

HEIGHTS ARTS

EKPHRASTACY

artists talk +
poets respond

IrRational

Objects

*Backwards
Into the
Future*

April 18, 2024

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Heights Writes Community Team
Cathy Barber, John Burroughs, Annie Holden,
Ray McNiece, Amy Rosenbluth, Catherine Wing.



Use the QR code to download
the program to your device.

2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio



Ohio Arts
COUNCIL



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Irrational Objects: Backwards Into the Future

While the installation is intended to work as a stand-alone exhibit, ***Irrational Objects: Backwards Into the Future*** is being presented in conjunction with No Exit's season long series, ***Surreality***.

Irrational Objects: Backwards Into the Future takes its inspiration from the many fantastical and utterly illogical objects created by the Dadaists and Surrealists in the opening decades of the 20th century. The concept behind the exhibition is two-fold: using the ideas and methods of the original Dadaists and Surrealists as a roadmap of sorts, the exhibit seeks to pay homage to the world that these iconoclastic artists conjured while also presenting something timely and relevant that speaks to our current age and circumstances. ***Irrational Objects: Backwards Into the Future*** is in part, about making the connections between what was and what is in hopes of reaffirming the continued relevance of the Dadaist-Surrealist ideologies.

Like many movements birthed in reaction to WWI, the Dadaist-Surrealists sought to reassess, rethink, and reconfigure the way that people thought and perceived the world around us and within us. The discord and upheaval that culminated in the horrors and devastation of the Great War served to many as a call for change. Rationalism and the 'ordered' world that had spawn from it had brought much of humanity to the brink, so perhaps the way forward was, in a manner of speaking, to embrace a far less rational world.

By changing our relationship with our unconscious mind - where our fears and desires manifest themselves unfettered - and by changing our fundamental perception and logical associations, there existed the possibility to revolutionize human experience.

Much of what the exhibition hopes to achieve (in some small measure at least) is what the original Surrealists sought to accomplish; providing a vehicle and a methodology to obtain a new sort of inner-liberation, a superior reality: surreality. Additionally, given that Dadaism-Surrealism makes ample use of the absurd, the unexpected and the uncanny, the hope is that ***Irrational Objects: Backwards Into the Future*** will serve to, in a thoughtful manner, entertain and amuse those who experience the installation.

PROGRAM

Rachel Bernstein
Siaara Freeman

Timothy Beyer

Siaara Freeman

Philip Metres

Beks Freeman

Carrie George

Philip Metres

Siaara Freeman

Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks

Artist Remarks

“The Hardest One Yet”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
fruit basket

“Object for Spiritual Adoration”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
object for spiritual adoration

“An Admiration for Rebuilding”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
object for spiritual adoration

“Poem with Three Birds and a Window”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
*environment for three overweight
parakeets*

“Daily We Carry War in Our Pockets”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
*environment for three overweight
parakeets*

“I’m Not Sure What You Want From Me At
This Point”

After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
the housewarming gift

PROGRAM

Philip Metres

“White Elephant”
After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
the housewarming gift

Jeremy Paul

Artist Remarks

Philip Metres

“Against the Grievance Industry”
After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
memento mori

Beks Freeman

“Above the Storm of Self Doubt”
After Jaime Cohen-Kiraly and Jeremy Paul’s
nocturna

Carrie George

“Night Terrors”
After Edwin Wade’s
Night Terror or Terreur Nocturne

Philip Metres

“Night Terror or Terreur Nocturne”
After Edwin Wade’s
Night Terror or Terreur Nocturne

Siaara Freeman

“A Fair Question”
After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
*a future dream of the recently
deceased W. Pembrose*

Philip Metres

“A Future Dream of the Recently
Complicit”
After Timothy Beyer and Jeremy Paul’s
*a future dream of the recently
deceased W. Pembrose*



PROGRAM

Steven Mastroianni

Artist remarks

Carrie George

“If Light”
After Steven Mastroianni’s
Slow Memory #1

Philip Metres

“Slow Memory #1”
After Steven Mastroianni’s
Slow Memory #1

Beks Freeman

“Nighttime Tempest Thoughts”
After Frank Locomotive’s
Detachment

Siaara Freeman

“Literally Translated to The Black
Blood”
After Edwin Wade’s
Le Sang Noir

Philip Metres

“Le Sang Noir”
After Edwin Wade’s
Le Sang Noir

Carrie George

“Anatomy of Light”
After Steven Mastroianni’s
Slow Memory #2

HEIGHTS ARTS UPCOMING EVENTS

The Black Rosies Gallery Concert

May 10

A newly formed ensemble, The Black Rosies, take center stage in a performance that promises a unique blend of talent and purpose. Theresa May and Shanyse Strickland, two accomplished musicians and educators, joined forces to create The Black Rosies, and by merging their talents and experiences, May and Strickland have crafted a repertoire that transcends genres. See them at Heights arts at 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 10. Admission is free, courtesy of the Local 4 Music Fund.

No Exit's Year of Surreality: Breaking the World May 23

The final series of No Exit's **Surreality** programs, **Breaking the World**, will employ the ideology, concepts and goals of the Surrealists to embrace the unexpected and perform works that endeavor to break the constraints of the 'rational' and ordered world. Featured on this program will be new works by composer and pianist Jerome Begin, vocalist and performance artist Lauren Pearl, composer and experimental harpist Stephen Haluska, composer and filmmaker-pianist James Praznik, and an alternate ensemble rendition of Marcel Duchamp's *Erratum Musical*. No Exit concerts are always free, and you can hear them at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

Surrealism Panel Discussion

May 26

As part of No Exit's season of **Surreality**, please join us for an entertaining and informative panel discussion about surrealism featuring three of Cleveland's leading art luminaries: former Senior Curator of Modern Art at the Cleveland Museum of Art William Robinson, Art Historian and Director of European Art at Heritage Auctions Marianne Berardi, and Professor of Art History at Case Western Reserve University Henry Adams. The talk takes place at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 26.

EKPHRASTACY:

Ekphrastic poetry is a time-honored form in which the writer is inspired by and responds to a work of art in another discipline such as the visual arts, sculpture, dance and music. The word ekphrastic comes from the Greek word ekphrasis, which means (freely translated) an ecstatic utterance.

POETS

Siaara Freeman

Siaara Freeman is from Cleveland Ohio, where she is the current Lake Erie Siren. She is a 2023 Room in the House fellow with Karamu House Theatre and a 2022 Catapult fellow with Cleveland Public Theater. In 2021 Siaara filmed a commercial for the Cleveland Museum of Art and participated with #TeamYellowBrickRoad for the Black Joy Experience. She is a 2021 Premier Playwright fellow recipient with Cleveland Public Theatre. Her work appears in The Journal, Josephine Quarterly, Cleveland Magazine and elsewhere. She has had multiple poems go viral and has toured both nationally and internationally. Siaara is the Curriculum Development Manager at the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, and the artistic director for Artworks. She is the current Poet Laureate of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. When she is not working she is likely by a lake, thinking of Toni Morrison and talking to ghosts. Her first full length manuscript *Urbanshee* is available with Button Poetry.

Beks Freeman

Where there is a sword to be swung, song to be sung, or tale to be spun, there you'll find B. T. Freeman (they/he). AKA "the sword-wielding chaos goblin," they are an actor-combatant, writer, and singer/musician from West Lafayette, Indiana. Currently an actor-teacher for Great Lakes Theater's school



Beks Freeman

residency program, he's passionate about using stories to empower others. Their poetry is published in *The NonBinary Review*, *Clinch*, *Querencia Press*, *Beyond the Veil Press*, and more. When B. T. isn't writing, you'll likely find him onstage or growing their collection of stage-worthy swords.

Carrie George

Carrie George is a poet and teacher living in Akron, OH. She received her MFA from Kent State University and the Northeast Ohio MFA program. She is the manager at Elizabeth's Bookshop & Writing Centre. She is coeditor of "Light Enters the Grove: Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park Through Poetry," forthcoming from Kent State University Press in 2024, and her work has appeared in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *The Indianapolis Review*, and elsewhere.

Philip Metres

Philip Metres is a poet, scholar, translator, essayist, playwright, and peacebuilder. He is the author of twelve books, including *Fugitive/Refuge* (2024), *Ochre & Rust: New Selected Poems of Sergey Gandlevsky* (2023), *Shrapnel Maps* (2020), *The Sound of Listening: Poetry as Refuge and Resistance* (2018), and *Sand Opera* (2015). His work has garnered fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation,

Philip Metres

the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Watson Foundation. He has been awarded the Adrienne Rich Award, three Arab American Book Awards, the Cleveland Arts Prize, and the Hunt Prize. His poems have been translated into Arabic, Farsi, French, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Tamil. He is professor of English and director of the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program at John Carroll University, and Core Faculty at Vermont College of Fine Arts. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.



VOLUNTEER FOR A HEIGHTS ARTS COMMUNITY TEAM

Heights Arts has a long history of inviting the community to share their passion and expertise to help the Organization develop and present its public programming. Three ongoing Volunteer Community Teams are charged with facilitating the strategies and action plans for Heights Arts core programming in the literary, musical, and visual arts disciplines. The purpose of Heights Arts' community teams is to expand community engagement in developing and presenting the programs of the organization and to tap the significant expertise that resides in our community. We invite poets, musicians, artists, and other members of the community to work with us to select and showcase the region's visual artists, poets, and musicians in our literary, musical, and exhibition programming.

To read more about our community teams and submit an application, visit us [HERE](https://www.heightsarts.org/volunteer-community-teams/)
<https://www.heightsarts.org/volunteer-community-teams/>

BECOME A HEIGHTS ARTS MEMBER

Now more than ever, we appreciate your consideration to give to Heights Arts by becoming a member. As a member of Heights Arts, you receive discounts, special invitations, members-only events, and perks from our community partners. Your membership is tax-deductible and you have the opportunity to say you are helping to support local artists, musicians, creative writers, and public art in the community. You'll have your finger on the pulse of all things Heights Arts. What are you waiting for?

Join us today! Membership information can be found [HERE](https://www.heightsarts.org/membership/)
<https://www.heightsarts.org/membership/>

JOIN HEIGHTS ARTS AS A STORE AND EXHIBITION INTERN

Heights Arts is seeking an Exhibition and Store Intern to assist in administering all aspects of its exhibitions, its yearly Holiday Store, year-round Store, and staffing during other events. The Exhibition and Store intern position lasts 12 months, from May 1 through April 30. Internships are available for university undergraduate and graduate-level students and recent graduates of university programs. Working artists will be evaluated and accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Read the full job description and apply [HERE](https://www.heightsarts.org/employment/)
<https://www.heightsarts.org/employment/>

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