Three Decades of Change: Artspace’s 30th Reunion Exhibition

June 23 - July 8, 2017

Curator and Artist Led Exhibition Walk Through: Saturday, June 24, 4:45-6pm
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 24, 6-8pm
Special Performance: Saturday, June 24, 6:15-7pm

On the occasion of our thirtieth birthday, Artspace is excited to revisit twelve landmark exhibitions that have shaped, sustained and defined our organization since the mid 1980s. These exhibitions represent a range of curatorial perspectives, styles, and economic means, as well as an ever-changing relationship to the City of New Haven. To uncork these histories, Artspace Curator Sarah Fritchey invited twelve curator-alums to revisit one show they organized during their time at Artspace. Each curator was then asked to identify one artwork from the show that they wished to present for a second time, either in its original version or a modified version.

The results of these curator-artist reunions fill the galleries with a trove of archival treasures: images from the streets of New Haven, stories of lifelong relationships, and glimpses into three decades of exhibitions that probed some of the most urgent social, political and material questions of their day. Strikingly, probing questions around race and representation, immigration, the health care industry, and technology’s growing pervasive influence remain prescient today.
The exhibition also unearths some surprising details. Few people know that Artpace has occupied eight buildings over the course of its life, at one point renaming itself “untitled (space) gallery” to recognize its uncertain future. Also, nine of the show’s curator-alums were artists, and all nine maintain active studio practices. These histories weave together a more complete picture of Artpace as an artist-minded, idea-driven organization that has come to expect, embrace and respond to change. As we enter our fourth decade, we are truly indebted to those who have kept us alive over the years.


Special Events: On Saturday, June 23 from 4:45-6pm, the show’s curators and artists will walk visitors through the exhibition, shedding lights on special aspects of these historic shows. From 6:15-7pm, artists James Montford and Shola Cole will present a new performance commissioned for this show. The Opening Reception will take place from 6-8pm. All events are free and open to the public.

Publication: A catalog will accompany this exhibition and document aspects of our 30th Reunion Weekend. The full-color, 100-page book will be available for preview and pre-sale ($20/copy) at Artpace starting Friday, June 23, and feature the essay “Site, City and Leadership”, 24 essays from Artpace alums, select transcripts from our Reunion panels, and images from our archive.

This exhibition is part of Artpace’s 30th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, which presents a series of free panels, workshops and social-events in locations around New Haven from June 23 to June 25. This program was made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, the Tremaine Foundation, Merril Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc/The Outtrim Group, and Friends of Artpace. Our hospitality sponsors include EDC of New Haven/The Study Hotel, B-Natural Cafe, and Litchfield Distillery.

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**Press Contact:** Please contact our Press Coordinator, Katie Jurkiewicz, at katiej@artspacenhc.org, or 203-772-2709.

**Gallery Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 12-6pm, Friday and Saturday, 12-8pm. Closed Saturday, July 1.