

BLACK SPATIAL RELICS

**HYBRID ANNUAL CONVENING
MAY 4 - 7 2023**

2023

° ANEW CONJURING:
° STIRRING UP BLACK VIRTUOSIC HOPE

PRESS RELEASE

WWW.BLACKSPATIALRELICS.ORG

ABOUT THE CONVENING

Artist and scholar Dr. Omi Osun Joni L Jones names virtuosity as “the paradox of humility and fearlessness” in her work *Theatrical Jazz: Performance, Àṣẹ, and the Power of the Present Moment*. Black radical performance makers are rooted in what Jones refers to as the practices of ensemble and solo based-virtuosity. Black radical performance makers know when spirit is calling us forward for moments of virtuosic practice to be lights and beacons in our communities – a series of calls from the wilderness to gather, remember and dream. In this convening space, we are making a new thing together. We are conjuring ourselves and our conspiracy anew.

In this gathering, giving honor and praise to Black dignity, love, pride, faith, resilience, devotion, leadership, and vision, we are holding space for the stirring up of hope. Hope is a hard word and in fact sentiment to spend time with. In the last few years alone, in fact in the last few months, there are endless reasons to durationally exist in and with hopelessness and despair. As dear colleagues and friends have reminded me over the years, hope has been weaponized against us. We have many valid reasons to distrust hope. We shore it up, we are given it and then we are let down again. And this convening is a space to acknowledge, hold space and tenderness for this despair and grief. Bring that despair. There is nothing but space for that here.

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And also we are wondering, here at Black Spatial Relics, what happens to us as individuals and as a people when we decide we do not need hope? Hope may not endure. It may only flicker. It may only be a fleeting kindling, but it is a kindling that our spirits, bodies, movements, art and communities need in order that we can have dreaming and forward movement.

This gathering is a space for a stirring up of a new hope, inspired entirely by the study of our ancestral and living leaders who have built for themselves and their communities a daily practice of Black virtuosic hope. Featuring Dr. Omi Osun Joni L Jones, Awilda Sterling Duprey, Sonja Dumas, AZ Espinoza, nikolai mckenzie ben rema, Monèt Marshall, Candice D'Meza, LaRissa Rogers, Arielle John, Abdul-Aliy Muhammad and many others, this is a constellation of artist talks, ceremonies, a performance showcase and varied conjures/facilitations on Black virtuosic hope building in Philadelphia and beyond with virtual and in-person programming from May 4 – 7th.

This is a revival. Come prepared to receive the spirit.



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SINCE 2016, BSR HAS SUPPORTED:

24

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE (OFFERED SUPPORT IN A 2,500.00 AWARD, DRAMATURGICAL SUPPORT AND PRESENTING OPPORTUNITIES)

25

MICROGRANTS (MICROGRANTS WERE INITIATED IN 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC TO SUPPORT BLACK COLLECTIVE RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY CARE EFFORTS.)

4

CONVENINGS (PRESENTING A SUITE OF BLACK RADICAL PERFORMANCE MAKERS FROM AROUND THE U.S.)

Black Spatial Relics is a national residency program, founded and directed by Arielle Julia Brown. The Black Spatial Relics Residency is made possible with support from the JKW Foundation, Velocity Fund, and independent donors. Black Spatial Relics is a fiscally sponsored project of both Fractured Atlas and Notch Theatre Company. For more information about the artists in residence, their work, past artists in residence, and the previous micro grantees, visit www.blackspatialrelics.org.