



BAREBONES PRESS RELEASE

BareBones Press

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Artists Announced for BareBones 2020: Pop-Up Works through November 7 and Online Showcase in mid-November

Minneapolis, October 29, 2020 – BareBones Puppets announced today that forty Twin Cities artists have been selected to participate in BareBones 2020, co-facilitated by two theater artists, Harry Waters Jr. and Lelis Brito. This will be the twenty-seventh in the long-standing series of outdoor performance spectacles launched by the Minneapolis-based performing arts organization's founders, Alison Heimstead, Mark Safford, Suzy Deak and other artists in 1993. Recognized as the local public art space to honor death, loss, grief and remembering for the Twin Cities' communities, BareBones delivers this year a multifaceted collaboration entitled *OFFERINGS: Artists Respond to the Mourning, Grieving and Fires on Lake Street*. From October 25 to November 7, the artists will feature pop-up works in a variety of public outdoor locations along Lake Street and neighboring blocks. This year's fresh take will replace any live events where the public is invited due to the safety concerns of COVID-19. For the online map of pop-up works and their locations and times, visit www.BareBonespuppets.org. Details on the online retrospective in mid-November to be announced.

Waters Jr. and Brito remarked, "We're at a pivotal moment in history and the time is ripe for a quantum leap in the anti-racism work that BareBones has been exploring for many years. We want to facilitate a BareBones 2020 that gives voice to the myriad of cultural communities in the Twin Cities, keeps the core BareBones traditions intact, includes the expertise of long-established BareBones artists, explores our collective grief, acknowledges BareBones' histories and centers South Minneapolis, the epicenter of current changes. *OFFERINGS* is witnessed on a continuum, from the artist reflecting on their role in history as they make the work, to the people surrounding the artist and interacting intimately with their art, to the broader community encountering a finished expression."

Peter Schulze, BareBones' long-time board member, commented, "This year has been a huge challenge for BareBones as a community-based arts organization. This time of COVID-19 is in direct contradiction with our model of gathering people to support our communities. At the same time, the events surrounding the killing of George Floyd by police and unrest that has followed has generated a great need to process and express our collective grief. In conjuring their vision for BareBones 2020, Harry and Lelis have given voice to artists from within communities. I can't wait to see the work of these exceptional artists."



Harry Waters Jr. and Lelis Brito, Sunday walk on Lake St. October 11, 2020. Photo ©Paul Irmiter.

Facilitators Brito and Waters Jr. have been engaging the artists over the past month in the exploration of their most resonant work through guided walks down Lake Street on Sundays. Brito and Waters Jr. noted, "The walks are vital to our process. This is a unique opportunity for the community of artists to not only engage each other about their work, but also their personal stories, the transformations occurring on Lake Street, and the stories that emerge from the uprisings in South Minneapolis."

A broad range of pop-up works will activate multiple outdoor locations and interstitial public spaces along East Lake Street and neighboring blocks over the next two weeks in October. A small number of works will occur in the artist's home, a studio or rove between their personal space to the street or for online viewing.

The artists in *OFFERINGS*, ranging from early to seasoned makers, are working in puppetry, sculpture, dance, performance, installation, sound, film, video, photography, textile, digital art and design. Among the artists is Masanari Kawahara whose piece, *8 min. 46 sec. (movement for healing) on Lake Street* combines Butoh movement with a soundscape by Sho Nikaido. Kawahara has begun pop-up solos at different spots, on weekends in October. Schulze noted, "During the artist walk on Lake Street, I heard their ideas and saw the results of the team and board's efforts in creating *OFFERINGS*. I felt honored to have witnessed Masanari Kawahara's piece surrounded by the crumbled buildings."



8 min. 46 sec. (movement for healing) on Lake St.
solo performance by Masanari Kawahara
October 18, 2020. Photo ©Paul Irmiter



Altar to Obatalá by Christie Owens
Haircuts for Change, installed October 1, Robert's Annex
Photo ©Paul Irmiter

Samuel Babatunde Ero-Phillips and Mack the Barber also known as George MacIntyre constructed their pop-up barbershop, *Haircuts for Change*, on October 1, transforming Robert's Annex at Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. Christie Owens whose *Altar to Obatalá* of candles, flowers, and imagery honors the life of George Floyd and centers on healing, sits in the barbershop. BareBones is a co-contributor to the artist trio's project in partnership with Creative Citymaking. Elliott Etzhorn whose sound installation invites people to say the names of lost ones in memory and play back the recorded loop will later engage with the barbershop's platform, further activating Robert's Annex.



Samuel Babatunde Ero-Phillips (left) and Mack the Barber (right)
Haircuts for Change, installed October 1, 2020, Robert's Annex. Photo by ©Paul Irmiter

Of the 40 pop-up works, most activate community spaces including: Angela Maki North whose sculpture addresses homelessness will activate her yard and neighboring yards at 34th Street and Bloomington Ave.; Baki Porter whose altar with seven stations will inhabit R.A.R.E. House; Gustavo Adolfo Boada Rivas whose high relief mural *De Colores*, inspired by the anthem of the Farmer Workers Movement and portrays

the goddess of water will be installed at Robert's Annex; Hannah Mississippi whose ghostly white horse puppetry addresses white supremacy and how community moves forward, will pedal around George Floyd Memorial Square; Kallie Melvin whose flowers from found objects and fabric and Laura Korynta whose chrysalis sculpture address grief and loss will be installed together in the Tamales y Bicicletas garden; Kari Tauring in collaboration with Kurt Seaberg whose textile sculpture connects root culture and responsibility will hang down the façade of Ingebretsen's Nordic Marketplace; Naye-Taye Burnett whose sculpture of a colorful fist representing Black pride and Black Trans Lives Matter will inhabit George Floyd Memorial Square while sibling, Niziah Osheen Burnett whose sewn dress with felt applique and paint marks the pain and change in the aftermath of protest will be created at home; Orren Fen whose life-sized wolf marionettes symbolizing the people who protected Lake Street will perform in public at night; Tara Fahey whose crocheted tears will lean into grief and hang from trees along Lake Street.

The complete list of artists follows:

Rox Anderson, Baki Porter & Chaim Budensky	Marian Lucas
Karly Bergmann	Mack the Barber also known as George MacIntyre
Queen Serena Black	Angela North
Gustavo Adolfo Boada Rivas	Caroline Manheimer
Naye-Taye Burnett	Ifrah Mansour
Niziah Osheen Burnett	Margo McCreary
Angie Courchaine	Kallie Melvin
Venus de Mars	Mollie Rae Miller
Samuel Babatunde Ero-Phillips	Hannah Missississippi
Elliott Etzkorn	Ofunshi Oba Kaso
Tara L. Fahey	Christie Owens
Orren Fen	Mary Plaster
Graci Horne	Baki Porter
Olli Johnson	Kurt Seaberg
Masanari Kawahara	Kari Tauring
Johanna Keller Flores	Kieran Tverbakk
Carolyn Kopecky	Oanh Vu
Laura Korynta	Andrea Wakely
Amber Lee	Indigenous Roots Arts Center (Collective)
Mina Leierwood	
Theresa Linnihan	

All selected artists have received financial support, material resources and artistic mentorship for creating work in BareBones 2020. Artists have been invited to submit their documented work for online publication by BareBones. The six artist mentors include Angie Courchaine, Tara Fahey, Masanari Kawahara, Theresa Linnihan, Gustavo Adolfo Boada Rivas and Mark Safford. Partner organizations that have contributed resources to the 2020 project include Teatro del Pueblo, Indigenous Roots Arts Center, R.A.R.E. House, Ingebretsen and MIGIZI Communications.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Additional support has been provided by Compas, the Safford Family and the greater BareBones community for their ongoing support over the years.

BareBones welcomes any contributions to support the artists. Donate at www.barebonespuppets.org.

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