

SPONSORS

Major support for SPACES comes from the Cleveland Foundation, Eaton Charitable Fund, The Char & Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, Barbara & Peter Galvin, The George Gund Foundation, Mandel Foundation, John P. Murphy Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts: Artworks, Shannahley Foundation, The Nord Family Foundation, Toby Lewis Philanthropic Fund, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. We especially thank the residents of Cuyahoga County and the state of Ohio who support the arts through tax dollars distributed by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Additional support comes from James Anderson & David Wittkowsky, Jeffrey & Cynthia Chiplis, Rebecca Dunn, Howard Freedman & Rita Montlack, Linda & Jack Lissauer, M.D., Shannon V. McCue, Charles & Patricia Mintz, and Ohio Savings Bank.

Community support for SPACES comes from FORM, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Marigold Catering + Events, Vedda Printing+, WONGFACE, and Wood-Lee International Art Handler.

If you would like to contribute to SPACES, please call: 216.621.2314.



SWAP supports artists in the creation, presentation, and discussion of new work, while facilitating collaboration with artists and audiences in Northeast Ohio. Marisa Williamson is SPACES' 72nd SWAP Artist-in-Residence.

Large print available at the front desk.

 **SPACES** © 2019



ROOM

Marisa Williamson (Newark, New Jersey)

On view: June 21 - August 2nd, 2019

ABOUT THE WORK

Room is an installation, performance, and speculative retelling of historical narratives inspired by the lives of three women, enslaved in colonial America. The installation is designed to conjure ghosts in the SPACES gallery.

LIVE LESSONS & GAME PLAY

Associated events are scheduled within this place, borrowing from the contemporary phenomenon of the escape room. Game play events feature three local performers - Andrea Belser, Martinique Mims, and Latecia Wilson - joined by SPACES Artist-in-Residence, Marisa Williamson presenting stories connected through interactive activities.

Viewers are encouraged to join us for these *Live Lessons & Game Play* events. However, space is limited to fifteen participants per session and reservations are required. Be sure to reserve your spot through the SPACES website:

www.spacescle.org

Thursday, July 11th | 6 PM and 7:30 PM

Saturday, July 13th | 5 PM, 6:30 PM, and 8 PM

Thursday, July 18th | 6 PM and 7:30 PM

Run time is approximately 90 minutes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The artist wishes to thank:

Sam Hubish

Megan Beech

Emily Farr

Ashley Gulish

Zoe Holder

Cierra Rembert

Nick Taljan

Alice Waraxa

Adam Zimmerman

Ashley Rowell

Jeff & Cynthia Chiplis

Billie Lee

Damaris South

Avery Williamson

Tom Lidbetter

All SPACES Staff, Volunteers, and Board Members

CONTRIBUTORS

Room is a research collaboration between SPACES Artist-in-Residence, Marisa Williamson, and scholar, Sarah Jessica Johnson, PhD. Johnson is a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English at the University of Chicago. Her current book project explores how historical marronage is represented in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, reading particularly for how the strategies and practices of individual maroons shape archival and fictional texts. Her work examines francophone and anglophone U.S. and Caribbean texts. *Room* incorporates the research, scholarship, and creative work of Johnson as well as University of Chicago students enrolled in the class, titled *Black in Colonial America: Three Women*, developed by Johnson alongside this project.

Room is a design collaboration between Marisa Williamson, and designer, Lauren Williams. Williams is a Detroit-based designer, researcher, and writer who works with visual and interactive media to understand, critique, and reimagine the ways in which social and economic systems distribute and exercise power. Her work seeks to expose and unsettle power and often prioritizes engaging people through design in service of imagining and manifesting a more equitable present and future. Lauren is currently an adjunct associate professor at ArtCenter College of Design. She received her MFA from ArtCenter College of Design and BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marisa Williamson is a New Jersey-based artist who works in video, installation, and performance around the themes of history, race, feminism, and technology. She has created site-specific works at and in collaboration with the University of Virginia, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Storm King Art Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her videos, performances, and installations have been exhibited internationally. She received her B.A. from Harvard University and her M.F.A. from CalArts. She was a participant in the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in 2012 and the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program in 2014-2015. Williamson has taught at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn Museum, and Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. She is currently on the faculty at the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford.

www.marisawilliamson.com

FLOORPLAN

1. *Room for Phillis*

Phillis Wheatley was only eight years old when she was kidnapped and shipped from Africa to America. To the Boston family that purchased her, it was obvious that the young 'creature' was gifted. She taught herself to read from her master's books. It is 1772, and her poetry is stirring.

2. *Room for Tituba Indian*

Tituba is on trial for witchcraft. The paranoia of the isolated Puritan extremists has reached its climax. This slave has the power to heal and alleviate pain, but as she takes the stand in 1692 the West-Indian woman, strange among strangers in Salem Village, must summon the power to save herself.

3. *Room for Sally*

Sally's figure casts long shadows, moving through time and in between worlds. Sally works on the inside, among ghosts and other unseen subjects. At Monticello, she waits on master and his family, keeping a watchful eye on the watcher. She follows him wherever he goes, becoming more visible, starting to show.

4. *The Master's House*

Everyone knows the Master's House is Haunted. The doors were locked from the outside. It was a prison; a prison full of books. If books alone could set them free, they would be long gone.

