

# artspace

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NEW HAVEN, CT 06510

## In Plain Sight/Site

Curated by

**Niama Safia Sandy**

November 30, 2018  
to March 2, 2019

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Still from Coleman Collins two-channel video "Distancing, Determining" (2018)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (New Haven, CT - November 11, 2018)** -- On Friday, November 30, Artspace New Haven debuts *In Plain Sight/Site*, a group exhibition that explores Connecticut's historic role in the making of New England as we know it. Developed by New York City-based anthropologist and curator Niama Safia Sandy, *In Plain Sight/Site* showcases an ensemble of ten artists engaged in the multi-disciplinary project of fastening the foundational economies and histories of early New England, and the Western world-at-large, to our present day relationships with labor, land, and race. An opening reception will be held on Friday, November 30 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with an artist talk at 6:00 p.m. The exhibition will conclude on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Artspace New Haven is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays from 12-6pm daily, and is located at 50 Orange Street in downtown New Haven.

Featuring the work of Jocelyn Braxton Armstrong, Kimberly Becoat, Coleman Collins, Adama Delphine Fawundu, Deborah Jack, Nate Lerner, James Montford, Tajh Rust, Tariku Shiferaw and Maya Vivas, *In Plain Sight/Site* finds its roots in rivers, the sea, land and labor. Together, the artists reactivate and refigure New England's involvement in the dispossession of Indigenous peoples, the circumnavigation of trans-Atlantic trade routes, and what has happened in its wake in New Haven, along the Connecticut River, and how these events echo across the globe. At its core, the exhibition is an endeavor to illustrate specific ways in which the cogs in the wheels of early American settler and economic movements and interventions on this land created a specific kind of historical blindness that allowed for systems of inequality to flourish and prevail even today.

This exhibition is made possible with generous support from the Andy Warhol Foundation of the Visual Arts and Friends of Artspace.

### Notes to the Editor

Niama Safia Sandy is a New York-based cultural anthropologist, curator, and essayist. She believes that we personify the wildest dreams and joys of our ancestors, and this philosophy serves as the central mandate of her work. She sees her role as an anthropologist, curator and

writer as that of an agitator, one who endeavors to simultaneously call into question and make sense of the seemingly arbitrary nature of modern life, and to celebrate our shared humanity, while developing critical and creative modalities grounded in nuanced histories of our global society.

### **About Artspace**

Artspace is a 30-year old visionary and dynamic non-profit organization championing emerging artists and building new audiences for contemporary art. Our exhibition and commissioning programs (in the gallery, out of doors, and city-wide) encourage experimentation, discovery, and lively civic discourse around the most urgent sociopolitical issues of our time, while fostering appreciation for the vital role that artists play in improving our community. Our 5,000 square foot space in a former civil-war era furniture factory anchors an affordable housing complex and features a rotating set of thought-provoking exhibitions. Through our award-winning programs, we strive to achieve our three fold mission: to catalyze artistic activities; connect contemporary artists with resources and audiences; and to enrich art experiences through education.