

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | @camhouston

Trust Artists.

Press Release

Announcement

CAMHLAB Welcomes Two New Artists- in-Residence For Second Year at POST Houston



Exterior view of CAMHLAB at Freedmen's Town in POST Houston, 2023. Photo by Autumn Johnson.

#CAMHLAB
#FreedmensTown

Press Contact

For high-resolution images or
media inquiries, contact:

Michael Robinson
Communications and Marketing
Manager
mrobinson@camh.org
713.284.8255

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) and Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy (HFTC) are excited to announce Tay Butler and Lovie Olivia as new artists-in-residence at CAMHLAB in Freedmen's Town located in POST Houston. Both Houston-based artists will produce and display new work in the space beginning March 1 through June 30, 2024.

For this context-specific iteration of the residency program, the artists were selected for projects that highlight, honor, and animate the critical histories and stories of Freedmen's Town, a neighborhood established in 1865 by over 1,000 recently freed Black people that is now recognized as Houston's first Heritage District. Work created from the first round of CAMHLAB at Freedmen's Town will be on view now through April 28, 2024 by artists Ann 'Sole Sister' Johnson, Billion Tekleab, and Stacey Allen of Nia's Daughters.

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | @camhouston

Trust Artists.

Press Release



Tay Butler, *America*, 2022. Found advertisement. 8 x 10 inches. Image courtesy the artist.



Lovie Olivia, *Buoyancy*, 2023. Mixed media collage, carbon paper, medical file folders, ink, graphite. 11 x 16 inches. Image courtesy the artist.

As both Olivia and Butler develop their projects in POST Houston's X atrium, audiences are encouraged to visit multiple times over the duration of the period to see changes and iterations. Visitors are able to participate in hands-on opportunities to learn more about each artists' processes.

Tay Butler's project *STAY FREED: Black Archive, Imagery & Collage Making* will teach visitors how to access brick and mortar institutions and online platforms for Black imagery, scan their own archives, and center their own creativity through collage making. Visitors will activate their imagination, re-tell or correct narratives, and create futures for themselves using found imagery in popular media, or print out personal archives to create intimate collages to take back home.

Lovie Olivia's project *UNVANISHED* prioritizes the hospitality and joy found in the beautifully mundane and ordinary Black life of the Historical Freedmen's Town. By probing and mining the existing archives of the neighborhood and the visual records at African American Library at the Gregory School in concert with Olivia's researched and gathered stories, the artist hopes to reimagine and speculate creating new narratives that offer a fresh glimpse into the history/future and the people of this vibrant center of Houston. Olivia plans to create temporary architectural responses and community engagements that allow visitors to witness what new monuments can be created from the abstract debris of Black quotidian aesthetics.

"I am beyond thrilled to be able to continue in this ongoing living space," says 2024 CAMHLAB Artist-in-Residence Tay Butler. "Having work rooted in the archive and collage has its ups and downs, and this is certainly a SUPER UP. Honored to be able to creatively serve an important piece of Houston's Black history, and also follow my peers and their beautiful projects".

"As an artist who utilizes historical remains as medium and methodology, I am overjoyed and optimistic about the possibility of working with and from one of my favorite neighborhoods of my hometown, Houston along with CAMH as contemporary collaborators," says artist Lovie Olivia. "This CAMHLAB residency will grant me the time, space and means to submerge myself in the rich tapestry of Freedmen's Town, expanding my practice, knowledge and Houston's cultural muscle."

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | @camhouston

Trust Artists.

Press Release



Photo of Tay Butler, courtesy the artist.

About Tay Butler

Tay Butler is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Houston, Texas. He received his BFA in Photography and Digital Media from the University of Houston and recently completed his MFA in the University of Arkansas' Photography program. After retiring from the US Army and abandoning a middle-class engineering career to search for purpose, Butler reignited a rich appreciation for Black history and a deep obsession with the Black archive. Using past and present images to create a historically-layered body of work, Tay reorients cultural material from the ever-growing Black experience. Butler works with photography, collage, video, and sound exhibitions and installations. His solo exhibitions and installations include *RE.Migrant I & II* at Project Row Houses (Houston, TX) and *We Are Still Searching* at the Louise J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard (Houston, TX). Group exhibitions of his work have been featured at ArtPace (San Antonio, TX), Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and the Texas Biennial at FotoFest. Butler currently teaches Art & Design for San Jacinto College (Houston, TX) and has led both private and community workshops for The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative, (Charlottesville, VA) and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Bentonville, AK).



Photo of Lovie Olivia, courtesy the artist.

About Lovie Olivia

American Artist, Lovie Olivia—born, living, and working in Houston Texas, creates works that spans numerous mediums and methods informed by race, gender and sexuality and the historical and cultural nuances surrounding these intersections. She engages various archives--unearthing matter, employing painting, printmaking, sculpture, and installation to arrive at her makings. Her practice presents a Contemporary reinterpretation of classic Italian Renaissance Frescos matched with a rich and archival approach to collage. Olivia's work hangs in numerous private and public collections including Project Row Houses, ACRE Residency Chicago, the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institute and University of Texas Austin. She is a recipient of three Individual Artist Awards, which are funded by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance. Including a current commission with the City of Houston and Bush Intercontinental Airport. She has exhibited nationally and internationally at Corridor Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), 1969 Gallery (Manhattan, NY), Woman Made Gallery, (Chicago, IL), Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), Frist Museum (Nashville, TN), Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston Museum of African American Culture, Erin Cluley (Dallas, TX) and many more.

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | @camhouston

Trust Artists.

Press Release

About Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Established in 1948, CAMH is one of the oldest non-collecting contemporary art museums in the country, and is internationally known for presenting pivotal and landmark work by artists recognized as the most important of the 20th and 21st centuries. CAMH's mandate is to be present, to connect artists and audiences through the urgent issues of our time, and to adventurously promote the catalytic possibilities of contemporary art. CAMH's programming, both in and beyond the Museum, is presented free to the public, and advocates for artists' essential role in society.

About Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy

Created in 2018, the Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, aims to protect and preserve the history of Freedmen's Town for the benefit of future generations. The Conservancy's role is to "Tell the Story of Freedom" by educating and engaging visitors through heritage tourism from around the world about the unique and revelatory history of this largely untold chapter of Houston's and America's past.

CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, in the heart of Houston's Museum District.

CAMHLAB Hours

Wed 11AM-6PM
Thu 11AM-6PM
Fri 11AM-6PM
Sat 11AM-6PM
Sun 11AM-6PM

Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG or call 713.284.8250.

Support

Major support for the *Rebirth in Action* project is provided by the Mellon Foundation.



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is funded in part by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

