

## PRESS RELEASE



Paul Mpagi Sepuya, *Self-Portrait After* (from the series "Glasco Turnpike"), 2010, archival pigment print, 21 1/8 x 16 inches, The Center for Photography at Woodstock Permanent Print Collection



Keltie Ferris  
*Bonjour Monsieur Ferris*, 2012  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
110 x 88 inches



Gerard & Kelly  
*P.O.L.E.* (People, Objects, Language, Exchange), 2015, performance view, the New Museum, New York

### ***Keltie Ferris: Body Prints and Paintings***

***Race, Love, and Labor: New Work from the Center for Photography at Woodstock's Artist-in-Residency Program*** Curated by Sarah Lewis

***Gerard & Kelly: Performance Documents*** Co-sponsored by the UAlbany Performing Arts Center

**On view February 2 – April 2, 2016**

**Artists' Reception: Friday, February 12, 5 – 7 pm**

Free and open to the public.

The University Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of three new exhibitions: ***Race, Love, and Labor: New Work from the Center for Photography at Woodstock's Artist-in-Residency Program***; ***Keltie Ferris: Body Prints and Paintings*** and ***Gerard & Kelly: Performance Documents***.

The museum's first floor will feature ***Race, Love, and Labor***, an exhibition of photography by twenty artists who have participated in a unique residency program for artists of color at the Center for Photography at Woodstock (CPW), New York. Culling from CPW's collection, guest curator Sarah Lewis selected photographs, artist books, and video by artists "whose fierce portrayals of the consequences of work on well-being and human dignity sears the soul with a light that Walker Evans could have never anticipated, to images by Deana Lawson who expertly shows a hard won self-possession through her pioneering portrayal of nude forms." The artists

#### UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

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in the exhibition are: Endia Beal, William Cordova, Isaac Diggs, Caleb Ferguson, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Nikita Gale, Gerard H. Gaskin, Eyakem Gulilat, Tommy Kha, Kathya Maria Landeros, Deana Lawson, Alma Leiva, Yijun Pixy Liao, Gina Osterloh, Dawit L. Petros, Tim Portlock, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Xaviera Simmons, Joanna Tam, and Preston Wadley.

This exhibition, curated by **Sarah Lewis**, cultural historian, curator, and Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies at Harvard University, was organized by and first presented at The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz; it will travel to the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University.

The second floor exhibition, ***Keltie Ferris: Body Prints and Paintings*** will pay special focus on the evolution of Ferris's body prints from singular black and white impressions to multiple and increasingly colorful serial progressions. Also featured will be paintings from a cross-section of Ferris's career including the debut of her largest painting to date. Ferris is best known for visceral and elegant abstract paintings built up in layers of spray gun washes, rubbed-out pastels, and palette knife zips. For the last three years, the body prints have become a significant extension of her layered approach to image-making. Different in emotional tenor than the paintings, the prints provide Ferris with an understanding of her paintings at their most elemental. To make the prints she layers pigment onto paper that retains the oiled imprint of her clothed or unclothed body. From air, to pigment, to trace, the prints require a physicality that literally embeds the artist 'in' the work as its indisputable maker. As she works back and forth between the body prints and the paintings, Ferris is expanding her pursuit of a fully engaged gestural presence without the conventions of the hand.

**Keltie Ferris** was born in 1977 in Louisville, Kentucky. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Selected solo exhibitions include Mitchell-Innes & Nash in New York City (2015); *Keltie Ferris: Doomsday Boogie* at Santa Monica Museum in Santa Monica, California (2014); *Body Prints* at Chapter NY in New York City (2014); *KF+CM 4EVER* at Horton Gallery in New York City (2010); and *Man Eaters* at Kemper Museum in Kansas City, Missouri (2009). Selected group exhibitions include *If Color Could Kill* at Salena Gallery of Long Island University in New York (2016); *Abstract America Today* at Saatchi Gallery in London (2014); *Wanton Mobility*, curated by Arielle Bier at KLEMM's in Berlin (2014); *2014 Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts* at Academy of Arts & Letters in New York City (2014); and *Raw/Cooked: Ulrike Muller* at the Brooklyn Museum in Brooklyn, New York (2012).

**Gerard & Kelly: Performance Documents** (Nancy Hyatt Liddle Gallery) will draw from the projects of collaborative artists Brennan Gerard and Ryan Kelly over the past five years. This rare exhibition of performance documentation charts the prevailing concerns around history, memory and the present tense of performance that have come to define Gerard & Kelly's practice. Screened as a single-channel video projection, these "documents" underscore the artists' inquiry into the relationships between performers and spectators, language and movement, intimacy and public space. The selected videos demonstrate Gerard & Kelly's continued interest in broadening their scope beyond dance to include film, text and visual art, which provide a larger and more unstructured palette on which to grapple with the questions that interest them, while also giving viewers the opportunity to consider the expanded field of dance in museums.

Brennan Gerard (b. 1978 in Piqua, Ohio) and Ryan Kelly (b. 1979 in Drums, Pennsylvania) live and work in Los Angeles, California. Solo exhibitions include *P.O.L.E. (People, Objects, Language, Exchange)* at the New Museum in New York (2015); *Timelining* at the Kitchen in New York City (2014); *Kiss Solo* at Kate Werble Gallery in New York City (2013). Group exhibitions include The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City (2015); The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (2014); Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions in Los Angeles (2013); CSS Bard, Center for Curatorial Studies and Hessel

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Museum of Art in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (2012); and Art in General in New York City (2010). Their performances have been presented by Dancespace Project at St. Marks Church, Park Avenue Armory, Whitney Museum of American Art, and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, all in New York City.

## RELATED PROGRAMMING

### **Gerard & Kelly Informal talk and screening: *In Time and Out of Sync***

Wednesday, February 3, 7 pm, University Art Museum

In this performative talk, Brennan Gerard and Ryan Kelly discuss recent projects and their engagement with legacies of feminism and queer theory in making time-based work.

Gerard & Kelly events co-sponsored with the UAlbany Performing Arts Center.

### **Gerard & Kelly Workshop: *Witness the Process***

Thursday, February 4, 9 am – noon, University Art Museum

Observers are welcome to watch the artists as they conduct a workshop in which the score for their performance installation, *Reusable Parts/Endless Love* (2011), is transmitted to UAlbany students.

### **Gerard & Kelly Performance: *Reusable Parts/Endless Love***

Friday, February 12, 7 pm & 8:15 pm, Performing Arts Center

For ticket cost and information, call the PAC Box Office at 518-442-3997.

In this score-based, thought-provoking performance installation originally commissioned by Dancespace Project at St. Mark's Church, the performers transmit and transform the instructions for a kiss into a machine-like production of unscripted representations of intimacy. Doing away with fixed seating, the artists place the audience in a "catch-as-catch-can" interactive experience inviting them to roam freely to watch the action or stay out of its way.

## **Poets Randall Horton and Jacqueline Jones LaMon**

**Seminar:** Tuesday, February 16, 4:15 pm, Standish Room, Science Library

**Reading:** Tuesday, February 16, 7 pm, University Art Museum

Co-sponsored with the New York State Writers Institute.

**Randall Horton**, author of the poetry collections *Pitch Dark Anarchy* (2013) and *The Definition of Place* (2006), is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and the Bea González Poetry Prize. His memoir, *Hook* (2015), explores his downward spiral from student to drug addict, cocaine smuggler, and incarcerated felon. Upon release from prison Horton earned a Ph.D. in English at UAlbany.

**Jacqueline Jones LaMon** is the author of the poetry collections *Last Seen* (2011), winner of the Felix Pollak Poetry Prize, and *Gravity, U.S.A.* (2006), winner of the *Quercus Review* Poetry Series Award. She is the new president of Cave Canem, America's leading Black poetry organization, committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of Black poets.

## **David Shapiro's documentary *Missing People***

**Seminar:** Friday, February 26, 4:15 pm, University Art Museum

**Screening:** Friday, February 26, 7 pm, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Co-sponsored with the New York State Writers Institute in connection with the exhibition *Race, Love, and Labor*, and the School of Criminal Justice's Crime, Justice, and Social Structure Film Series.

*Missing People* directed by **David Shapiro** (2015, 76 minutes, color), is a nonfiction mystery about a woman who investigates her brother's long unsolved murder. In the process she collects and researches the violent work and life of an artist from New Orleans. The film won the Best Documentary Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival. The film screening will be followed by commentary and Q&A with director David Shapiro.

**David Shapiro**, filmmaker, artist, and UAlbany alum '85, directed the acclaimed 2000 documentary *Keep the River on Your Right: A Modern Cannibal Tale*, winner of many major film festival awards.

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Funding for the exhibitions, publications, and programming is provided by UAlbany's Office of the President and Office of the Provost, The University at Albany Foundation, the UAlbany Diversity Transformation Fund administered through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation.

Additional funding for the Gerard & Kelly exhibition, related events, and performances provided by New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State DanceForce/Bessies Residency Fund, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Dance Alliance, UAlbany Alumni Association, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, and the Hampton Inn. As part of Sexuality Month 2016, support is provided by the Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program of the University Counseling Center, a student group recognized and funded by the Student Association. Informal talk and screening *In Time and Out of Sync* is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts' Electronic Media and Film Presentation Funds grant program, administered by the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.



Keltie Ferris, *oRiOn*, 2015, acrylic and oil on canvas, 72 x 60 inches; Keltie Ferris, *Jack*, 2015, oil and powdered pigment on paper, 40 1/8 x 26 inches; Keltie Ferris, *Venus of Tan-Tan*, 2013-14, oil and powdered pigment on paper, 40 1/4 x 26 1/8 inches; Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E. (People, Objects, Language, Exchange)*, 2015, performance view, the New Museum, New York; Tommy Kha, *Little Polite (A Role Study)*, 2011; chromogenic color print; LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Momme* (from the series "The Notion of Family: Family Work 2002-2008"), 2008, gelatin silver print, 14 5/8 x 18 1/4 inches, The Center for Photography at Woodstock Permanent Print Collection; Gerard & Kelly, *P.O.L.E. (People, Objects, Language, Exchange)*, 2015, performance view, the New Museum, New York

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For more information, call (518) 442-4035 or visit our website at [www.albany.edu/museum](http://www.albany.edu/museum)

**Museum Hours:** Tuesday 10 am – 8 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sat, noon – 4 pm.

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