



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CulturalDC Projects Video Installation on Source Theatre Ahead of Election **Two-part exhibit, “SUBVERSIONS,” offers messages to the U.S. government starting Oct. 30**

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Washington, D.C. – CulturalDC is partnering with Baltimore-based curator Teri Henderson to present a two-part video exhibition that explores divisiveness in democratic countries and the history of racial injustices within the United States. The exhibit, “SUBVERSIONS,” will be projected onto the windows of CulturalDC’s Source Theatre in the historic 14th and U Street Corridor in Northwest Washington, D.C. The first installation in the series will be presented during the 2020 presidential election season. The second installation will be presented in early 2021 to coincide with the presidential inauguration.

The first video, “UNITED IN DEMOCRACY: Polarization is a weapon for the perpetuation of power,” is a geopolitical game by artist Miguel Braceli. This video is part of Braceli’s “Geopolitics of the body,” a series of performances that creates dialogue between people and place, inviting reflections on issues of migration, national identity and social fractures.

From Oct. 30 through Nov. 30, “UNITED IN DEMOCRACY” will be on view nightly from 6 to 10 p.m. at CulturalDC’s Source Theatre, 1835 14th St., NW. On election day, Nov. 3, the video will be projected for the entire day. The video will also be available on the CulturalDC website.

“Recently it has become increasingly prevalent and relevant that we name and examine power, oppression and privilege,” said curator Henderson. “In this tumultuous period, the hopeful possibility remains that we may overcome tyranny and villainous rule by voting. In Washington, D.C., at this exhibition, we return to public art for solace, for hope, for provocation and for inspiration during this election period.”

“As a Venezuelan artist living in the United States, I have wanted to approach the geopolitical implications of these two countries, studying the complexity and contradiction of their relationships, as well as the parallels that can be found in opposite systems,” said artist Braceli. “This project starts from the thesis that political polarization is a risk for democratic states, and that at its pernicious extremes debate decreases and hegemony is strengthened. ‘UNITED IN DEMOCRACY’ aims to enhance diversity and unity in the context of an electoral year, promoting the dialogue from the playfulness of a simple action of a game.”

“Given the fact that millions of artists are being prevented from working due to the inaction of government, arts organizations cannot sit idly by during this upcoming election, said Kristi Maiselman, Executive Director of CulturalDC. “It is crucial that local arts groups, like CulturalDC, actively participate in democracy and offer platforms to diverse artists like Miguel Braceli and Teri Henderson. While we’re unable to host our community inside, we’re offering the outside of Source Theatre as a public place of reflection and mobilization.”

Subversions, Part 1: Exploring Power and Place, on display Oct. 30 – Nov. 30

- Miguel Braceli’s video installation highlights unity in a time where divisiveness is rampant and seemingly perpetuated by the U.S. government. Braceli’s participatory project “UNITED IN DEMOCRACY” embraces diversity and defeats polarization.
- The video portrays participants of various races, genders and classes united through play. With people tossing red and blue balls to one another across different distances, Braceli’s video offers a unique take on American recreation. The installation builds the idea of a nation from the exchange of our own actions: trying to keep the ball in the air and the game alive.

Subversions, Part 2: Race and Representation, on display in Spring 2021

Regardless of who wins the presidential election, racism continues to define our country. The history of racial injustices against Black people has not been adequately atoned for, let alone fully addressed. The second video will explore the history of racism and violence of white supremacy in the United States.

About Miguel Braceli

Braceli is a multidisciplinary artist working at the intersection of art, architecture and education. His practice focuses on participatory projects in public space. Most of these projects have been large scale works, developed in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, México, Spain, Sweden, the United States and Venezuela. These works explore notions of borders, migrations, national identities and social-political conflicts, working from the geopolitical geography to a human scale.

He has exhibited in galleries, biennials, and important group shows in Latin America, Europe, and the U.S. Braceli is also Associate Professor in the Faculty of Architecture at the Universidad Central de Venezuela and has led participatory and educational projects with institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts of Caracas and the U.S. and Spanish embassies in Venezuela. He has been a visiting professor in Schools of Architecture from Umeå University in Sweden, Catholic University of Chile and University of Zulia in Venezuela. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar working and living in the U.S.

About Teri Henderson

Henderson is a curator, co-director of WDLY and staff writer for BmoreArt. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Texas Christian University. She formerly held a curatorial internship at Ghost Gallery in Seattle, Washington. She also previously served as the Art Law Clinic Director for Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. She was published in the St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture. Her work as co-director of WDLY addresses shrinking the gap between the spaces that contemporary artists of color inhabit and the resources of the power structures of the art world through the curation and artistic production of events. She is also the Gallery Coordinator for Connect+Collect Gallery, which seeks to build relationships with artists and collectors in Baltimore and beyond. In her work as a staff writer for BmoreArt, she highlights the voices of Black, brown, queer and non-traditional artists and creatives. Most recently, Henderson founded Black Collagists, an arts incubator designed to research and collect the work of Black collage artists internationally.

About CulturalDC

CulturalDC supports innovative artists across all disciplines and makes their work accessible to diverse audiences. We provide unconventional space for relevant and challenging work that is essential to nurturing vibrant urban communities. Since 1998, CulturalDC has brokered more than 350,000 square feet of artist space, including the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, Atlas Performing Arts Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Source Theatre and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. In addition to providing space, CulturalDC facilitates opportunities for and presents innovative visual, performing and multidisciplinary artists. CulturalDC's Mobile Arts Program challenges the limitations of traditional art spaces by bringing relevant, accessible art directly to local audiences. The Mobile Art Gallery is the District's first moveable art space and has a commitment to use art as a catalyst to build community. Visit www.culturaldc.org; Facebook: CulturalDC; Instagram: @cultural_dc; or Twitter: Cultural_DC.

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NOTE: High-resolution images are available upon request.