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Paul Robeson Galleries Announces Solo Exhibition by Ceaphas Stubbs

Phantom Limb Explores Black Sexuality, Nostalgia & Pleasure Through a Queer Lens

Newark, New Jersey -- Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark, Rutgers University - Newark is pleased to announce *Phantom Limb*, a solo exhibition by Ceaphas Stubbs. The exhibition is on view from May 17 through August 2, 2018 at the Robeson Campus Center Gallery (350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 1st Floor). A public reception will be held on May 24th from 5 to 7 o'clock in the evening with an artist talk at 5:30 p.m.

The works in *Phantom Limb* suggest the experience of desire and loss as altered states of embodiment. Stubbs creates sculptures from found, commonplace materials, such as discarded plastic bottles, scraps of fabric, bits of wire and yarn, chemically stained photographs, and pornographic magazine clippings. These sculptures are then arranged in and photographed against colorful, patterned backdrops, and the final image is printed at large scale.

The viewer is drawn to a photograph by its use of high key color and the flashes of flesh, like the line of a long neck or a muscled leg bent at the knee, all arranged in a fragile framework of string and scraps. The intensity of focus on body parts and the charm-like quality of the found materials invoke the concept of the fetish, and the overall form of the works nods to the tradition of still life, with its wealth of visual information.

The initial pleasure in looking is quickly followed by crisis of vision: determining the scale of the sculptures and the depth of the picture plane is a difficult task. This ambiguity is drawn out in the titles of works, with their repeated use of ellipses, pointing to the state of uncertainty and the temporality of anticipation. When in love or loss, the field of vision and feeling narrows dramatically. *Phantom Limb* pulsates with the claustrophobic effect of desire and puts the viewer in the position of the lover, always waiting, ever uncertain, obsessively analyzing the beloved's words and gestures.

"I am interested in challenging the limitations of the eye and the expectations of photography as a medium and what it has the potential to do," Stubbs asserts. "I like abstracting the body and photographic space to re-contextualize queer themes within a very 'straight'-forward medium."

Phantom Limb is the culmination of Stubbs' six-month residency at the Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark. The Artist-in-Residence is selected by a jury of art professionals and receives a stipend and free studio located in the former Hahne and Co. Department Store. During their six-month tenure, the artist is an active member of the dynamic community of Express Newark and Rutgers University - Newark.



Stubbs holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. His work has been shown widely, including in exhibitions at FiveMyles Gallery, Brooklyn; Reginald Ingraham Gallery, Culver City; Czong Institute for Contemporary Art Museum, Gimpo-si; Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark; The Print Center, Philadelphia; and The Center for Photography at Woodstock, amongst others. He was the recipient of a Christopher Lyon Memorial Award from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013 and nominated for the Master of Fine Arts Fellowships in Painting and Sculpture from the Dedalus Foundation in 2012. Stubbs has previously participated in residences at Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning; Express Newark; and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. His works have been reviewed in *The New York Times*; *Brooklyn Rail*; *SPACE/LAUNCH*; *Expose Magazine*; and *Agave Magazine*. Stubbs lives and works in Newark, New Jersey.

ABOUT THE PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES

The Paul Robeson Galleries' mission and programming embody Paul Robeson's life-long commitment to unfettered artistic freedom, cultural democracy, and transnationalism. The Paul Robeson Galleries is dedicated to presenting art and cultural artifacts as well as educational and public programming in the spirit of the diverse metropolitan context of Rutgers University - Newark, the Greater Newark communities, and the northeast region of New Jersey. The Gallery's programs strive to: present arts and visual culture exhibitions and events of the highest quality; enrich the University arts programs with cross-disciplinary collaborations; provide gallery educational experience to local and regional communities; strengthen collaborative relationships with Greater Newark's artistic, cultural, and educational organizations; advance Paul Robeson's legacy of encouraging cross-cultural artistic freedom and cultural democracy; emphasize the role of arts and culture in the shaping and functioning of society; reflect the spirit of the University's diverse metropolitan context; and enhance the quality of life for the campus and Greater Newark communities.

ABOUT EXPRESS NEWARK

Express Newark is a university–community collaboratory in Newark's historic Hahne and Co. building. A conceptual framework and an interdisciplinary learning space, Express Newark houses the Newest Americans; the Form Design Studio; the Design Consortium; Visual Means; Shine Portrait Studio; the Community Media Center; *Scarlet Magazine*; Newark Print Shop; Paul Robeson Galleries; and twenty-two resident artists in printmaking, photography, painting and video. At Express Newark, artists and community residents collaborate, experiment, and innovate in partnership with Rutgers University – Newark faculty, staff, and students with the goals of engaging in public work, creative practice, and democratic dialogue in order to promote positive transformation. Express Newark is co-directed by Victor Davson, founding director of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, Newark's longest lived and most respected gallery, and Anne Schaper Englot, RU-N professor of architecture and humanities in the interdisciplinary Arts, Culture and Media (ACM) Department.

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