

HUMAN FOR SCALE

Jibade-Khalil Huffman

March 7 - April 11, 2019

Art Space Gallery, Fresno City College

Presented by the Division of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Human for Scale is a new, multi channel installation by Jibade-Khalil Huffman that was made during his residency in Fresno in January 2019, with the help of Fresno City College students. It is part poem, part fragmented narrative, and plays with the idea of a “wall text,” the didactic information often included as part of an exhibition that explains or provides context for the work, representing the voice (and the authority) of the institution. Instead, here words and images overlap in a way that is cinematic and collaged, creating resonances and dissonance between what we read, hear, and watch.

Human for Scale is curated by Elena Harvey Collins.

Jibade-Khalil Huffman (b. Detroit, 1981, lives and works in Philadelphia, PA) is a poet, writer, and artist. Recent exhibitions include The Kitchen, NY, Ballroom Marfa, TX, and MOCA Cleveland. Past exhibitions include the Hammer Museum, MOCA Detroit, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, The Jewish Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, The Studio Museum in Harlem and Swiss Institute, New York. His performance works have been presented at Kadist, San Francisco, and Frieze, Los Angeles.

Huffman holds a BA from Bard College, an MFA from Brown University in Literary Arts, and an MFA in Studio Art from the University of Southern California. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Grolier Poetry Prize, the Jerome Foundation Travel Grant, and fellowships from the Lighthouse Works, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Millay Colony for the Arts. Huffman was a 2015-16 Artist in Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Performers:

Khadija Liiban Ahmed, Fred McCarty, Miriam Ouassou, Beverly Russ, Maranda Thomas, Vicente Velazquez III.

Gallery Assistants: Leslie Lakeyvia Adams, Miriam Ouassou, Dalia Ramirez, Vicente Velazquez III, Carolyn Zutler.

Many thanks:

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Art Space Gallery  Fresno City College
DIVISION OF FINE, PERFORMING AND COMMUNICATION ARTS



TIME IN A CIRCLE

I know, I know. It's overwhelming, isn't it? A cacophony! Shall I narrate it, interpret it? That is my job, after all, a kind of translator for the "work." Of course, you do understand, don't you, that I'm unreliable? Not coming from or having had or....

But, ok. We can start with the simplest of observations. Here you are, in this community college art gallery, in Fresno, California. The camera is tight on the faces of the actors. Something is wrong, someone has been wronged. Someone is calling or she is making a call, becoming more and more agitated. The dead line hums, no one is there, the signal is missed. Why is she dressed that way? As if ready to go out dancing, or off to a red carpet event?

Out, anyway.

I am trying to follow time in a circle, trying to sidle up to it, looking for the moment of recognition of a pattern: that simple absence is more like erasure.

And perhaps what is needed is

An archive of gesture, a safekeeping.

Planted here in neat rows

As opposed to this thrown-together, improvised, rasquache thing made while digging for props in somebody's grandmothers basement also known as the prop department.

Here is the city, languid on the earth, one place forming the other because of what it isn't.

Negative space; always the other and never the one.

A land of no pleasure,

A raggedness and a covering, a confusion. (I didn't yet know that an entire mountain range could disappear): a crime in the lungs.

What to do about this unusually cold, wet winter? This tornado, this deadly, deadly tornado. And so unusual for this time of year? Don't you also have the terrible feeling its the kind of winter we will look back on a few seasons from now? an outlier, a last respite.

