THREE NEW ARTIST PROJECTS DEBUT AT SPACES IN SUMMER 2019

(Cleveland, OH) – Aligned with its mission of serving as the resource and public forum for artists who explore and experiment, SPACES offers two new artist projects by Marisa Williamson (Newark, NJ) and Mona Gazala (Columbus, OH) that establish radically new views on the interdependence of causation and history. These projects will be shown alongside a video program of works by electronic media artist Paloma Kop (New York, NY).

Marisa Williamson, Room
June 21 - August 2, 2019
Front Gallery

Room is an interactive multimedia installation, performance, and speculative retelling of historical narratives inspired by the lives of three women, enslaved in colonial America: Phillis Wheatley, Tituba of Salem Village, and Sally Hemings. The project—developed by Marisa Williamson during her residency at SPACES, and in cooperation with national and local collaborators—is a variation on the pop culture “escape room” phenomenon offering players the opportunity to compete against the clock to solve puzzles using clues, hints, and strategy. Room takes up the themes of blackness, privilege, genealogies of resistance, and the possibility of escape as they may, or may not, be compatible with the escape room structure, rules, and form.

Visitors are encouraged to sign-up for an hour-long interactive experience in the gallery that is intended to introduce them to historical characters, ask them to consider the events of their lives, and invite them to solve puzzles toward a reward of freedom. Space is limited and RSVP is required, here: http://bit.ly/SPACES_room

Mona Gazala, Disarticulated
June 21 - August 2, 2019
The George Gund Foundation Gallery

Disarticulated began with a research trip to Peoria, Illinois, where Mona Gazala studied the city's culture and economy in relationship to Caterpillar, Incorporated. Caterpillar sells heavy equipment, which is used to destroy Palestinian homes, to the Israeli military. While in Peoria, Gazala enlisted the help of fellow artists in completing a relational artwork: removing a piece of rubble from a destroyed house in Palestine, and relaying it 6,000 miles back to Peoria, where the mechanism of its destruction first began. This rubble acts as the focal point for Disarticulated, a word that refers to burials in which the skeletal remains are not joined or whole—a fitting analogy for the diaspora of the Palestinian people. It also refers to the cognitive dissonance of western perception when it comes to the history and humanity of Palestinians.