

GALLERY 400

400 SOUTH PEORIA STREET (MC 034)

Chicago, IL 60607

UIC SCHOOL OF ART & ART HISTORY

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Tues–Fri 10–6, Sat 12–6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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our duty to fight
April 27–June 11, 2016



Sarah-Ji of loveandstrugglephotos.com, #StopTheCops, 2015

March 3, 2016—Chicago, IL— ***our duty to fight*** is a call to join the rebellion being waged. Organized by **Black Lives Matter Chicago** (BLMChi) and allied movement organizations and projects, this exhibition both holds space for survivors and families bereft of justice and healing under anti-Black state violence and offers a living testament to the specific and shared struggles that have been at the core of radical, visionary world-making in Chicago organizing.

For the exhibition, new artworks by artists **Jireh L. Drake, Itunuoluwa Ebijimi, Makeba Kedem-DuBose, La Keisha Leek and Bryant Cross, Zakkiyyah Najeebah, Sherwin Ovid, Ariel Perkins-Fenwick, Shelby Stone, Ethos Viets-VanLear, Rhonda Wheatley, and Avery R. Young** are being created in collaboration with families and survivors waging struggles for accountability and respect for their fallen. Participating are the families of **Rekia Boyd, Dakota**

Bright, Dominique “Damo” Franklin Jr., Justus Howell, Ronald “Ronnieman” Johnson, Quintonio LeGrier, Flint Farmer, Darius Pinex, and Stephon Watts.

Accompanying these works will be artworks and ephemera highlighting the paths to recent intersectional movement victories such as the Level I Adult Trauma Center being developed in Hyde Park and the 2013 Reparations Ordinance for Chicago Police Torture Survivors. Also included is a new digital artwork by artist **James T. Green** referencing the Movement for Black Lives as made manifest in social media. Moreover, to enable multiple platforms for coming together, the exhibition will include an artist-designed space by **Cairá Lee Conner** for large and small-scale performances, workshops, and knowledge-sharing.

A series of exhibition programs aims to highlight trending questions and provocations raised by #BlackLivesMatter movement work: How are we to honor what survivors, families, and communities have lost—and what expectations for protection and representation they have abandoned—to envision and bring about grief, safety, and healing? How do we transform violence and oppression into self-defense and community autonomy? How do we envision a reality where Black Lives not only matter, but are *liberated*? *our duty to fight* spurs dialogue and action toward realizing liberation, abolishing oppressive systems, and maximizing opportunities to practice justice. Most directly, *our duty to fight* invites exhibition visitors to join the struggle against state repression and terror while working to build collective power.

Gallery 400 *our duty to fight* Programs:

Wednesday, April 27, 5-8pm—**Opening Reception: *our duty to fight***

Dates and Times TBD—

“La Candela” *Beyond Borders*, May Day presentation and panel discussion, celebrating *bomba* as a bridge to cultural coordinates found between Puerto Rican and African diasporas that also maps entrenched anti-Black violence endured by Black migrants and laborers.

Black Trans Lives, performances and presentations on recent movement victories toward Black Trans Liberation.

Black Skin/Blue Masks zine release

#WhereYoMagicAt? *Authoring Black Feminist Futures Online*, panel discussion on Black Woman digital culture-making

Saturday, June 11, Time TBD—**Closing Reception:** Featuring a presentation of work by movement performers and a panel discussion with *our duty to fight* artists.

Additional program details forthcoming.

Tours:

Gallery 400 offers guided tours for groups of all ages. Tours are free of charge but require reservation. Public tours of *our duty to fight* will begin at May 17, 2016. For more information, or

to discuss the specific needs and interests of your group, please contact us at 312 996 6114 or gallery400@uic.edu.

Major support for *our duty to fight* is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional support is provided by the School of Art & Art History, the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Daryl Gerber Stokols and Jeff Stokols Voices Series Fund provides general support to Gallery 400.

Founded in 1983, Gallery 400 is one of the nation's most vibrant university galleries, showcasing work at the leading edge of contemporary art, architecture, and design. The Gallery's program of exhibitions, lectures, film and video screenings, and performances features interdisciplinary and experimental practices. Operating within the School of Art and Art History in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Gallery 400 endeavors to make the arts and its practitioners accessible to a broad spectrum of the public and to cultivate a variety of cultural and intellectual perspectives. Gallery 400 is recognized for its support of the creation of new work, the diversity of its programs and participants, and the development of experimental models for multidisciplinary exhibition.