

PUBLIC BLACKNESS

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES

THREE GALLERIES - ONE EXHIBITION - ONE RECEPTION - ONE CAUSE!

PUBLIC BLACKNESS, an exhibition spanning all three of ISU's galleries, will present virtual reality, static and interactive art forms to engage and re-engage the public in the ongoing conversation about healing unresolved local and national racial issues.

<https://www.indstate.edu/cas/universityartgalleries>

Leading this seminal event's orchestration and curation are Professor Doctor Adeyemi Doss of the Indiana State University Department of Multidisciplinary Studies and Gallery Director Tanmaya Bingham. Artists whose works will be featured in the show include Dread Scott, Courtland Blade, Idris Habib, Ayana Ross, Abe Abraham (Abanar Productions LLC.), Scattered/Rada Studio LLC, and others.

A reception for Public Blackness will be held in all three galleries on Thursday, February 16 from 4-8 pm. A presentation and performance will take place from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Margaret L. Boyce Recital Hall of the Landini Center for Performing and Fine Arts. The evening will include a short play and song, both written by Dr. Bryant Clayton, an ISU alumnus now living in Houston, Texas. Clayton will be present for the performance, which will be directed by Dr. Arthur Feinsod. Speakers will include Kori Miller, Executive Director of the Evansville African American Museum and Valery Hart-Craig, Assistant Director of the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center and others.

A panel discussion will take place the following day on February 17 from 3-4 pm. in the Turman Gallery in the Fine Arts Building. All events are free and open to the public.

Public Blackness will also include participation by local community partners including Art Spaces Inc, now working to build awareness of the Lost Creek Settlement through public art; the Swope Art Museum, displaying artworks by African American Artists from ISU's Permanent Art Collection; the Vigo County Historical Society & Museum, showcasing Fannie Blumberg's Rowena Teena Tot books in the Turman Gallery; and other organizations. Writings by local historians Dr. Crystal Reynolds and Dr. Anne Mahady will also be featured in the exhibit.

EXHIBITION OBJECTIVE:

Public Blackness is an exhibition that spans all three of the Art Galleries at Indiana State University. The aim is to create greater awareness of the on-going and often unresolved local and national racial issues. The show is designed to provide a safe platform where ISU students and the broader community can learn, engage, and be inspired to take positive action to help heal and transform outdated and unconscious biases.

EXHIBITION STATEMENT BY DR. ADEYEMI DOSS:

Public Blackness demonstrates how the Black body in a racially divided society gradually disappears from our understanding of what it means to be a human. What transpires when the Black body is captured in our gaze—a gaze that has been trained to only view it as a problem everywhere it exists? What happens when the myths from our past—which were frequently used to justify its destruction—become ingrained in our imagination of its existence today?

One should leave the exhibition knowing a bit more about what makes the Black body vulnerable to the violence it still endures today.

PUBLIC RECEPTION:

February 16, 4-8pm (All Galleries: Turman Gallery, Yang Family University Art Gallery, Bare-Montgomery Gallery)

PRESENTATION/PERFORMANCE:

February 16, 5:30-7pm - Margaret L. Boyce Recital Hall, Landini Center for Performing and Fine Arts

Presenters: Dr. Adeyemi Doss, Kori Miller, Valerie Hart-Craig, Milo Yang Golding, and others.

Play: White Nostalgia, written by Dr. Bryant Clayton, directed by Arthur Feinsod, performed by Kiara Dowell and Brad Venable

Song: Down By the River, music and lyrics by Dr. Bryant Clayton, sung by Taylor Franklin, keyboard by Anthony Howard.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

February 17, 3-4pm (Turman Gallery, Fine Arts Building] 645 Chestnut Street, Terre Haute, IN 47809)

PUBLIC BLACKNESS I - Turman Gallery

January 17-March 17, 2023 [Fine Arts Building] 645 Chestnut Street, Terre Haute, IN 47809

Artists: Dr. Adeyemi Doss, Abe Abraham, (Abanar Productions LLC.), Scattered (Rada Studios LLC).

PUBLIC BLACKNESS II - Yang Family University Art Gallery

January 30-February 24, 2023 [Landini Center for Performing and Fine Arts] 300 North 7th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47809

Artists: Abe Abraham (Abanar Productions LLC.), Courtland Blade, Idris Habib, Ayana Ross, Dread Scott

PUBLIC BLACKNESS III - Bare - Montgomery Gallery

February 6-24, 2023 [Bare-Montgomery Gallery, Fairbanks Hall]

Artist: Tajiah Jones

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Arts Illiana, Art Spaces, Inc., Evansville African American Museum, 3 Sisters Investments, Swope Art Museum, Vigo County History Center, and others.

CONTACT FOR PRESS ONLY:

Tanmaya Bingham- Gallery Director and Instructor

E: tanmaya.bingham@indstate.edu

W: <https://www.indstate.edu/cas/universityartgalleries>

P: 812.237.3787

M: 503.984.4932



IMAGE: Dread Scott, I Am Not A Man, 2009, pigment print, 22 x 30 in., Edition of 5 (#1/5)

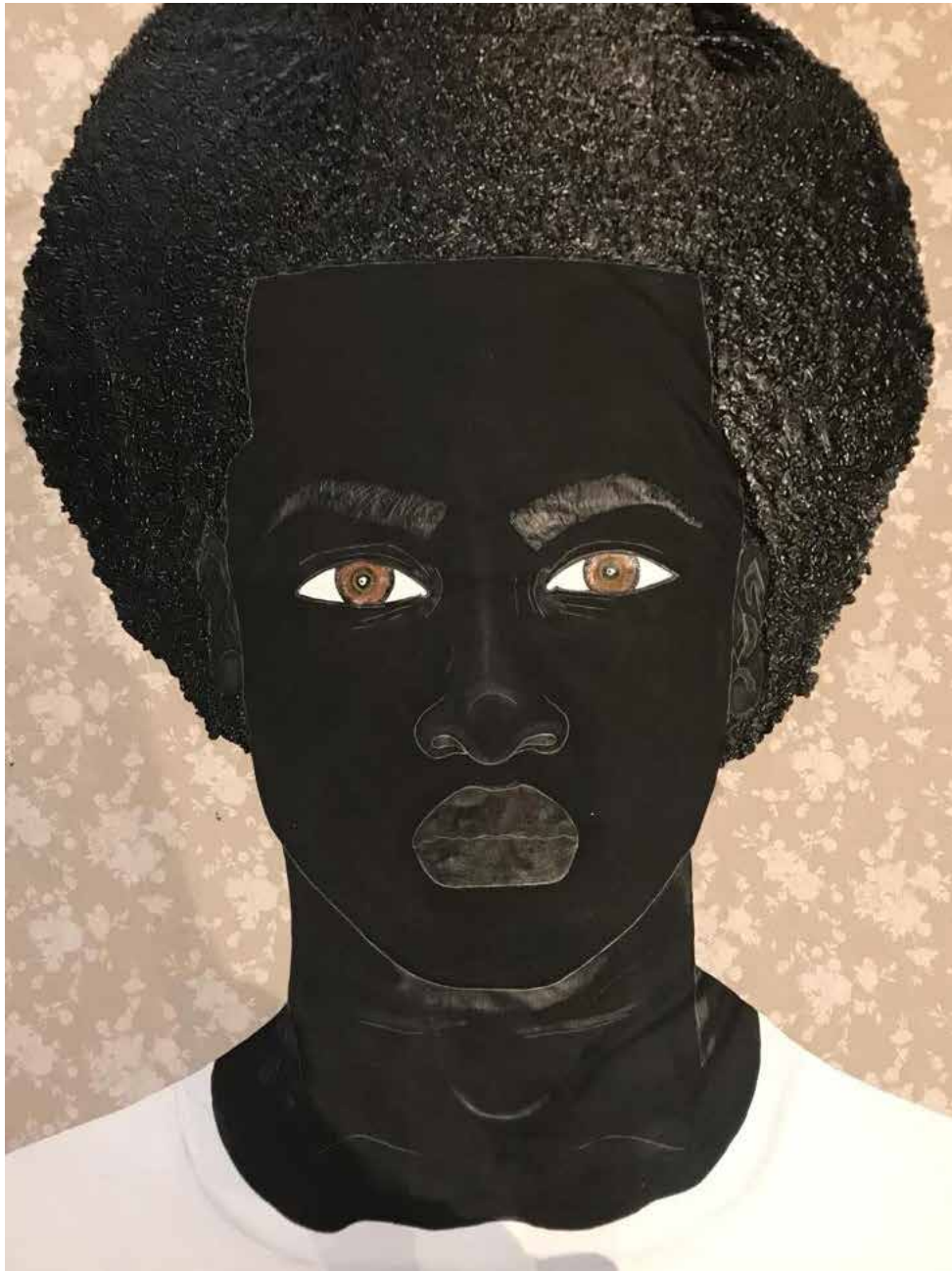


IMAGE: Idris Habib, Chinua, acrylic and pencil on cotton blend fabric, 76 x 55 in.



IMAGE: Ayana Ross, *She Who Knows*, oil on canvas, 72 x 60 in.



IMAGE: Abe Abraham, Abanar Production LLC., video still