



WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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ARTIST MOTHER STUDIO

September 20 – November 22, 2018

“And because we coexist on a planet long defiled by habits opposite to love, it seems to me that the task of surviving and/or the task of providing for the survival of those who are not as strong as I am, is a political undertaking: Vast changes will have to be envisioned, and pursued, if any, let alone all, of us will survive the destructive traditions of our species.”

—June Jordan

Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) is pleased to Artist Mother Studio (AMS), an artist-curated project that seeks to shift the conversation around motherhood. For nine weeks, WPA will function as a child-care-supported artist residency. AMS will conclude with a mini-conference at Howard University on November 3, and the publication of a special-edition zine, co-edited by Raina Martens and Amy Hughes Braden, with an introduction by zinestress extraordinaire China Martens.

The project has been organized by DC artist Amy Hughes Braden, with the participation of three artists—Leah Lewis, Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann, and Anne Smith—and their four children, who range in age from several months to 3 years. Braden hopes AMS will elevate the voices of artist mothers/caregivers and continue important conversations about communal labor and how mothers can leverage their experiences for positive societal change. But most of all, AMS foregrounds the dependency and entanglement of being a caregiver (a loss, in a traditional sense, of personal freedom) as a generative position from which to create art.

This is the second iteration of AMS, the first took place at Rhizome DC during spring 2018.

About the Artists

Leah Lewis is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Washington, DC. Originally from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, Ms. Lewis has used humor and her interests in anthropology as a point of interest in her work.

Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann received her BA from Brown University and MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. She is the recipient of a Fulbright grant to Taiwan, the AIR Gallery and Lower East Side Printshop Keyholder Fellowships in New York, NY, and the Individual Artist Grant, Arts and Humanities Grant, Mayor’s Award and Hamiltonian Fellowship in Washington, DC. She has attended

residencies at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Blue Sky Dayton, Vermont Studio Center, Salzburg Kunstlerhaus, Triangle Workshop, Anderson Ranch Art Center, Bemis Center for the Arts, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Facebook, and the Jaipur, India Carbon 12 Residency. Some of the venues where Mann has shown her work include the Walters Art Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Rawls Museum, the US consulate in Dubai, UAE, and the US embassy in Yaounde, Cameroon. Mann is currently an instructor at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Anne Smith is a visual artist based in Washington, DC. Her art practice includes drawing, sculpture and printmaking, often along themes of space and ideas of home. Places such as her childhood and ancestral homes, the Potomac River, the side of the road, and other spaces entirely imagined are featured in her work. Smith is also a Teaching Artist at the National Gallery of Art and was Master Printmaker on a large-scale silkscreen book project at George Mason University's Navigation Press. She studied silkscreen printmaking with Master Printmaker Lou Stovall, for whom she was a studio assistant for several years. Smith is represented by Adah Rose Gallery.

About the Artist-Curator

Amy Hughes Braden is a DC-based painter who graduated from the Corcoran College of Art & Design in 2011. She works out of Red Dirt Studio in Mt. Rainier, MD. In addition to her painting practice, she is currently running the second iteration of Artist Mother Studio, a program she created with funding from the DCCA to support caregivers who are artists, and highlight their invisible labor.

Supporters

This project is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. AMS is also made possible with the generous support of the following individuals: Mary Margaret Plumridge, Carlyn Caruthers, Lynnette and Steve Hughes, Deirdre Ehlen MacWilliams, Lauren Hilyard, Andrea Limauro, Jocelyn Sique, Jenny Fey, Joseph Katona and Rebecca Hook, Leslie Holt, Margaret Boozer, Elizabeth Carberry, and Audrey Neff.

About Washington Project for the Arts (WPA)

WPA supports artist-driven projects, advocacy, and dialogue so that artists can live, work, and flourish. WPA invites artists to conceive of programs that showcase the work or ideas of *other artists* (or creative thinkers, scholars, activists, etc.) and then supports them with money, introductions/connections, idea-development, planning & production, communications, marketing, and promotion.

WPA was founded in 1975 by the art impresario Alice Denney, organizer of the legendary NOW Festival in 1966. Over the past four decades, and under the leadership of nearly a dozen directors, WPA has presented more than 500 exhibitions; 1,000 performances; 700 lectures, workshops, and symposia; 250 screenings; and 58 public art projects. Nearly every major visual artist in the District between 1975 and today has had some connection with WPA. Many have sat on WPA's Board of Directors, including William Christenberry, Gene Davis, Sherman Fleming, Sam Gilliam, Martha Jackson-Jarvis, and Maida Withers. Walter Hopps, the legendary curator, was also a board member.

WPA has also brought hundreds of extraordinary artists and curators from outside the area to DC over the years. They include Robert Ashley, Alice Aycock, Eric Bogosian, Chris Burden, John Cage, Ullises Carrion, CoLab, Lucinda Childs, Simone Forti, Hollis Frampton, Group Material, Doug Hall, Deborah Hay, Jenny Holzer, David Ireland, Danny Lyon, Meredith Monk, Antonio Muntadas, Steve Paxton, Howardena Pindell, Adrian Piper, Nancy Rubins, Allison Saar, Jacolby Satterwhite, Carolee Schneemann, Joyce Scott, Alan Sekula, Nancy Spero, Haim Stainbach, Alan Suicide, Saya Woolfalk, Robert Wilson, among many others.

WPA is located at 2124 8th Street NW, around the corner from the 9:30 Club and a block from Howard University.

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