

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWNDALE ARTIST STUDIO PROGRAM 2017-2018 PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

Houston, Texas – Lawndale Art Center is pleased to announce the participants for the twelfth round of the Lawndale Artist Studio Program. Artists selected for the program are Regina Agu, Shannon Crider, Morganne Nikole and Bria Lauren of thehtxpeopleproject.

The Artist Studio Program awards artists with dynamic support to develop their creative practice. The nine-month program runs from September 1 to May 31. Participants engage Lawndale as their hub, receive a \$3,000 honorarium, up to \$2,000 support for project development, and 24-hour access to a private studio. Other benefits include studio visits, professional development workshops, opportunities for travel, and exchanges with peer institutions. With this support, ASP participants develop new work to debut in a public exhibition at Lawndale in the spring and is accompanied by a publication.

The 2017-2018 Artist Studio Program participants were selected by a panel of three art professionals; Alhena Katsos, New York-based independent curator; Dean Daderko, curator at the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; and Lily Cox-Richard, Artist Studio Program Director.

33 artists have participated in the Lawndale Artist Studio Program since its inception in 2007. Through the program, Lawndale has provided over \$200,000 in direct financial support to local artists for the creation of new work.

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About the Artists

Regina Agu is a visual artist and writer. She creates drawings, installations, photographs, performances, texts, and collaborative public projects. Her work is conceptually oriented towards language, history and representation. Agu addresses these as they coalesce and intersect in contemporary ideas around the landscape. Her work has been included in exhibitions, public readings, and performances nationally, including recent showings at The Drawing Center in New York, the American University Museum Katzen Arts Center in DC, Art League Houston, Project Row Houses, and The Station Museum. She is a 2016-2017 Open Sessions participant at The Drawing Center, a partner at Alabama Song, a collaboratively-run artist's space in Houston, and a co-founder of the independent small press, paratext.



Regina Agu, *Sea Change* (installation view at Project Row Houses), 2016, Vinyl Print, 6ft x 80ft

Shannon Crider (born 1985, New York, NY) resides in Houston, Texas, after receiving her MFA in Printmedia from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2016). She has exhibited throughout the United States, including the 2013 Texas Biennial, Artists Looking at Art at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, and Hardesty Arts Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Through re-photographing and re-staging stills from television, Crider's work investigates the impact of contemporary representations of women in our televisual culture. Her two-and three-dimensional works employ collage, sewing, and print to construct new spaces that reflect the psychogenic space of female subjectivity in popular culture. Crider received her BFA from Oklahoma City University (2008)



Shannon Crider, *UnReal (Gaps)*, 2016

Shannon Crider, *UnReal (Gaps)*, 2016

Bria Lauren and **Morganne Nikole**, known collectively as *thehtxpeopleproject*, are a queer-people-of-color creative pair based in Houston, Texas. Together, the two adapt the heartbeat of film, photography, and storytelling to isolate oppression and offer a re-articulated language on freedom and equality. Since the project's inception in 2015, the collective has released two documentary films titled *NAKED* (2016) and *creating space* (2017). Each body of work proactively aims to challenge societal standards and conformist ideas through raw and uncensored visual storytelling. The project has noted creative collaboration credits with Diverse Works, Project Row Houses, Folklore Films, BLMHTX , Outsmart Magazine, Forward Times Newspaper and AFROPUNK.



thehtxpeopleproject, *Placement*, 2017

For more information on Lawndale Art Center and the Lawndale Studio Artist Program, please visit www.lawndaleartcenter.org

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