Public Trust is SPACES' response to this climate of seemingly unshakable non-confidence. Artists consider - *how do we move forward from here?*

Five commissioned artists share their conceptions of public trust and methods for building trust. They unveil early stage models that evolve throughout the exhibition, influenced by a series of public exchanges.

SPACES invites our community of artists, activists, educators, organizers and officials to join this ongoing conversation and renew our investment in cultural pluralism.

Curated by Megan Young

Project Coordinator Adam Zimmerman

Additional Support by Lauren Davies, Mallorie Freeman, and Cierra Rembert

JORDAN WONG

Super Mega Wonders 1999, 2020

Print works and project maquette

Jordan Wong proposes the creation of a new public art work for Cleveland's AsiaTown neighborhood, inspired by his father's gifts of Japanese robot toy model kits. He draws on that sense of childhood awe toward development of a new sculpture and site for public exchange. *Super Mega Wonders 1999*, featured in the gallery through full color schematics and maquette, would be a new point of interest for the neighborhood while housing comic books, graphic novels, and locally created zines for communal exchange. Alongside the development of this new work, Jordan is working with MidTown Cleveland and AsiaTown to provide an open invitation for residents to engage in casual conversation about public art and public interest.

Works

Super Mega Wonders 1999 – Front, 40 x 50

Super Mega Wonders 1999 – Sides, 40 x 50

Super Mega Wonders 1999 – Back, 40 x 50

Super Mega Wonders 1999 – Top, 40 x 50

Super Mega Wonders 1999 – Maquette, 12.34 x 17.28 x 6.17

Jordan Wong (WONGFACE) loves to delight, inspire, and share his quirky sense of humor through illustration and graphic design. He draws inspiration from his experiences as an Asian American, tongue-in-cheek humor, and imaginative quirkiness. Since relocating to Cleveland in 2015, Jordan has started his own business, showcased artwork throughout the city, became AIGA Cleveland's Community Outreach Director as well as the chapter's president in 2020, worked on the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Support for Artists Planning Team, and assumed the role of design partner at the art organization SPACES.

EPHRAIM NEHEMIAH

The Samaritan's Burden, 2020

Mixed media sculpture, participatory invitation

Ephraim Nehemiah has developed an interactive experience beginning with a changing room and continuing to a larger-than-life scale of justice. Viewers are invited into the changing room, where they will find further instructions for participation.

This project explores the notion of trust as related to systems of power and inequality. Ephraim considers if trust can ever exist between groups or individuals in relationships with an imbalance of power. The work asks those in power how much they are willing to redistribute in order to build that trust. The experience provides such a symbolic opportunity. Materials contributed to the work will be redistributed by the artist to those in need, in our community.

Ephraim Nehemiah is a published writer, educator and nationally touring poet who uses call and response, compelling narratives and cultural expression rooted in Black performance art to create a transformative experience. The work explores adds to dialogue around navigating trauma, social injustice, and finding joy within the struggle. Ephraim is currently a teaching artist at Dewmore Baltimore in Maryland as well as the former coach of nationally ranked teams at Brave New Voices and the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational respectively. Ephraim has also performed in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, The Cleveland Foundation, TEDx Talks, Button Poetry, The Saul William's World tour and many others. Ephraim is the recent recipient of the Karamu In the House Residency as well as the Cleveland Arts Prize On the Verge Fellowship and will be completing their first full length poetry collection and one-person show which will debut in 2021.

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

SPACES is hosting a series of listening sessions around concepts proposed by our commissioned artists, including examinations of: commodified space, visual language, methods of care, public monuments, electoral process, and community investment. These sessions, developed and hosted in collaboration with community partners, offer a range of engagement opportunities both in person and online.

IN PERSON

AUG 21, 6-8PM | Opening Reception

SEPT 26, 3-5PM | Downtown "Field Trip"

OCT 2, 6-8PM | Closing Reception

ONLINE:

SEPT 18, 6-7:30PM | METHODS TBD

SEPT 25, 7PM | Pride in the CLE

SEPT 29, 7:30-9PM | Presidential Debate Watch Party

AUG 18, 6-8PM | Season Pass Member Preview

OCT | Without Instructions

All Events Are FREE to join! Visit SPACES website for more details and to RSVP: www.spacescle.org/events

SPACES acknowledges the following for coorganizing and resource sharing :

The Monument Lab (www.monumentlab.com)

Cleveland Institute of Art: Reinberger Gallery and Meghana Karnik, Guest Curator

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland and Denise Astorino, Community Engagement Coordinator

ELIZABETH EMERY

Big Voice, 2020

Mixed media installation and online archive

Elizabeth Emery developed this audio project as an investigation of women's voices—in conversation and in voting—as a means to be heard and to affect change during critical moments and even when it seems no one is listening. *Big Voice* features leaders and citizens discussing how they locate trust, hope, and power in themselves, fellow citizens, and systems. The exhibition includes audio from past interviews and invites viewers to become participants. A complete audio archive will be available by the close of the exhibition.

Project Website

www.bigvoice20.com

Question to Women

What are your thoughts on trust in relation to leaders, science, friends, and colleagues in this complex and interesting time of #metoo, Black Lives Matter, Trump, and COVID-19?

Schedule an Interview

<https://calendly.com/hearhersports/big-voice>

Leave a Voicemail

Call (216) 640-3538 and share your response

Leila Khoury is a multidisciplinary artist and architectural designer based in Cleveland, Ohio. Khoury received her BFA in Interdisciplinary Sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her Master of Architecture and Certificate in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to her graduate studies, Khoury was the proprietor of ZAINA Gallery (Cleveland, OH), an apprentice for Sadeer General Trading & Contracting Company (Subhan, Kuwait), and a multilevel art instructor for the Orange Art Center (Pepper Pike, OH). Her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Cleveland and Columbus, OH; Chicago, IL; Baltimore, MD; Washington, D.C.; Pittsburgh, PA; Waukesha, WI; and Subhan, Kuwait. Between June and September 2018, two works by Khoury were featured in the National Museum of Women in the Arts' exhibition series, Women to Watch.

LEILA KHOURY

Cleveland Community Archives, 2020

Mixed media installation and online archive

This work urges a reexamination of the relationship between public space, community gathering, and the built environment in response to the current pandemic and mass protests in support of Black lives. It is an opportunity to learn from the successes and contributions of local resources that are neither profit-driven, nor complicit in upholding white supremacy. Through an interactive website, Leila Khoury invites viewers to build a collective archive of mutual aid resources, experimental art venues, historic LGBTQ+ venues, and more. Visitors may submit photographs, artifacts, anecdotes, and oral histories, as well as suggest spaces not yet represented through the website and within the exhibition.

Project Website

<http://cc-archives.com>

Instructions for Submitting

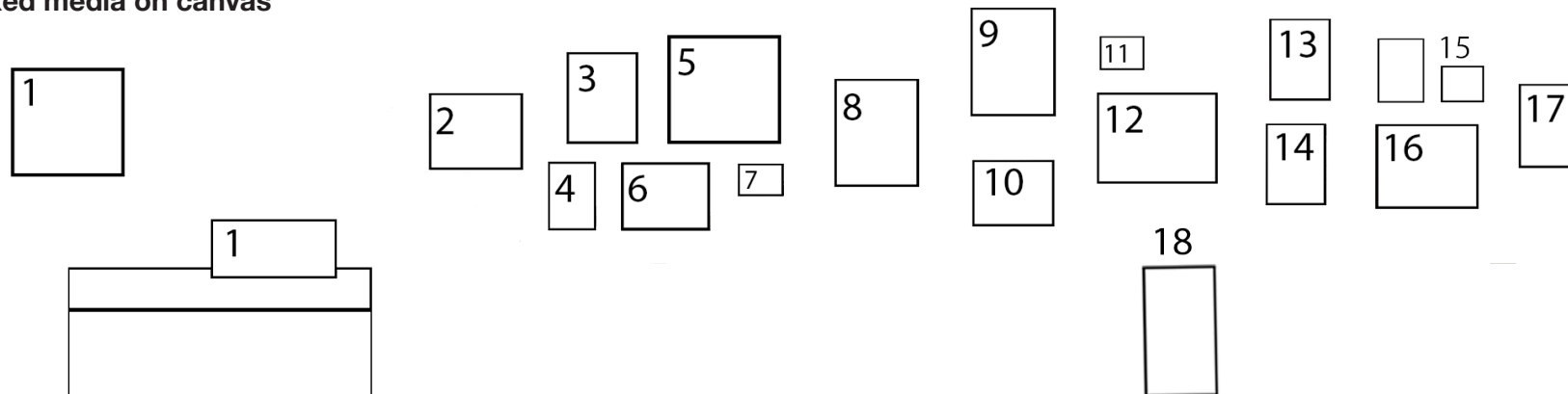
Is there a place you can add to the map? What can you share about that place? Write the details on a post-it and place it on the wall. Do you have photographs, flyers/posters, publications, or other relevant artifacts about that place? Pin them up. To submit to the archives online, visit the project website and click “submit.” There, you may contribute text and artifacts, or schedule a session to record your oral history/interview with the artist.

Elizabeth Emery is a multidisciplinary artist working in various mediums and across genres. Her sculptures and paintings reference movement, gravity, and the experience of the body. Her work has been exhibited at museums and galleries, from Cleveland to Alaska. Her work has been supported by the Ohio Arts Council, Rasmuson Foundation, and New York Foundation for the Arts, and through residencies at Haystack, Jentel Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, and FRONT International. Her work is in many public and private collections and has been commissioned for hospitals and a library. As an extension of her creative work and a former professional athlete, Emery operates the podcast, Hear Her Sports, which invites conversation around women’s sports. Through interviews, advocacy, and writing she celebrates individual female athletes who represent a range of backgrounds, perspectives and issues. Emery holds an MFA in ceramic sculpture from Alfred University.

ANGELA DAVIS FEGAN

V Series, 2020

Mixed media on canvas



This project transforms and reimagines pieces from Angela Davis Fegan’s practice, including letterpress printing, sewing and hand papermaking, into figurative originals on canvas that embody and represent intersectional identity through interdisciplinary practice. The series will continue to develop in response to Angela’s experience as part of this group exhibition and through information gathering during the associated listening sessions. Participants are encouraged to take a poster and place it in a front facing window of their home, or on view in a consenting local business or public building.

Works

- | | |
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| 1. Works in Progress | 10. Vigor (2020), 18 x 24 |
| 2. Vexed (2020), 18 x 24 | 11. lavender menace poster: overprint (2020), 9 x 13 |
| 3. Vortex (2020), 18 x 24 | 12. Vast (2020), 24 x 36 |
| 4. lavender menace poster: Kavanaugh (2018), 19 x 24 | 13. Vivid (2020), 18 x 24 |
| 5. Vibranium (2020), 30 x 30 | 14. Voodoo (2020), 18 x 24 |
| 6. Venus (2020), 18 x 24 | 15. lavender menace posters:overprint (2020), 9 x 13 |
| 7. lavender menace poster (2019), 9 x 13 | 16. Vantage (2020), 30 x 24 |
| 8. Voyage (2020), 24 x 30 | 17. Viral (2020), 18 x 24 |
| 9. Variant (2020), 24 x 30 | 18. Public Trust posters (take away), 9 x 13 |

All sizes listed in inches

Materials Vary by Work, Including: cut letterpress prints, colored pencil, acrylic, menstrual blood, rose petals, glow in the dark paint, ribbon, wax, paint marker, decorative and handmade paper, and other ephemera on canvas.

Angela Davis Fegan is a native of Chicago’s South Side. A graduate of Chicago’s famed Whitney Young High School, she received her BFA in Fine Arts from New York’s Parsons School of Design and her MFA in Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts from Columbia College Chicago. Angela has mounted shows at Galerie F, Chicago Artists’ Coalition, the DePaul Art Museum, The Center for Book Arts (NY), the University of Chicago’s Arts Incubator and Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, the Hyde Park Art Center, SAIC’s Sullivan Galleries and Columbia’s Glass Curtain Gallery. Her work has been selected for book covers including *The Truth About Dolls* by Jamila Woods, *Secondhand* by Maya Marshall, *Where Brooklyn At* by Roger Bonair-Agard and *All Blue So Late* by Laura Swearingen-Steadwell. Her MFA thesis, and on going practice, the lavender menace poster project, has been written up by *The Offing* (LA Review of Books), *Hyperallergic*, *Chicago Magazine*, the *RedEye*, *Go Magazine*, *Pop Sugar*, the *Chicago Reader*, and *Newcity*.