



## **STACKS**

**Jamal Cyrus | Nathaniel Donnett | Autumn Knight | Phillip Pyle  
M'kina Tapscott | Garry Reece**

**November 16, 2012 - January 4, 2013**

Art League Houston (ALH) is pleased to present *STACKS*, a group exhibition curated by Robert Pruitt. 5 week-long laboratory residencies will occupy the Main Gallery as a site of transformation addressing themes of Black imagination, creativity, and commodification. The exhibition features a series of performances and installations by five emerging artists: **Jamal Cyrus, Nathaniel Donnett, Autumn Knight, Phillip Pyle II, and M'kina Tapscott**. Writer **Garry Reece** provides an online narrative component tracking and examining each artist's project, offering his thoughts on possible meanings of the work.

On *STACKS* opening night, the artists invite the audience to participate by donating items and objects that are loaded with cultural stigmas, represent a negative stereotype, demeaning, poorly crafted, low budget, antiquated Black memorabilia and paraphernalia. As part of a performance the artists will destroy these materials.

Renowned poet/performer Douglas Kearney will also be joining the artists on opening night to participate in their performance. Mr. Kearney will provide eulogies for a selection of these materials, contemplating their former usefulness and the world in their impending absence. **The opening reception is Friday, November 16, 6 - 9 PM in the Art League Main Gallery, with a live performance between 6 - 8 PM.**

*STACKS* looks at the relationship between cultural tropes and the notion of an authentic black experience. As a cathartic act, these five artists will use the exhibition's opening to publicly

deconstruct, destroy, and de-power materials that impede the construction and reception of Black imaginative power.

How do we make art that embraces tradition while avoiding the trap of cultural tropes? This critical question has circulated amongst the artists in *STACKS* in preparation for this exhibit. For the duration of the exhibition the artists will explore possible resolutions to this problem by using the gallery space as a laboratory to develop and create installations from the remains of the opening night. As the exhibition proceeds, the artists will re-contextualize and revamp the ideas and products of the previous artists week to create a multidimensional view of black creativity.

## **Residency Schedule \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES**

### **WEEK 1**

**Phillip Pyle II: November 19 - December 2**

### **WEEK 2**

**Nathaniel Donnett: December 3 - 9**

**Opening Reception: Friday December 7**

**Artist Talk/Discussion: 1 PM on Sunday December 9**

### **WEEK 3**

**Jamal Cyrus: December 10 -16**

**Reception 6 - 9 PM Friday, December 14**

### **WEEK 4**

**M'kina Tapscott: December 17 - 23**

**Reception 6 - 9 PM Friday, December 21**

### **WEEK 5**

**Autumn Knight: December 26 - January 3**

**Reception 6 - 9 PM Friday, December 28**

**CLOSING EVENT: PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Friday January 4, 2013**