



For Immediate Release

Project Row Houses Welcomes Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter to Houston, Highlights Issues of Race, Activism, and Self-Determination

Houston, TX – February 27, 2017 - Project Row Houses (PRH) is excited to present its 46th Round of artist installations, collectively titled *Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter at Project Row Houses*. Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter (BWAforBLM) is a collective of Black women, queer, and gender non-conforming artists formed in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The collective was originally organized during contemporary artist Simone Leigh's residency at the New Museum in New York City. In order to highlight and disavow the pervasive conditions of racism, they have since committed themselves to producing work that addresses the interdependence of care and action, invisibility and visibility, self-defense and self-determination, and desire and possibility.

At Project Row Houses, BWAforBLM will utilize the seven art houses on PRH's site as a platform for public dialogue. By engaging the Third Ward and greater Houston community, they hope to create a space to discuss issues that impact the lives and movement of Black people.

Installations will consist of a collection of joy and grief flags that cover the interior of the spaces, allowing viewers to participate by contributing strips of fabric inscribed with moments of grief and joy or desires they would like to manifest; altars for surviving and thriving, establishing space for examining liberation, contemplation and action; ephemera and a typographic exterior installation; performances including but not limited to gestures, sound installations and processions and rituals to explore transformation and language justice; and short video work and installation-based work by the many women of Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter. Other art houses will present opportunities for the public to host meetings to creatively respond to our nation's current political climate.

"I am not only thrilled but honored to work with so many brilliant women artists on shaping *Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter at Project Row Houses*," said Ryan N. Dennis, public art director at PRH. Dennis points to the fact that while the co-mingling of art and activism is nothing new, it is timely and of the utmost importance for artists and spaces to speak to the issues that we face as a society. "Right now, we are in the fight of our lives, and art is a conduit for us to communicate and have meaningful conversations. This Round not only allows us to see the work of prominent black contemporary artists but forces people to face the issues that impact Black life in America."

"We are delighted to locate ourselves in all seven of the art houses at Project Row Houses," artist Simone Leigh stated. "We will use the Round to reflect on our recent projects and to organize for the future." She added that the group plans to collaborate with black women artists in Houston, forming a local chapter and hosting a closing event.

Representative images are available [here](#). Caption: Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter occupy the New Museum for their first performative action, Photo by Madeleine Hunt Ehrlich

Round 46: *Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter at Project Row Houses* is co-curated by Ryan N. Dennis and Simone Leigh. The Round will be on view from **March 25 - June 4, 2017**. The opening reception will be held on March 25, 2017 from 4-7pm at the art houses, 2505-2517 Holman St.

**BWA for BLM Participating Artists**

Elia Alba
Omololu Refilwe Babatunde
Firelei Báez
Chelle Barbour
Chloë Bass
Suhaly Bautista-Carolina
Laylah Amatullah Barrayn
Aisha Tandiwe Bell
Michelle Bishop
Tokumbo Bodunde
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-Karim 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
Kimberley Drew
Dominique Durroseau
Tara Duvivier
Arienne Edmonds
Jessica Emmanuel
Nona Faustine
Catherine Feliz
Carolyn Lieba Francois-Lazard
Tia-Simone Gardner
Ja'Tovia M. Gary
Ebony Noelle Golden
Kearra Amaya Gopee

Stephanie Graham
Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves
Kaitlyn Greenidge
Deana Haggag
Alicia Moran Hall
Carrie Hawks
Robyn Hillman-Harrigan
Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle
Lehna Huie
Rujeko Hockley
Kemi Ilesanmi
Ariel Jackson
Cole James
Shani Jamila
E. Jane
Fabiola Jean-Louis
Steffani Jemison
Jacqueline Johnson
Natasha Johnson
Ladi'Sasha Christie
Jay Katelansky
Daniella Rose King
Nsenga Knight
Ya La'Ford
Geraldine Leibot
Toya A. Lillard
Loren Lillian
Linafornia
Stephanie Lindquist
Simone Leigh
Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow
Anina Major
Helen Marie
Brittany Marrow
Nomaduma Rosa Masilela
Tiona McClodden
Palome McGregor
Glendalys Medina
Nina Angela Mercer
Helina Metaferia
Joiri Minaya
Jasmine Mitchell
Elisa Blount Moorhead
Nontsikelelo Mutiti
Marilyn Nance
Shervone Neckles
Jennifer Harrison Newman
Mendi Obadike

Lorraine O'Grady
Adenike Olanrewaju
Sherley C. Olopheme
Tchaiko Omowale
Jennifer Harrison Packer
Sondra Perry
Shani Peters
Sharbreon Plummer
Mary Pryor
Kameelah Janan Rasheed
Adee Roberson
Amber Robles-Gordon
Shellyne Rodriguez
Karen Rose
Clarivel Ruiz
Anna B. Scott
Annie Seaton
Karen Seneferu
Dericca Shields
Alexandria Smith
Tiffany Smith
Mikhaile Solomon
Kara Springer
c.o. thomas
Mary A. Valverde
Sam Vernon
Shannon Wallace
Camille Wanliss
Anastasia Warren
Patrice Renee Washington
Fatimah White
Nafis White
Ayesha Williams
Saya Woolfalk
Lachell Workman
Akeema-Zane



About BWAforBLM

Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter is a collective of Black women, queer, and gender non-conforming artists. We formed in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and believe that a unified and polyvocal front is a powerful agent of change in the fight against racialized violence. In coming together, we are committed to producing work that addresses Black care and self-determination.

The BWAforBLM manifesto is available [here](#).

Origins of BWAforBLM

While in residence at the New Museum during the summer of 2016, artist Simone Leigh used the museum as a platform to gather Black women artists for a call to action following the murders of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling in July 2016. The women held a series of convenings over the summer to discuss police brutality and how they as artists could address this urgent issue collectively.

The group formed Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter with the goal of understanding the interdependence of care and action, self-defense and self-determination, and desire and possibility in order to highlight and renounce pervasive conditions of racism. The work of BWA for BLM involves de-centering whiteness, a necessity in this political climate--but also a necessity in the art world in which we operate.

About Project Row Houses

Project Row Houses (PRH) is a community-based arts and culture non-profit organization in Houston's northern Third Ward, one of the city's oldest African American neighborhoods. The mission of Project Row Houses is to be the catalyst for transforming community through the celebration of art and African-American history and culture. Learn more at projectrowhouses.org

Programming at Project Row Houses is generously supported by The Brown Foundation; Bruner Foundation Inc.; Chevron; John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation; Houston Endowment Inc.; The Kinder Foundation; Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation; The Lewis Family Foundation; John P. McGovern Foundation; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; National Endowment for the Arts; National Endowment for the Humanities; the Warhol Foundation; Picnic; The Simmons Foundation Inc.; Surdna Foundation; Texas Commission on the Arts; Susan Vaughan Foundation; and a grant from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.