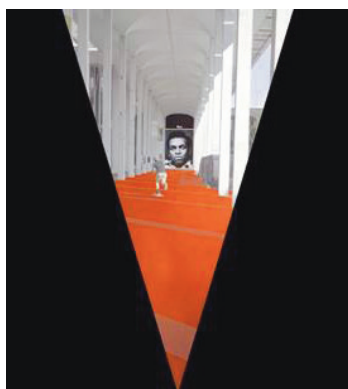


Upcoming Exhibitions at University Art Museum, University at Albany January 20 through April 3, 2021



1. Shane Aslan Selzer, *Together Our Resistance Channels Hope (TORCH)*, 1 of 5 double sided pennants, 2021, 200 denier nylon, 3 x 5 feet, courtesy of the artist 2. Anthony Akinbola, *Camouflage #020 (Chorus)*, 2020, durags, acrylic on wood panel, 96 x 96 x 2 inches, courtesy of the artist 3. Sean Desiree, *Crosswinds at Hudson* (detail), 2019, pine, mahogany, spalted maple, ebony, zebra wood, oak, unknown varieties, 70 units, opened in 2007, 25 1/4 x 36 1/8 inches, courtesy of the artist 4. Marcus Leslie Singleton, *Love Letter to the Dogon*, 2020, oil paint and spray paint on canvas, 48 x 48 inches

ALBANY, NY (December 17, 2020) — The University Art Museum, University at Albany is pleased to present two new exhibitions: ***Torch '72/2020*** which explores the trajectory and lineage of intersectional justice efforts on the UAlbany campus, and ***i.de.al.is.tic*** which features three rising Black artists and explores each artist's acceptance of imperfection and their relationship to idealism.

Torch '72/2020, a commissioned project by artist **Shane Aslan Selzer**, reactivates UAlbany's 1972 Torch yearbook, edited by then student and renowned AIDS activist, Ron Simmons. The Social Action Archive Committee (SAAC), formed by the artist in 2015, interviewed current student leaders on campus, using the 1972 yearbook as a visual prompt to speak about the trajectory and lineage of intersectional justice efforts on the UAlbany campus. These discussions center on Ron Simmons' work as an early leader in intersectional social justice fights and provide an important lineage for current students who continue to work with urgency now. Selzer's interest in the Torch '72 yearbook is also personal—her parents graduated from UAlbany in 1972. The yearbook shaped how Selzer thinks about image and text archives, juxtapositions, and framing. In speaking of discovering the yearbook as a child, Selzer says, "I had never seen anything like it, I looked at it late at night, for years and showed it to any friends who would show interest. It was a radical document I had stumbled upon that felt like a guide to living."

Curated by **Michael Mosby**, ***i.de.al.is.tic*** brings together the work of artists **Anthony Akinbola**, **Sean Desiree**, and **Marcus Leslie Singleton**. The exhibition explores each artist's relationship to the concept of idealism—the unrealistic aim for perfection. Singleton deals with the everyday, while Akinbola abstracts the

concept of a Black identity, and Desiree objectively describes the inherent beauty in public housing units. In each of these artist's practices there is an acceptance of imperfection, and through this resolve a true picture of a complex Black narrative emerges. Mosby states, "We all yearn for perfection. Perhaps this desire is spawn from the failures of our day to day. We seek refuge from this desire in people, places, and things. However only in art is there a symbiosis between the idealistic and its shadow."

As a first-generation Nigerian American, **Anthony Akinbola** works to reconcile the three cultures that make up his identity: "The African," "The American," and "The Negro." Using culturally significant objects such as Durags, Torino Brushes, and Palm Oil, Akinbola explores how stereotypical notions of race, identity, and culture are embedded into current society. He seeks to mitigate the divide between Africa and Black America by combining multiple identities from both worlds in search of a truer meaning of self.

Marcus Leslie Singleton's paintings reflect reality, depicting moments of the strange world we are currently experiencing, making them atemporal. His goal is not to make these moments outlast time, but rather to be honest about the thoughts and experiences within each moment. Filtered through his own personal experiences, he reacts honestly to the current world, asking questions, analyzing people's actions and motivations. He seeks to expand on what this time means to people, to encourage introspection on who we all are, and what each of us believe.

Using found wood from pallets, demolished buildings, and discarded scraps, **Sean Desiree** creates geometric works guided by a commitment to highlight stories of resistance. Desiree's two-dimensional works depict aerial views of public housing units in Upstate, New York. Through the use of intricate wood inlay and patterning, Desiree celebrates the beauty, resilience, and complexities comprising each unit. The proceeds from the sale of these works fund grants for local artists and makers residing in Upstate public housing.

Shane Aslan Selzer (b. 1977, Washington, D.C.) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She is an artist, writer, and organizer whose practice develops micro-communities where artists can expand on larger social issues such as critical exchange, critique, and failure. Selzer's collaborative video work has been exhibited at Julia Stoschek Collection in Berlin (2019) and Tabakalera in San Sebastian, Westfälischer Kunstverein in Münster (2018). Selzer is the founding editor of the Social Action Archive Committee (SAAC), whose work has been exhibited at the Children's Museum of the Arts, NY (2018) and the University Art Museum, Albany, NY (2015). Selzer is the Co-Editor of *What We Want Is Free: Critical Exchanges in Recent Art* (SUNY Press, 2014). Selzer received an M.A. and M.F.A. at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, California in 2004, and a B.S. at University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin in 2000.

Michael Mosby (b.1987, Bronx, NY) lives and works in Hudson, NY. He is a multidisciplinary performer and DJ professionally known as FULATHELA. He has performed both in the USA and abroad, most notably at AFROPUNK, Paris. Mosby is the co-founder of Free Range, a performance series that has been presented at Art Omi (2019) and The Halfmoon, Hudson (2019).

Anthony Akinbola (b. 1991, Columbia, Missouri) lives and works in Queens, NY. Solo exhibitions include Museum of Art and Design, NY (2020), Slag Gallery, NY (2020), WISH Gallery, Atlanta, GA (2020), and

Queens Museum, Queens, NY (2018). He has also participated in group exhibitions at Zukerman Museum, GA (2020), Pt. 2 Gallery, Oakland, CA (2020), and New Image Art Gallery, Hollywood, CA (2019). In 2019, Akinbola completed the Van Lier Fellowship at New York Museum of Art and Design. Akinbola attended high school in his parent's homeland of Lagos, Nigeria, and later moved back to America and settled in New York where he received a BA in Communications and Media at SUNY Purchase College in 2016.

Marcus Leslie Singleton (b. 1990, Seattle, Washington) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Solo exhibitions include Steve Turner, Los Angeles (2020), Journal Gallery, New York (2020), Turn Gallery, New York (2019), and Medium Tings, Brooklyn (2018). Singleton's work has been included in exhibitions at Frieze, Los Angeles and Office & Gallery, Los Angeles.

Sean Desiree (b. 1983, Bronx, NY) lives and works in Albany, NY. Solo and group exhibitions include *LIFTED: Public Housing, An Aerial Perspective*, MINNA, Hudson, NY (2019), Group Exhibition, D'Arcy Simpson Art Works, Hudson, NY (2019), *Oral History of Female Drummers*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (2016), *A Piece of the Dream*, The Albany Barn, Albany, NY (2015), and *Pop-Place*, Capitalize Albany Corporation, Albany, NY (2015). They are currently a 2020-2021 Engaging Artists Fellow at More Art, New York, NY. In addition to being a visual artist they are also a musician with the solo project, bell's roar. In 2018, they produced the ART FUNDS ART TOUR, a seven city concert series that ran from Albany, NY to Atlanta, GA.

Support for the University Art Museum exhibitions and programs is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and The University at Albany Foundation.

Museum Hours: Access may be limited to the campus community due to COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information on hours and visitor guidelines, please visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum, or call (518) 442-4035.

Contact: museum@albany.edu or call (518) 442-4035

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