Black Things in White Spaces

Dominique Duroseau

Sept. 23 - Oct. 28, 2017
Gallery Aferro Main Gallery
73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION
September 23rd, 2017
7pm - 10pm

GALLERY HOURS
Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment

Black Things in White Spaces is a continuum of Dominique’s recent interrogations into race relations in the Americas, and the residual tensions formed from centuries of enslavement of black peoples, especially with regard to the objectification of black women. Duroseau delves into this fertile artistic ground to consider the phenomenon of the commodification of black culture by mainstream society. Her work reflects a particular unease with the duality of American culture that commercializes African Americans, while concomitantly exhibiting indifference to their struggles. It is against this socio-political backdrop that Duroseau’s spoken word pieces, performances, prints and sculptures reflect upon America’s uneasy relationship with people of color – a relationship that simultaneously denigrates and adulates black culture. Duroseau’s work engages viewers in a discourse about race, racism, race relations and sexism in a country replete with its own unique arrangements of systemic institutionalized injustice towards African Americans. Her work often includes historical references to novels, interviews, newspaper headlines and package design to put forth her ideas on race relations both past and present.
Duroseau creates narratives. She documents, cross-examines, creates cultural hybridizations. She de-contextualizes/re-contextualizes texts, topics, and issues on Black Culture’s constant striving within today’s society. She works within the cusp of her cultures as Haitian, American, and African Diaspora, then links unresolved issues across time as a political strategy. This takes into account the nuances of language and mannerisms, while illuminating social issues and injustice; depicting contemporary struggles against indifference, coded vernaculars, and entrenched economic dispositions.

The issues addressed in her works may at first seem outdated and irrelevant, but instead have actually remained persistent, and morphed. The work folds in residuals of colonial influence, women’s issues, and criticism of imperialist white-supremacist patriarchal cultures.

Dominique Duroseau is a Newark-based artist born in Chicago, raised in Haiti. Her interdisciplinary practice explores themes of racism, socio-cultural issues, and existential dehumanization; it questions the roles we play in society, highlights the fractures within the Black race, and emphasizes the oft-ignored objectification of women. The work creates narratives which document and focus on different overlapping elements in Black culture’s constant striving within today’s society; these take into account language, culture, injustice, coded vernaculars, entrenched economic dispositions, and depicts our contemporary struggles against indifference.

Exhibitions, performances, and screenings include SATELLITE ART and PULSE Play in Miami; The Brooklyn Museum, El Museo del Barrio, A.I.R. Gallery, Bronx-ArtSpace, Rush Arts Gallery and Smack Mellon in New York City; Index Arts, Project for Empty Space, and Gallery Aferro in Newark, NJ. She is an artist-in-residence at Gallery Aferro, and has curated “RAW FORMS FORUM,” a Performance Art group exhibition, at the Newark Museum. Duroseau holds a Bachelor’s in Architecture from the New Jersey School of Architecture and a Master of Arts in Fine Arts from Kean University.

www.dominiqueduroseau.com