

SPACES SPACES SPACES

EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT THE RESOURCE AND PUBLIC FORUM FOR ARTISTS WHO EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT THE RESOURCE AND PUBLIC FORUM FOR ARTISTS WHO EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT

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URe:AD Press: URe:AD TV

In Residence: July 8 – August 19, 2017

Exhibition: August 18 – October 13, 2017

Opening Reception: August 18, 2017, 6 PM – 9 PM

Press release, images, and caption info may be downloaded here.

Cleveland, OH (June 23, 2017) – URe:AD stands for “United Re:Public of the African Diaspora.” The art collective URe:AD Press is grounded in shared inquiry and affinity for the African Diaspora, self-determination, audio/visual media, and DIY mobile printmaking strategies. Collective members Sharita Towne (Portland, OR) and Shani Peters (Brooklyn, NY) organize free trans-media events emphasizing a local group’s connection to a broader and deeper community across continents and history.

Through community work and travel, URe:AD Press has witnessed that artistic and activist strategies around the world have been influenced by the organizing efforts of black Americans in their long fight for equity. A language of empowerment historically emerged in the 1960’s as a demand that their existence and rights as citizens reach their fullest expression. This vernacular continues to inform movements around the world and inform contemporary art, yet the language of empowerment that exists in other Afro-Diasporic contexts has not been widespread in the U.S.

During their SWAP residency at SPACES, URe:AD Press will ask: Can art facilitate the exchange of these global lessons of empowerment between various Afro-Diasporic contexts? How can black people instrumentalize these exchanges in the US to secure equity? Have the contribution of cities, like Cleveland, to the American black identity, been minimized by the media in service of the dominant cultural narratives of larger cities?

ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE

URe:AD Press is led by artists Shani Peters and Sharita Towne—two Black women artists working nationally and internationally with public art, historical narrative, and community building. Collectively they hold over 20 years of experience in art making, exhibiting, organizing, research, and pedagogy. Their work has been supported by numerous institutions in their home regions and nationally by the Rauschenberg Foundation, Art Matters, Fulbright, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation. They have traveled, shared and conducted work across 5 continents and 14 countries. Through URe:AD Press they share the lessons of this experience to harness a sense of collective purpose among Afro-Diasporic people, in shaping “our own shared representation.” Beginning from their local communities in Harlem, NY and Portland OR, stretching throughout the U.S. and abroad, they see their audience as collaborators in a new vision for and understanding of what the collective diaspora can be.

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SPACES is located at 2900 Detroit Ave., in Cleveland, OH. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m., and the gallery is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Admission during regular gallery hours is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.SPACESgallery.org, call 216.621.2314, or email contact@SPACESgallery.org.

Style Notes: “SPACES” (all capital letters) is the legal name of the organization, and should be used in all instances without any additional words when referencing the organization.