



BAREBONES PRESS RELEASE

BareBones Press
Minneapolis, MN

communications@barebonespuppets.org

BareBones Puppets Launches the OFFERINGS Online Collection of 33 Works by Twin Cities Artists that Responded to the Mourning, Grieving and Fires on Lake St.

Minneapolis, December 7, 2020 – BareBones Puppets launches the online collection of *OFFERINGS: Artists Respond to the Mourning, Grieving and Fires on Lake St.* On view are 33 works that were activated on Lake St. by 38 artists for the outdoor pop-ups of *OFFERINGS* this past Halloween. Visit the videos, photos and stories behind the art in the collection at barebonespuppets.org.

Facilitated by established theater artists Lelis Brito and Harry Waters Jr., *OFFERINGS* delivers in BareBones 2020 a multifaceted collaboration that holds space for grief, loss, death, ancestors and remembrance for the Twin Cities. BareBones is committed to connecting its communities to this space by sharing this collection with people to experience from home.

Lelis and Harry noted, “we sought to facilitate a BareBones response that gave voice to the myriad cultural communities in the Twin Cities, kept the core BareBones traditions intact, included the expertise of long-established BareBones artists, explored our collective grief, acknowledged BareBones histories, and centered South Minneapolis, the epicenter of current changes.”

The collection reveals stories from the journey of *OFFERINGS*. The artists brought many voices from different neighborhoods, connected to one another as new and known members of BareBones and worked with versatility in puppetry, sculpture, murals, sound, film, poetry, performance, textile and design.

Among the thirty-eight contributing artists are: Serena Black whose mural *Black January* expressing her gratitude for ancestors, grief over loved ones lost to gun violence and frustration over the police brutality toward her people, activated Robert’s Annex; MollieRae Miller whose tapestries *Cotton Thoughts*, expressing the artist’s thoughts around the uprisings and quarantine hung in Midtown Global Market; Laura Korynta whose sculpture *Chrysal-Us* inviting explores how transformation of oppressive systems comes from within, is still open for public visits this winter at Tamales y Bicicletas Garden, 2819 15th Ave.



Serena Black
Photos by Paul Irmiter



MollieRae Miller



Laura Korynta

Although the collection showcases the recently performed works, also featured exclusively online are four works: Niziah Osheen Burnett’s textile dress *Beautiful Chaos*, which captures the anger and grief felt during and after the Minneapolis protests; Oanh Vu’s short film, *Pie in the Sky* (coming soon) where two puppet friends grapple with questions about police abolition and community safety; Venus de Mars’ epic compilation of *BareBones Orchestra Music 2015 to 2019* composed during her tenure as the BareBones Music Director; and Munir Kahar’s illustration, *Breathe*, which is one of six designs inspired by the focus of this year’s project.



Niziah Osheen-Burnett
Photo by Paul Irmiter



Munir Kahar
Photo courtesy of the artist



Lelis Brito (left), Harry Waters Jr. (right)
Photo by Paul Irmiter

Unlike past Halloween extravaganzas, BareBones in its 27th year turned its focus on supporting the individual artist. Back in October, the co-facilitators hosted walks with the artists down Lake St. where they exchanged stories and explored their ideas in relationship to the changing cultural corridor. Lelis and Harry commented, “New ways of being in our spaces are paramount as we seek to heal and celebrate. 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.”



Artists on Lake St.
Photo by Paul Irmiter



Graci Horne
Photo by Paul Irmiter



Kari Tauring and Kurt Seaberg
Photo courtesy of the artists

A number of artists had worked with local entities: Graci Horne whose tall figure honoring Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and banner that read: Black Lives Matter on Dakota Makoce stood in front of the Native-led group, MIGIZI Communications as she connected them in her spoken word. Kari Tauring and Kurt Seaberg worked with Ingebretsen’s Nordic Marketplace est. 1921 to hang *The Loom* that connects root culture to responsibility.

The complete list of artists in the online collection follows:

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| Amber Lee | Hannah Mississippi | Masanari Kawahara |
| Andrea Wakely | Ifrac Mansour | Mina Leierwood |
| Angela Maki North | Indigenous Roots Arts Center | MollieRae Miller |
| Baki Porter, Rox Anderson and | Kallie Melvin | Naye-Taye Burnett |
| Chaim Budenosky | Kari Tauring and Kurt Seaberg | Niziah Osheen Burnett |
| Carolyn Kopecky | Karly Bergmann | Oanh Vu |
| Christie Owens, Mack the | Kieran Myles-Andrés Tverbakk | Ofunshi Oba Koso |
| Barber and | and Johanna Keller Flores | Orren Fen |
| Sam Ero-Phillips | Laura Korynta | Serena Black |
| Elliott Etkorn | Margo McCreary | Tara L. Fahey |
| Graci Horne | Marian Lucas | Theresa Linnihan |
| Gustavo Alfonso Boada Rivas | Mary Plaster | Venus de Mars |

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 at barebonespuppets.org.

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