

In conjunction with our current exhibition, *Distance, Works on Paper by Skowhegan Alumni*, curated by Betsy Alwin and Steve Locke, Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs is pleased to present:

Testimony: Experiences in Migration, A Workshop with Shaun Leonardo

This workshop and performance will be tailored to exactly 24 participants. Those interested are asked to RSVP and arrive with a written or memorized testimony (whether the experience be direct or indirect, public or private) connected to the prompt: *Experiences of Migration*.

RSVP 718-937-6317 or rsvp@dorsky.org

The public is welcome to observe the workshop/performance at 1:00 pm.

In a closed, public-participatory workshop and performance, guests will locate intensely contested issues within their bodies. Against a backdrop of shifting perspectives and meanings, participants will translate their experiences into performative gestures. The group will embody each other's narratives, elusively tying each person in the room to one another.

Participants will be asked to wear blindfolds while enacting each other's testimonies through only minimal movement. Ultimately, the group is invited to discover themselves within new identities, in search not only for a personal truth at the heart of their own

experiences, but also a collective truth in regards to our inherent interconnectivity.



Shaun Leonardo *Testimony #1: Interactions with Police* - performance workshop at The Nathan Cummings Foundation for No Longer Empty: *Hold These Truths*, 12/16/2017. Photo by Whitney Browne.



Shaun Leonardo *Testimony #1: Interactions with Police* - performance workshop at The Nathan Cummings Foundation for No Longer Empty: *Hold These Truths*, 12/16/2017. Photo by Whitney Browne.

Shaun Leonardo's multidisciplinary work negotiates societal expectations of manhood, namely definitions surrounding black and brown masculinities, along with its notions of achievement, collective identity, and experience of failure. His performance practice is participatory in nature and invested in a process of embodiment, promoting the political potential of attention and discomfort as a means to disrupt meaning and shift perspective. Leonardo is a Brooklyn-based artist from Queens, New York City. He received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, is a recipient of support from Creative Capital and Guggenheim Social Practice and was recently profiled in the *New York Times*. His work has been presented in galleries and institutions, nationally and internationally, and featured at The Guggenheim Museum, the High Line, Recess, and VOLTA NY.

elcleonardo.com

For more information about *Distance, Works on Paper by Skowhegan Alumni*, please visit www.dorsky.org to download the PDF version of the brochure containing the curator's essay.



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