

Family Review

Nathaniel Donnett *Acknowledgement: The Historic Polyrhythm of Being(s)*

July 23–August 31, 2020



Installation in progress on Nathaniel Donnett's *Acknowledgement: The Historic Polyrhythm of Being(s)*, 2020. Photo by Kristin Massa.

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Acknowledgement: The Historic Polyrhythm of Being(s) is a new public art installation by Houston-based artist Nathaniel Donnett. The artwork is located upon more than 120 feet of construction fencing surrounding the Museum's front lawn. The work can be viewed on foot, by car, or bus and is located on the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet. The artwork consists of two major elements—large text banners and backpacks that were collected through an exchange with youth in Houston's Third, Fourth, and Fifth Wards. From 7PM to 6AM each day that the installation is on view, the backpacks which are lit from within, will pulse a message in Morse code: the phrase "A Love Supreme" from the John Coltrane song, "Acknowledgement," an excerpt from James Baldwin's essay "The Uses of the Blues," and a verse from the song "Mad" by singer-songwriter Solange.

This artwork can easily be seen by driving by - but viewing the work up close and on foot will be rewarded as viewers can look more closely at the backpacks, some of which contain photographs taken by the artist and objects collected from Houston's Third,

Fourth, and Fifth Wards. The work is also wheelchair accessible on Bissonnet via the lower sidewalk in front of the Museum. These reference nkisi power figures of the Congo and the notion of being both present and not present at the same time.

All are welcome to view this work while on display although we strongly recommend wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.