

BOBV3

presented by  PNC

BOB V3

presented by  PNC

FEBRUARY 2 - MARCH 30, 2019

@ 4300 FAYETTEVILLE RD, RALEIGH

EXHIBIT HOURS: WED-FRI 11AM-6PM; SAT 11AM-4PM

EXHIBIT STATEMENT

FROM GUEST CURATOR **MIKE WILLIAMS**

People of color in the United States have been systematically marginalized by both those in power and the institutions they represent. Historically, media has portrayed us as violent and uneducated while history books largely omit our stories and contributions to the United States. Since people of color don't control the media or get to write history books, the problem of inaccurate depictions persists.

The "Black On Black" exhibition series has challenged those portrayals, sharing some of the historical oppression people of color have faced and the structures behind it. The series examined issues we face each day using sculpture, mixed media, paintings, performances, videos and more.

The third iteration of "Black On Black," BOBV3, looks at how people of color have come up with solutions and ways to deal with the continued oppression, degradation and daily emotional labor endured. The artwork in BOBV3 seeks to heal and reveal the agency that people of color have always had.

We didn't create the problems, but we've created our own solutions. **#BlackOnBlackV3 #BOBV3**

BOBVS ART

DERRICK BEASLEY



Beasley's *Room to Yield* is an immersive experience that allows a single user to contemplate their existence separate from the noise around them. It serves as a perforated edge that confronts the voice in our head. What happens when we honestly answer the hard questions about our own humanity?

APRIL BEY



We Arrived, Then Smoked A Cigarette Afterwards (No Fear)

Chinese (Ghana) Wax Fabric, hand sewing with Made in China thread and needles, glitter, jewelry chain
\$4,800



We Get Ahead in a Way That You Don't Get

Nigerian batik fabric hand-sewn into printed canvas with glitter, jewelry chain
\$8,800

APRIL BEY (CONTINUED)



Welcome to Alantica (Baldwinism)

Chinese (Ghana) Wax Fabric, hand sewing with Made in China thread and needles, glitter, jewelry chain
\$4,800



What is Dead Shall Never Die

Chinese (Benin) wax fabric, metallic paint, hand-sewing with made in China thread, and needles, jewelry chain, glitter and grommets
\$8,800

MEGAN BOWSER

Us, Me, and You

Bowser's collection of 18 poems are about healing and how words can help us begin a healing process. Sometimes before we offer solutions to problems, we have to take care of ourselves and those closest to us.

DAVID MICHAEL BUTLER



A World With and Without Men

Oil on paper
\$3000

This piece presents two realities. A world with men where the black woman is seen as a sexualized object, and also harmed by men. Then the reality of enduring, loving herself,

kicking ass, and taking power back from men who feel she is there for their pleasures.



Lady Vixen, I Want You, To pray

Mixed media on paper

Price on Request

The patriarchal gaze of Black Men is a confusing concept. There is a mentality that we want Black women to be objects of desire, and at the same time are expected to be Black women of respect and loyalty. We

also as a society judge Black woman for expressing the duality of these concepts regularly. The truth is, it has nothing to do with what we think, both are allowed because we don't control women's rights or choice.



Suffer a Change Strange Sisters

Oil on paper

\$2000

This work is speaks to the community of homophobia. Those who feel sexuality is a straight line, and not to be inquired, explored. To change as a society we need to suffer a change and see the beauty in what our community has deemed "strange."



The Girl From Hateville

Oil on paper

\$1500

In this world a black woman is asked to be many things. Strong, sexy, but also calm in a world that spews nothing but toxic masculinity and hatred of blackness. Yet and still they fight for us, they thrive.

DAVID MICHAEL BUTLER (CONTINUED)



Black Fury

Oil on paper
\$1000

The one on the frontlines of our freedom is a Black Woman. She will always be the warrior we will never fail respect as a society. Sometimes nice will not do. She has the most reasons to rage.

JOHNNY LEE CHAPMAN III & ANTHONY NELSON, JR.



Break the Silence

Spoken Word presented through video; run time 3:20

Choreography by Anthony Nelson, Jr.
Video by Jason Wolonick featuring movement from Anthony Nelson.
Edited by Rebecca Ward.

The thing about mental illness is that it works in a cycle. It has periods of flaring and of staying silent. Those with it will occasionally fall into a spiral, sinking to depths due to past trauma. But we don't stay here. We rise higher, continuing to heal and deal with situations in new ways. We have walked through the tunnel, traversed the darkened woods, but what next? What happens after the cycle has been broken and we reach the coveted end of the tunnel? What is it that lies beyond the light?

ANDRE LEON GRAY



Ghost Skins: The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life (2018)

Tar on unstretched canvas, found barrier tape, inkjet print on paper, used brass casings and reclaimed sports car front bumper

The title of this work, partially taken from Charles Darwin's influential book on evolution, examines the link between social darwinism, the propagation of white ideology, and Amerikkkan law enforcement's use of deadly force against melanated people. An imagining of a shield possibly worn by a member of a clandestine brotherhood within the police force is rendered in tar on canvas, and embedded with esoteric symbols. Below the imposing dark shield is a reclaimed sports car front bumper that surrounds printed pages of an unclassified but heavily redacted 2006 FBI report littered with used brass casings for hunting.



Say it louder for the people sleeping in the back (2019)

Hand fans on reclaimed seat cushions from a demolished church, a hand fan with a reclaimed quilt, and a hand fan mounted on a reclaimed tin crown molding

This work suggests that the way to overcome the impact of gentrification and displacement in historically black neighborhoods is to organize efforts to be a community again. During the civil rights movement, black churches were community centers and black owned businesses thrived, but slowly disappeared once self-sustainment was a not a priority for the community to succeed.

ANDRE LEON GRAY (CONTINUED)



Take the L in the Grand Scheme (2018)
Acrylic, photo collage, inkjet print
on acetate, graphite on paper, glass
and wood frame, colored pencil on
canvas, mounted on reclaimed wood
pallet

This work addresses the how the narrative of generational wealth within the African American experience is influenced by a shared history of racial divides and systematically matic inequality. A photo of a well-dressed black man from the Reconstruction period (1865-1877) sits within a flow chart to successfully win over his opponent, despite the presence of the mathematical formula, $x(N - 3/5) \neq C$. This formula, created by the artist to represent inequality, is known as the “Southern Theory of Relativity.” According to data by the Federal Reserve, white families have nearly 10 times the net worth of black families.

JAKI SHELTON GREEN

“This I Know For Sure”

Poem printed on vinyl.

NICOLE OXENDINE, CARLY P. JONES & JAKI SHELTON GREEN



Untitled

Video featuring words from Jaki Shelton Green sung in an operatic style by Carly Prentis Jones; choreography by Nicole Oxendine; video by Julia Wall; run time 3:05

Untitled is an operatic and movement adaptation of Jaki Shelton Green's "redemption lullaby II." These three women of color embody the strength, character and perseverance needed to break through in their respective fields. Nicole and Carly are classically trained in movement and opera, respectively, while Jaki is a literary legend. She was the first North Carolina Piedmont Laureate and is the current North Carolina Poet Laureate, the first African-American to receive the honor.

These women are the solution to the problems of not believing in oneself and breaking down barriers. They have trained and inspired other generations to "find their own fire," and they continue to empower and set the bar with the work they do. Black and brown girls in the Greater Triangle and across North Carolina don't have to look far for examples of women who look like them thriving in fields where representation is limited.

The selection contains lines from Green's original "redemption lullaby II." The original poem follows on the next page

JAKI SHELTON GREEN

redemption lullaby II

i.

if you close your eyes
tight really tight
hold them still
they will come
the women who look
just like you
but older
older than stone
older than water
older than air
dancing in circles of fire
lifting the fire
above their heads
like hallelujah bonnets
shaping twisting bending
fire into scarves skirts
pregnant bellies.

ii.

if you close your eyes
tight really tight
hold them still
you will come to yourself
learn to lift your own fire
in mirrors of ocean
learn to scold the smile
the heat that steals your face
locks out husbands
sons lovers fathers
howls at clocks
whose hands
have forgotten to strike.

iii.

you reclaim face heat
rename the fire
as you strangle women
who lift bend twist
your tongue
in this newness
if you close your eyes
tight really tight
hold them still
you become new woman
lifting bending twisting
dancing a new womb

if you close your eyes
tight really tight
hold them still
tuck fire
inside earth pockets
cover your face
with new maps
create a new bed

we sleep now eyes wide open painted red.

STEPHANIE J. WOODS



RELAX RELATE RELEASE

Mixed Media, 8ft diameter hair bonnet and six 3ft X 3ft bonnet seats

Meditation rooms and satin hair bonnets inspired the eight-foot bonnet *RELAX RELATE RELEASE*. The six embellished seat cushions surrounding the bonnet present one of the six words—bold, brilliant, strong, magical, determined, and radiant. This interactive piece offers visitors the chance to contribute to the work by answering questions presented on lavender notecards. The installation is a meditative space where conversations, self-reflection, and tranquility can take place.

BOBV3 ARTISTS

SEE FULL BIOS ONLINE AT VAERALEIGH.ORG/BOBV3

DERRICK BEASLEY

DURHAM, NC

Derrick Beasley is a multidisciplinary artist who engages audiences through installation, space making, wood work, photography and design. The core of his work explores humanity and our collective and individual capacity to change our reality and manifest a better shared existence.

APRIL BEY

LOS ANGELES, CA

April Bey grew up in the Caribbean (Nassau, Bahamas) and now resides and works in Los Angeles, CA as a contemporary visual artist and art educator. Bey's interdisciplinary artwork is an introspective and social critique of American and Bahamian popular culture, immigration, contemporary pop culture feminism, generational theory, social media, AfroFuturism and race.

MEGAN BOWSER

DURHAM, NC

Megan Bowser (she/her) is a massage and bodywork therapist and artist. All of her work centers a deepening integration of mind, body and spirit that both honors the innate healing wisdom of the body and aligns our actions in the world. Megan is devoted to somatics and integrative healing through her bodywork practice. She writes poetry as a personal art practice and modality of healing. She is one of the founders of The Mothership, a coworking space and community platform where she is cultivating space for people to be more human in their work-life.

DAVID MICHAEL BUTLER**COLUMBUS, OH**

St. Louis native and Ohio-based Artist David Michael S. Butler has situated himself within the narrative painting tradition. He attained his BFA at the Columbus College of Art and Design, and his MFA at The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Butler's work engages the visual essence of Blackness in culture, placing black figures in environments and narratives to provoke dialogue on identity. He has a reputation of enhancing creative academic experiences. His philosophy is that artists, educators, and creative professionals have a responsibility to engage, challenge, and support community. His recent focus is exploring the notion of Black perseverance throughout our global culture. His paintings often refer to social issues, pop and mass culture. He uses art as a form of activism, exploring how social justice, identity, capitalism, power and violence affect people of color.

JOHNNY LEE CHAPMAN III**RALEIGH, NC**

Johnny Lee Chapman, III ("Lee") is a self-taught photographer and poet from Fuquay-Varina, NC. He started writing in 2011 but after after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2014, began performing his poetry across the state. In 2017, he was ranked the #46th poet in the Individual World Poetry Slam, and is a 2018 fellow of The Watering Hole poetry workshop. Chapman's photographs have been displayed in exhibits, and cover events from weddings to the National Poetry Slam in Chicago. Through his writing, Lee hopes to tackle issues that are often ignored by the community. Aside from the artistry, Chapman also is employed as a dental hygienist.

ANDRÉ LEON GRAY**RALEIGH, NC**

Raleigh native André Leon Gray is a self-trained artist who works in a variety of media to examine the impact of history on present day power structures and social hierarchies. He transforms mundane objects and materials into powerful social commentaries to encourage conversations among his diverse audience.

Gray uses discarded materials, including crutches, police barrier tape and imagery found on the internet, to create a coded visual language. In his artistic practice, he loves to examine, dissect and arrange multiple sources of information into his work. He samples symbols of Western culture like a hip hop producer and remixes the content into a new narrative. Using a variety of disciplines, including painting, mixed media, assemblage, drawing and installation, he reassembles them in a manner that becomes more than the sum of its parts. Language is frequently applied to the surface as a point of entry, to examine how words are used as representations and declarations of power to define parameters in social hierarchies. Gray envisions art as a transformative tool to advance our understanding of each other, the world around us, and the cultural necessity to advance humanity in the right direction that benefits us all.

JAKI SHELTON GREEN

MEBANE, NC

Jaki Shelton Green has been active in North Carolina's literary and teaching community for more than 40 years. She has penned eight books of poetry, co-edited two poetry anthologies and written one play. She is a 2014 North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame inductee and was the recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2003. In 2018, Green was appointed as North Carolina's ninth poet laureate, the first African American and third woman ever to hold the position.

As a community arts advocate, Green has created and facilitated programs that serve various audiences and populations, including the incarcerated, homeless, chronically and mentally ill, victims of domestic violence, public and private schools, literacy programs, immigrants, and community economic development and social justice nonprofits.

Green's award-winning poetry has been widely choreographed by dance companies including Danca Nova at Colorado Naropa Institute for the Arts, The Chuck Davis African-American Dance

Company at the Kennedy Center, Miami City Ballet, Two Near the Edge, Choreo Dance, Murmurations Dance Company, and the Duke University Dance Department.

NICOLE OXENDINE

DURHAM, NC

Nicole D. Oxendine's passion for dance spans over 26 years, a passion that inspired her to dedicate her life to teaching and mentoring. Nicole is a full-time entrepreneur and owner of Empower Dance Studio, a studio based in Durham, NC that nurtures and fosters natural beauty, instills self-confidence, and reinforces positive images of dancers from all backgrounds.

Nicole graduated from Hollins University in 2003 with a B.A. in psychology and dance. She received her M.A. in dance/movement therapy from Columbia College Chicago in 2011 and her course of studies was focused on adolescents with developmental disabilities. She has successfully taught dance at Hillside High School for ten years and is currently a part-time faculty member at North Carolina Central University, and authors the dance curriculum for the Durham Public School system.

CARLY P. JONES

RALEIGH, NC

Raleigh native Carly Prentis Jones is a theatre artist, singer, and arts advocate who performs on stages throughout the region. Carly is a versatile performer - spanning opera, musical theatre, classic and contemporary theatre. As a classically trained singer, Carly enjoys performing as an active recitalist and guest soloist. She has performed with Triangle Opera, North Carolina Opera Company and Opera a la carte. She attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, a Bachelor of Arts in Black Music History, and a minor in Arts Administration. Carly's "sweet spot" is when her two passions - the arts and activism - are combined to create the most powerful form of expression - "artivism". Inspired by Nina Simone's quote, "An artist's duty is to reflect the times";

Carly believes that the arts can be used as a unique tool to cultivate empathy and bridge divisions throughout our diverse country.

ANTHONY NELSON JR

DURHAM, NC

Anthony Nelson is a Durham native performer, choreographer, and instructor. With Hillside Performing Arts High School being his first dance home at the young age of 15, he has since branched out, broadening his movement vocabulary and technique with a focus on modern movement, release technique, hip-hop, and jazz influenced styles. Ay-Jaye has performed works for Chris Grant, renowned choreographer for Beyoncé, Christian Von Howard of The Von Howard Project New York, ShaLeigh Dance Works (Jazz at Lincoln Theatre NY), and has performed around the Triangle with various independent dance organizations such as Empower Dance Studio, The Triangle Dance Project, Tobacco Road Dance Productions, DIDA, and more. Ay-Jaye currently is a company member of Shaleigh Dance Works, and continues to instruct, perform, and create art to build deeper bonds and uplift his community.

STEPHANIE J. WOODS

CHARLOTTE, NC

Stephanie J. Woods holds an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is currently a 2018 - 2019 Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. She served as an educator at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Arts Foundation Program, 2017 - 2018 and has attended several residencies including ACRE Residency, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Oxbow School of Art and Artists' Residency, and Penland School of Crafts. Her work was notably recognized by the 2017 South Arts Fellowship, and the 2016-2017 N.C. Arts Council Fellowship.

GUEST CURATOR

BLACK ON BLACK FOUNDER MIKE WILLIAMS



Mike Williams is about fostering community. He spent 15 years in media at The News & Observer where, among several roles, he was the curator of ArtsNowNC.com and managing editor of the triangle.com and Triangle Today publications.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University in Durham, Williams is the founder of the Black On Black Project, which works with artists of color on exhibitions and events that discuss issues affecting the community. The project seeks to bring communities closer together by promoting the principle of equity.

Mike has been a mentor at Neighbor2Neighbor in Southeast Raleigh, is currently working with the youth at DREAMs of Wilmington in the Port City, helping them engage with artists through community programs.

BOBV3 EVENTS + PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 2, 5-8PM: OPENING RECEPTION

Be among the first to experience BOBV3! Meet the artists, guest curator, and team that made this project possible. Free + open to the public. @ The 4300

FEBRUARY 23, 8PM: DRUNK BLACK HISTORY LIVE!

What do you get when you mix Black storytellers, true stories, improv and lots of libations? Drunk Black History Live! Join us as local Black creatives share their favorite moments of Black History and Improv Noir reenacts the hilarity. It's going to be so live and you won't want to hear about it once it's already history. Tickets are \$10 per person. @ The 4300

FEBRUARY 24, 3-5PM: BLACK RALEIGH TOUR

Take a trolley tour of Raleigh's Black History and help envision its future! A tour guide will show you the sights and folks will be invited to share ideas for what they would like to see in Raleigh. Artists will be along to capture these ideas in poems, sketches and photographs. Free + open to the public. @ The 4300

EVENTS + PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

MARCH 9, 12-8PM: BAM FAIR

This fair will feature Black artists, makers and food trucks. It will be a family friendly event where everyone can learn about local Black artists and makers, find afterschool and summer programming by Black artists and makers and get creative! Free + open to the public. @The 4300

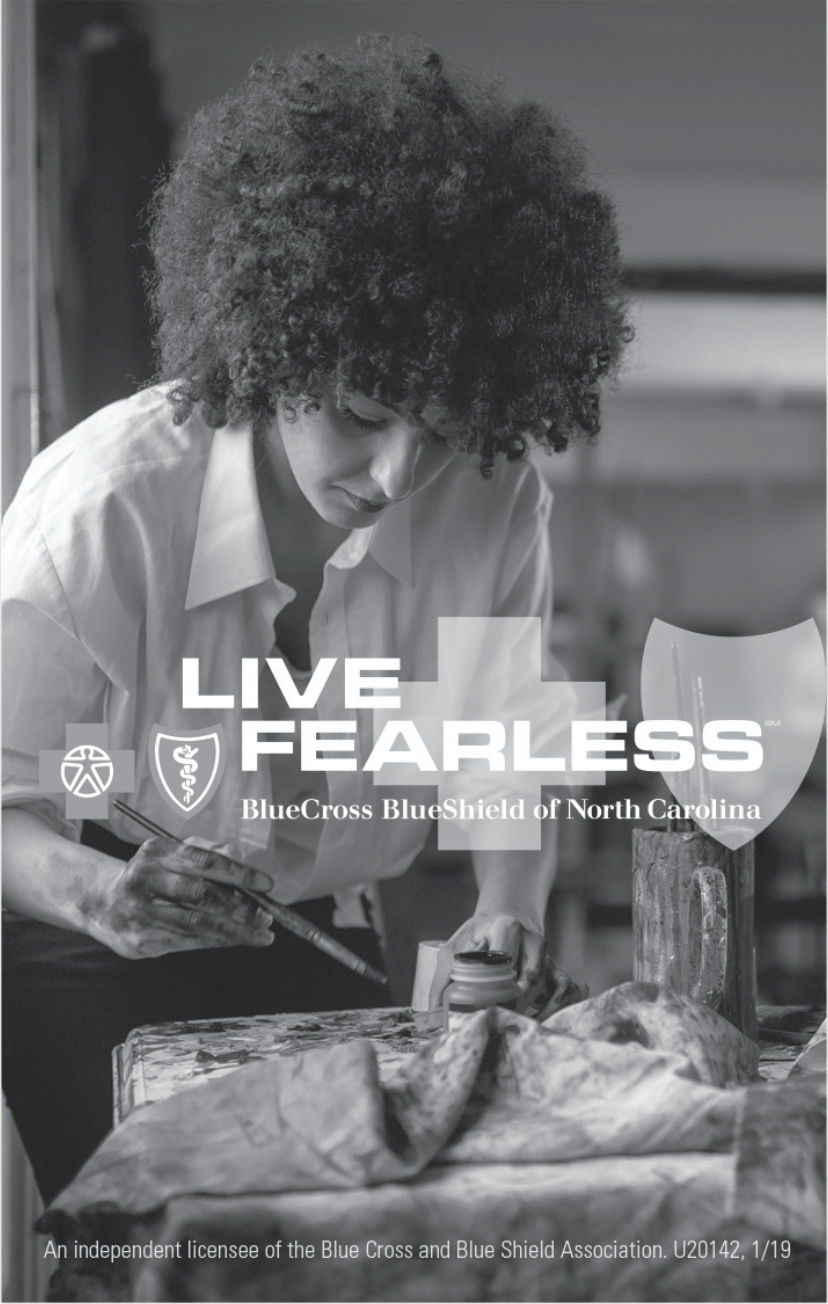
MARCH 30, 7-11PM: BOB BALL

When it's time to say goodbye to BOBV3, let's do it in style! Join us for a fun, swanky evening as we cheers to art and community! Proceeds from the evening will benefit a local charity. @The 4300



BOBV3 is a project of VAE Raleigh. Established in 1980, VAE is a hub for a diverse network of artists, a venue for artists to advance their careers, and a voice to influence positive change for the creative community.

VAE hosts 70+ exhibits and 50+ programs every year. We're always up to something interesting! Come visit! vaeraleigh.org



**LIVE
FEARLESS** SM



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. U20142, 1/19

KNOW

that art can make
us see the world
differently.

PNC is proud to be the presenting
sponsor of the 2019 VAE Gala.
Because we believe in and support
everything the arts can accomplish.

pnc.com



SPONSORED BY



To show Blue Cross NC's commitment to diversity, artists for BOBV3 were paid, in part, through the Blue Cross NC Artist Fund. Visual Art Exchange is supported by United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Visual Art Exchange is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

VAE RALEIGH

309 West Martin St, Raleigh NC 27601
919-828-7934 | www.vaeraleigh.org



BOBV3 is a project of VAE Raleigh. Established in 1980, VAE is a hub for a diverse network of artists, a venue for artists to advance their careers, and a voice to influence positive change for the creative community.