

THE RESOURCE AND PUBLIC FORUM FOR ARTISTS WHO EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT

WHEN I
THINK OF
ORANGE, I
DON'T
THINK OF
RED AND
YELLOW. I
THINK OF
BLACK AND
WHITE.

WHAT'S UP  SPACES

1978 — 2018

SPACES
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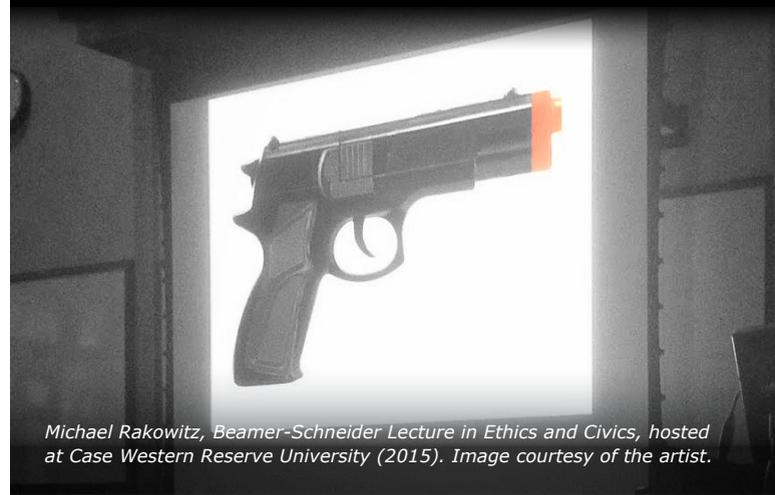
EXHIBITIONS + EVENTS
JULY — SEPTEMBER 2018

A Sense of This Place*

The color orange is associated with everything from citrus fruit to European royalty and major world religions. It is used throughout the United States on safety vests, traffic cones, and the barrels of toy guns, to keep us safe. Here in Cleveland—one of the most racially segregated cities in the country—orange shines on the panorama of a divided populace, illuminating the ten-day suspension of the police officer who shot twelve-year-old Tamir Rice and the firing of the other responsible officer two and a half years later for an unrelated offense. The absence of the orange safety tip from the toy gun that Rice held while playing at Cudell Commons on November 22, 2014 cast a shadow across Cleveland when it became the justification for yet another shooting of an unarmed African American.

A Color Removed—activated across the city since 2017 through the collection of orange objects, and installed now at SPACES—is one of many platforms that call us to bear witness to the distinctly American catastrophe of disintegrating police/community relations, but it also looks toward a future of repair. The project originated from an invitation for artist Michael Rakowitz to reconstruct the 2015 Beamer-Schneider Lecture in Ethics and Civics, hosted at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), as a participatory artwork. During his preparation for the lecture, Rakowitz listened to the community-driven Ethics Table discussions at CWRU, which covered a range of the consequences of the 2014 police shootings in Cleveland and Ferguson. A member of the Rice family was one of the participants, and his pain became a shared experience for the group. This laid the groundwork for Rakowitz to request the participation of community and cultural leaders in *A Color Removed*.

SPACES is a site where urgent topics are explored within an aesthetic framework. Because SPACES instrumentalizes art in times of crisis, we immediately took up Rakowitz's call to join the core planning team for *A Color Removed*, along with our



Michael Rakowitz, Beamer-Schneider Lecture in Ethics and Civics, hosted at Case Western Reserve University (2015). Image courtesy of the artist.

comrades Jeremy Bendik-Keymer at CWRU, RA Washington at Guide to Kulchur, Kelley O'Brien and Anthony Warnick at The Muted Horn, and countless other artists and community members. Our partnership with FRONT is based in the desire to propel forward the artist's original concept of inviting Clevelanders to surrender their orange objects in order to create a monochrome backdrop at SPACES where fearless listening enables fearless speaking.

One of Rakowitz's eight tenets for *A Color Removed* states that the project is "specific to Cleveland, but now in the aftermath of Black Lives Matter, considers the endemics of gun violence, militarism, and racism across American cities as well as global ones, while maintaining an anchor here." *A Color Removed* is about everyone's right to safety, whether on the street or on the playground, in a locker room, at work or at school. As I write this and reflect on the February 14th shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, I think of

A Color Removed as a shift in perception that runs parallel to the one that is currently being led by the high schoolers who are planning sit-ins and walkouts, calling b.s. on Congress, and demanding action.

The first public step to removing the color orange from Cleveland and suspending its future use was a letter-writing campaign initiated in fall 2017. Through four workshops led by the artist, participants grappled with questions about racial equity and safety, considering ways to affect policy through the expression of grief, create solidarity for a more peaceful city, and redress extrajudicial force against people of color. They wrote letters to institutions, to other individuals, and to themselves.

Through the deceptively simple action of forsaking orange, *A Color Removed* asks us not only to empathize with those who walk through our city without the expectation of safety, but also to enact change. Workshop participants started to see a place where collective will—combined with legislation that revives rather than degrades police/community relations—could heal

our city. We asked: What if First Energy Stadium replaced its orange seats with 67,895 of another color? If the Cavs starting using red, white, and blue basketballs, would the world remember the pain we felt here when we first heard about the Rice shooting? How would visitors get in touch with our collective grief if Cleveland Hopkins International Airport renamed one of its parking areas the “Yellow Lot”? What would the city look like if all of us could reasonably expect to feel safe here?

A Color Removed continued its momentum with the installation of collection bins across Cleveland this spring, allowing participants to discard their totems of safety. At SPACES, you will see toys, clothing, sports equipment, household items, and other quotidian objects serving as a stage for a robust series of events set to take place during FRONT’s An American City. But before you enter the supersaturated display, you will walk through a group exhibition in the front gallery, comprised of work by local artists Amber Ford, Amanda King and Shooting Without Bullets youth photographers, M. Carmen Lane, and RA Washington, who have long explored the conceptual underpinnings of *A Color Removed* in their work. Their work comments on the vulnerability of black women navigating the intersecting oppressions of race, gender and socioeconomic status; the cumulative impact of racialized violence; and the shared responsibility of improving our community.

We core collaborators provide a site for the conversation to emerge that will shape the city we want, but *A Color Removed* requires from its participants active engagement and willingness to interfere in resolute political and social structures. If one of us doesn’t feel safe, none of us can truly feel safe.

**This essay is a revised version of text that SPACES Executive Director, Christina Vassallo, originally wrote for the FRONT Triennial catalog. It has changed to reflect the fluidity of the project, the ability of the core planning team to respond to the feedback of community members, and the engagement of Tamir Rice’s mother—Samaria Rice—in the project.*



A Color Removed call to action at Guide to Kulchur (2018).
Image courtesy of SPACES.



Amanda King, Be Still (2018). Image courtesy of the artist.

A Color Removed | Collaborators

Amir Berbic

Case Western Reserve University, The Beamer-Schneider
Professorship in Ethics

Amber Ford

FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art

Christopher Horne

Elaine Hulihan

Amanda King & Shooting Without Bullets youth photographers

M. Carmen Lane

Kelley O'Brien & Anthony Warnick of The Muted Horn

Michael Rakowitz

Samaria Rice & The Tamir Rice Foundation

SPACES

RA Washington & Guide to Kulchur Learn House

FRONT

COLLECTION BIN MAP

A. SPACES

2900 Detroit Rd, Cleveland, OH 44113

B. WATERLOO ARTS

15605 Waterloo Rd, Cleveland, OH 44110

C. ART HOUSE, INC.

3119 Denison Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109

D. THE FRONT PORCH

1470 E 105th St, Cleveland, OH 44106

E. CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART

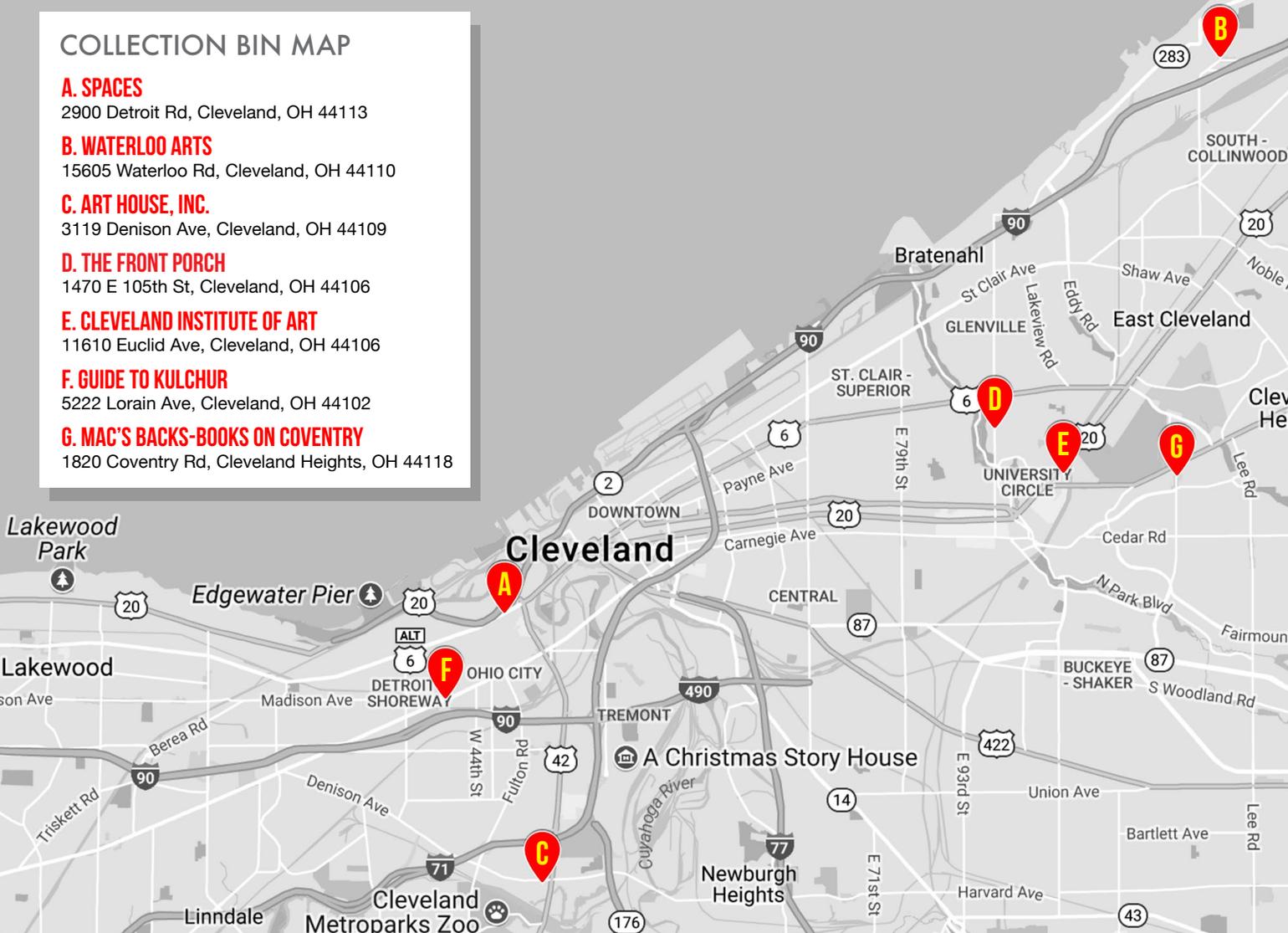
11610 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106

F. GUIDE TO KULCHUR

5222 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

G. MAC'S BACKS-BOOKS ON COVENTRY

1820 Coventry Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118



A COLOR REMOVED

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

MY NEIGHBOR'S KEEPER: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SAFETY?

Join SPACES for monthly discussions on the right and expectation to safety and how we as a community can work together to expand safety to all as we speak with marginalized groups and youth activists, discuss power dynamics, and focus on how we can change and do better together. FREE and open to the public.

JULY 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM | Youth & Violence

AUG 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM | Safety & Marginalized Communities

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

JULY 28, 12 - 1 PM & 1:10 PM - 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!

AUG 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 discussion group, the Moral Inquiries. FREE!

AUG 4, 2 - 4 PM | In **Trauma, Yoga and the Brain** with **Elaine Hulihan**, learn how the brain responds to trauma and how trauma-informed yoga aims to create a space for us to cope. FREE!

SEPT 15, 12 - 3 PM | Participate in **V2V**, a student-generated proposal to shift from thinking about urban violence to thinking about urban violation. FREE!

Dates & times are subject to change due to acts of artists. Please check www.SPACESgallery.org for the most current information regarding our events.

OTHER SPACES EVENTS

QUARTERLY SPECIALS!

JULY 5, 6:30 – 7:30 PM | Join **Art Therapy Studio** every first Thursday of the month. \$15 covers the cost of art supplies. Please RSVP to Art Therapy Studio by calling 216-791-9303.

AUG 2, 6:30 – 7:30 PM | **Art Therapy Thursday** at SPACES. \$15. Please RSVP to Art at 216-791-9303.

AUG 11, 2 PM | (p)SPACE series presents **Talespinner Childrens Theatre**, Jan and the Trickster, \$15 per ticket (majority of the ticket proceeds go to the artists).

SEPT 2, 2 – 4 PM | **FamilySPACES** - Puppet Making with Talespinner Childrens Theatre. FREE for families.

SEPT 6, 6:30 – 7:30 PM | **Art Therapy Thursday** at SPACES. \$15. Please RSVP to Art at 216-791-9303.

SEPT 14, 8 – 9 PM | **No Exit** performs (p)SPACE. FREE!

SEPT 16, 3 – 4 PM | **Shell Games (Chris Auerbach-Brown)** performs (p)SPACE. \$15.

SEPT 20, 7 – 8 PM | **Ogni Suono** performs (p)SPACE. \$15.

SEPT 27 | **Artist Professional Development** with Talespinner Childrens Theatre. FREE!

THESE DONORS KNOW WHAT'S UP.

Major support for SPACES comes from The City of Cleveland's Minority Arts and Education Fund, Eaton Charitable Fund, Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Stewart & Donna Kohl Fund at the Cleveland Foundation, Toby Lewis Philanthropic Fund, Mandel Family Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors: NoVo SEL Fund, Shannahley Foundation, and the following:



The George Gund Foundation

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

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JOIN & SUPPORT

DO YOU LIKE ART? ✓ DO YOU LIKE EXPERIMENTATION? ✓

DOES ENGAGING WITH ART INSPIRE YOU TO LEAD A MORE CREATIVE LIFE? ✓ x 100

Then sign up for a SPACES Season Pass membership and get an introduction to a world of new ideas in 2018!

BASIC BENEFITS FOR 2018

- Invitations to members-only events, previews of new SPACES projects, and studio visits with Cleveland-area artists.
- The ability to use the SPACES workshop, artist studio, and tools.
- Artists are eligible for a seat at the 8x8x8 and Monster Drawing Rally tables.
- 10% off SPACES Publication Shop items.
- Tax deduction + guilt free admission to our exhibitions and events.

\$25 | Student/Artist/Senior
Basic benefits listed above.

\$50 | Individual
Basic Benefits listed above.

\$100 | Individual/Family
Basic benefits for 2 adults and 2 kids in same household + 10% off VIP tickets to our annual benefit + your name(s) on the SPACES website.

\$250 | Individual/Family
Benefits listed above + 1 FREE artwork at this year's Monster Drawing Rally.

\$500 | Individual/Family
Benefits listed above + your name(s) on SPACES' donor wall.

\$1,000 | Individual/Family
Benefits listed above + your name(s) in our quarterly gallery guides.



Kick your SPACES love up a notch with a SPACES Season Pass membership: www.SPACESgallery.org/donate

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Many employers match contributions to nonprofit organizations. Please check with your employer and enclose their form.



2900 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113
216.621.2314
www.SPACESgallery.org
contact@SPACESgallery.org



Opening Reception: ???

Gallery Hours:

Tu – Su: 12 – 5 pm / Th: Open until 8 pm
Free tours available upon request
FREE gallery admission

What's Up SPACES is printed quarterly to coincide with public projects.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or would like to go **GREEN** by receiving emails only, call or email SPACES.

Cover: Michael Rakowitz, *A Color Removed* digital poster (2015). Courtesy of the artist.



Sign language interpretation and a gleaming ruby provided by advance request.

Did you find a typo? Be the first to notify us and receive a FREE! Season Pass membership: typos@SPACESgallery.org