

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## SPONSORS

Special support for this project comes from FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, The Beamer-Schneider Professorship in Ethics of CWRU, and the City of Cleveland's Cable Television Minority Arts & Education Fund.

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# A COLOR REMOVED

AMBER N. FORD, AMANDA KING & SHOOTING  
WITHOUT BULLETS YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHERS,  
M. CARMEN LANE, MICHAEL RAKOWITZ,  
RA WASHINGTON

ON DISPLAY: JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AT  SPACES



# A COLOR REMOVED

The underlying questions of *A Color Removed* address the right to safety: Who has it? How is it constructed? How is it forgotten or contravened? How is it sustained? How does it serve to map urban space and to construct different experiences of community? What is it “To Serve and Protect”?

Cleveland has played a central role in the national conversation about police brutality. In the 2014 fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice by police, the victim who was—according to the police dispatch call—“pointing a gun at people” was, in fact, holding a toy gun with its orange safety tip removed. In response, *A Color Removed* formally commenced with a public letter writing campaign in the fall of 2017 that proposed the removal of orange from the city and the suspension of the color’s use in public spaces, as well as a city-wide open call for orange objects, which continue to be accumulated in collection bins installed throughout Cleveland.

A Cleveland tragedy requires a Cleveland response. While Michael Rakowitz (Chicago, IL) delivered the original provocation to visually displace symbols of safety, the project gained momentum with the involvement of Ms. Samaria Rice and the Tamir Rice Foundation. It continued to evolve, based on community feedback, to include a group exhibition of newly commissioned works by Cleveland artists who have long explored the conceptual underpinnings of *A Color Removed* in their work and in their lives: Amber N. Ford, Amanda King and Shooting Without Bullets youth photographers, M. Carmen Lane, and RA Washington of Guide to Kulchur Learn House. Additional collaborators include Jeremy Bendik-Keymer, Amir Berbic, Christopher Horne, Elaine Hullihen, and Kelley O’Brien & Anthony Warnick of The Muted Horn.

Through community participation of many forms and the gradual building of a monochrome installation of objects charged with memory and solidarity inside the SPACES gallery, *A Color Removed* delineates, unmarks, disturbs and makes luminescent the color lines in the city of Cleveland that currently define the right to safety.

# COLLECTION BIN LOCATIONS

Your voice and presence is essential to this conversation.

Please deposit your orange items at one of these locations, through September 30, 2018, to include them in the *A Color Removed* display:

Art House, Inc. / 3119 Denison Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109

Cleveland Institute of Art / 11610 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106

Cleveland Public Library, Eastman Branch / 11602 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44111

The FRONT Porch / 1470 E. 105th St, Cleveland, OH 44106

Guide to Kulchur / 5222 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland / 6600 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men’s Shelter / 2100 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114

Mac’s Backs-Books on Coventry / 1820 Coventry Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Rooms to Let, July 28 - 29 / 6720 Forman Ave, Cleveland, OH 44105

SPACES / 2900 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113

Waterloo Arts / 15605 Waterloo Rd, Cleveland, OH 44110

Consider your choice of item. How does it relate to the concerns of *A Color Removed*? If you wish, please write these reflections on a piece of paper attached to your item(s) or send an email to [acr@SPACESgallery.org](mailto:acr@SPACESgallery.org) identifying the object and the location of the bin where it has been deposited. All written reflections will be listed anonymously unless otherwise requested by its authors.

## RELATED EVENTS

July 14, 5 - 7 PM

Celebrate the opening of *A Color Removed* with the participating artists. Ms. Samaria Rice will offer a menu consisting of Tamir's favorite foods, to make him present in a project that is about his death. FREE!

*My Neighbor's Keeper: Who Is Responsible for My Safety?*

Join SPACES for monthly discussions on how we, as a community, can work together to expand safety to all. FREE!

July 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Youth & Violence

August 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Safety and Marginalized Communities

September 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Holistic Safety in Black Liberation: A Conversation with Amplifying Black, Indigenous, & POC Voices (AMP)

July 28, Noon - 1 PM & 1:10 - 2:10 PM

*Questions of Safety Answered by Children of Color* is a public art project centering listening, making, and imagined futures. There are a limited number of seats for this program and RSVP is required: (mepps@spacesgallery.org). FREE!

August 2, 6 - 8:30 PM

Let's revisit Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book on hope and social engagement in *Where Do We Go from Here, Today?*, organized by the Moral Inquiries discussion group. FREE!

August 4, 2 - 4 PM

In *Trauma, Yoga and the Brain*, with Elaine Hullihen, learn how the brain responds to trauma and how trauma-informed yoga aims to create a space for us to cope. FREE!

September 15, 12 - 3 PM

Participate in V2V, a student-generated proposal to shift from thinking about urban violence to thinking about urban violation. FREE!

Additional information about the exhibition and related events can be found here: [www.SPACESgallery.org](http://www.SPACESgallery.org)

## A COLOR REMOVED: 8 POINTS

1. *A Color Removed* is a project that serves as a provocation to generate many others.

2. *A Color Removed* began as a project specific to Cleveland but now in the aftermath of Black Lives Matter will consider the endemics of gun violence, militarism, and racism across American cities as well as global ones, while maintaining an anchor here.

3. *A Color Removed* formally commenced with the impossible yet necessary accumulation of any and all orange items in public and private space to be collected and delivered through an open call.

4. SPACES is a primary repository for the orange items. Other sites, such as Guide to Kulchur and any libraries, community centers, social clubs, etc. who wish to volunteer as repositories may do so.

5. The repositories will provide tables and seating where needed to accommodate meetings by different groups and individuals who wish to congregate, discuss, debate, mourn, resolve issues related to police violence, racism, militarism, gentrification, poverty, fear, anger, and hatred—all issues that contributed to the killing of Tamir Rice.

6. *A Color Removed* deploys a poetic directive and visual backdrop to provide a platform for infinite discussions. It is an artwork that creates the space where different activist groups and people—some of whom might never connect in the same physical space—will be bound together against an orange backdrop. *A Color Removed* is an artwork that does not want a place at the table but would rather be the table and construct an environment where fearless listening can enable fearless speaking.

7. *A Color Removed* explores the bureaucratic attitude toward color, in all contexts, including living and non-living subjects.

8. The authors of *A Color Removed* do not seek to become organizers in place of the already impressive and diverse community of organizers and activists in Cleveland. The authors do not seek to speak for anyone nor do they wish to take up any space from the survivors and victims of institutional racism and gun violence.

# ARTIST BIOS

**Amber N. Ford** (b. 1994) primarily works in photography while occasionally exploring printmaking, video and sound. She is interested in topics such as race, and identity. She is best known for her work in portraiture, which she refers to as a “collaborative engagement between photographer and sitter.” While always questioning “the truth,” Ford aims to establish a platform in which her sitter may present themselves as they please. Ford received her BFA in Photography from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2016. [www.ambernford.com](http://www.ambernford.com)

**Amanda King** (b. 1989) is an activist/artist living in Cleveland, Ohio. Her work explores themes of race, gender, socioeconomics, trauma and community. She is the Founder and Creative Director of Shooting Without Bullets, an expressive arts program that provides a framework for black and brown youth in Cleveland to develop and utilize their artistic voice to process the complex social issues affecting their lives and community. King holds a B.A. in art history from Bryn Mawr College and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. [www.shootingwithoutbullets.org](http://www.shootingwithoutbullets.org)

**Amir Berbić's** graphic design work explores place identity, three-dimensional typography and design pedagogy. He is a frequent collaborator with cultural organizations, arts institutions and publishers. Berbić is Associate Professor and Chair of Graphic Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He served as Acting Director of the UIC School of Design and is currently Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the UIC College of Architecture, Design and the Arts.

Born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Berbić immigrated to Chicago in the 1990s, where he completed his design education and began a career in editorial design and independent publishing. He holds a BFA in graphic design from UIC and an MFA in visual communication from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to joining UIC in 2014, Amir taught design at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates; while in this role, he examined branding campaigns for Dubai's architectural developments. Amir's work has been featured in numerous academic and professional publications, conferences, and exhibitions including Visual Communication, Design Issues, Print, ICOGRADA, AIGA Design Educators Conference, TypeCon, Society of Typographic Arts, and Salone del Mobile in Milan. His work is included in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. [www.amirberbic.com](http://www.amirberbic.com)

# ARTIST BIOS

**M. Carmen Lane** (b. 1975) is a two:spirit African-American and Haudenosaunee (Mohawk/Tuscarora) artist, cultural worker, poet, popular educator and consultant living in Kahyonhá:ke (Cleveland, Ohio). Lane received their BA in Women's Studies with a focus in feminist art history, theory & criticism from Earlham College and later earned their MS in Organization Development & Change from American University. Their work has been published in numerous journals and anthologies including the Lambda Literary Award nominated *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two Spirit Literatures*. Lane's first collection of poetry is *Calling Out After Slaughter* (GTK Press, 2015). They are the Founder and Director of ATNSC: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership, an urban retreat center and experiment in holistic health, leadership development and Indigenous arts & culture located in the historic Buckeye neighborhood. Lane is a member of NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science and Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. [www.atnsc.org](http://www.atnsc.org)

**Michael Rakowitz** (b. 1973) lives and works in Chicago. His work has appeared in venues worldwide, including dOCUMENTA (13), P.S.1, MoMA, MassMOCA, the 16th Biennale of Sydney, the 10th Istanbul Biennial, Sharjah Biennial 8, Tirana Biennale, National Design Triennial at the Cooper-Hewitt, and Transmediale 05. He has had solo exhibitions at Tate Modern (London), Lombard Freid Gallery (NYC), Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea (Torino), and Kunstraum (Innsbruck).

In 1998 Rakowitz initiated *paraSITE*, an ongoing project of custom-built inflatable shelters for homeless people that attach to the exterior outtake vents of a building's HVAC system. *Enemy Kitchen* (2003-ongoing) is a food truck serving Iraqi food in Chicago, staffed by Iraq War veterans working under Iraqi refugee chefs. Rakowitz was recently awarded the 2018-20 public art commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London. He is Professor of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University and is represented in Chicago by Rhona Hoffman Gallery. [www.michaelrakowitz.com](http://www.michaelrakowitz.com)

**RA Washington** (b. 1970) is an accomplished Cleveland writer, poet, organizer and musician and is currently the producer of the Afrofuturist quartet, Mourning [A] BLKstar. He is the Executive Director of Guide to Kulchur, a bookshop that endeavors to rebuild the cultural foundations of underinvested neighborhoods and incite movements of community revitalization that are culture based, artist led, and neighborhood driven. Additionally, he is the mind behind the label Cleveland Tapes Electro Collective, which acts as an incubator for futurist art, media and music. [www.guidetokulchur.com](http://www.guidetokulchur.com)