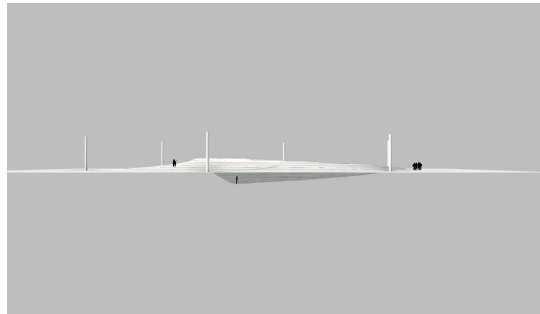
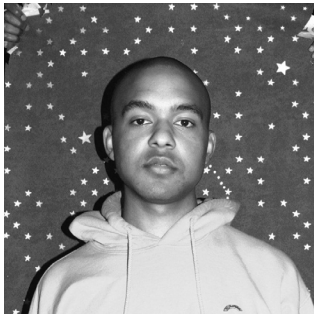


# Midway Contemporary Art

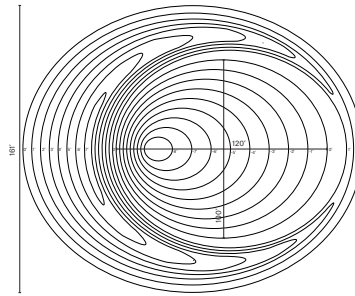
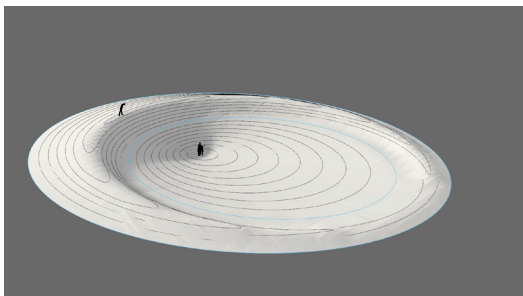
## Crater Speak

One of the most significant offsite projects that Midway will launch this month is a temporary outdoor earthwork by artist and musician Jasper Marsalis that will be located at the future site of Malcolm Yards in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis. Jasper Marsalis is an emerging artist and musician currently based in Los Angeles. Marsalis hails from a lineage of talented jazz performers (his grandfather, Ellis; his father, Wynton), and while he separates his musical project, Slauson Malone, from his family's name and his artmaking practice, both endeavors are informed by his interest in *“black spectacle and the way that blackness is consumed by people.”*

Marsalis debuted a new series of paintings and sculptures at Midway Contemporary Art in Minneapolis in September 2019. In conjunction with this exhibition, Midway published his first artist book, *Crater Speak*, a compilation of images and texts. Building on the success of his first book, Marsalis is looking to further this metaphor in a spatial dimension by creating an impact crater. As Marsalis writes, *“Crater Speak is the expression of presence as absence (and vice versa), hence the Crater in “Crater Speak”. Its existence formed by lack and loss. Its destruction as its creation. To be branded by alien force. Instead of focusing on the spectacle its origin (as or by alien), I propose focusing on its nowness. Its absent voice/stare/body/place.”*



Considering the long history of predominately white American land artists, who primarily worked in the American western landscape (Robert Smithson, Michael Heizer, James Turrell), Marsalis' vision is to site his sculptural intervention in an urban context – specifically Minneapolis. Just as a meteorite's impact inverts the earth's strata, so too have Minneapolis and the world felt our world inextricably altered in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd. Marsalis also proposes this work as a new form of monument in the wake of many statues being removed around our country – particularly in the south. This new anti-monument monument forms a space for the viewer's reflection and meditation during a time of intense turmoil and societal upheaval occurring amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



## About Midway Contemporary Art

Founded in 2001, Midway Contemporary Art is a non-profit visual arts organization that presents temporary exhibitions, maintains a public research library, offers regular public programs, and awards grants to artist-organized projects through the Visual Arts Fund. Our aim is to introduce audiences to contemporary artwork that challenges how they look at the world and their understanding of the field of contemporary art. In our exhibitions, we primarily focus on commissioning and developing new projects with artists who have typically never shown in the Midwest or, often, in the United States. All of our activities are free and open to the public.

Founded by artists, Midway was initially located in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood and then moved briefly to Prospect Park in Minneapolis. In 2006, we moved to the Marcy Holmes neighborhood where we are currently based. While we are temporarily closed to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been launching new programmatic efforts over the past few months to safely engage with our audience and provide opportunities for artists.



## Our Programs

Visitors to Midway Contemporary Art encounter a space that reflects our shared programming priorities: half housing our 1,000 square-foot gallery, and half our contemporary art library. We produce new exhibitions each year, and present artist and curatorial talks and film screenings in our library. In 2016, we launched the Visual Arts Fund, which awards grants to artist-organized projects in the Twin Cities.

**Exhibitions:** Since our inception in 2001, Midway has produced hundreds of solo and group exhibitions, featuring hundreds of artists from around the world and serving tens of thousands of visitors. Our exhibitions typically involve the creation of new, project-based work. Each of them has marked a significant moment of change and opportunity for the artists involved. We offer artists presenting solo exhibitions and guest curators of group exhibitions a \$5,000 stipend. We also cover shipping, handling, and travel expenses; help artists engineer, source, fabricate, and build their work; and underwrite exhibition costs. Some of these projects have been very ambitious in scale. During the past two decades, we have rented a helicopter for an outdoor performance, moved 20,000 lbs of earth in the gallery, and fabricated a 16' long ceramic squid. Work produced by Midway is in the permanent collections such as the Walker Art Center, the Guggenheim Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and many other public and private collections.

**Library:** Midway's library provides the public with the one of the most comprehensive and accessible resources for research into contemporary art in our region. The collection of over 10,000 titles — including monographs, exhibition catalogs, reference books, and periodicals — provides a broad overview of artistic activity and art publishing from around the world; many of the library's books and other materials are not otherwise available in our region. The non-circulating library does not require membership or appointments — it is entirely free and open to the public. Casual browsing is encouraged. Because of this unique accessibility, the library has become a popular destination for students, academics,

artists, writers, curators, and visitors to the Twin Cities. **In response to Covid-19 safety concerns, we have converted our library to a temporary lending library, allowing artists, students, and curators to borrow books for two weeks and enjoy them safely from their home or studio.**

***Visual Arts Fund:*** The Visual Arts Fund is a re-granting program that was established in 2016 by Midway Contemporary Art with generous support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in New York, and offers funding to artists living in the Twin Cities metro region. The VAF supports the development of artist-organized projects and initiatives happening outside of established venues that engage the public with visual art. Projects include exhibitions or installations held in temporary spaces, new publications, series of events or performances, digital initiatives, and other activities happening across the 7-county metro region. **In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent unrest following the death of George Floyd, Midway has secured additional funding from the Warhol Foundation and will be granting \$220,000 to local area artists this year, with a strong priority given to Black, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, Latinx, and multi-racial artists.**



### **2020–2021 Offsite Project Series**

Midway's gallery and library have been located in the Marcy Holmes neighborhood of Minneapolis since 2006. While our space is temporarily closed during the Covid-19 pandemic, we are launching a new series of offsite projects this fall that will spread throughout the Twin Cities. We are working with a variety of business partners throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul to offer temporary outdoor installations, videos, films, photography and performances from local artists such as Pao Houa Her, Tia Simone Gardner, Monica Haller, Bruce Tapola, and Tetsuya Yamada alongside nationally recognized artists such as Jasper Marsalis (LA), Mitchell Syrop (LA), Nicole Miller (Tucson), Adriana Lara (Mexico City), Jochen Lempert (Hamburg), Jill Mulleady (Paris), K.R.M. Mooney (San Francisco), and others. Additional artists are being added as we identify new potential sites. These projects will be temporarily on view for one month up to a year, depending on the project, and will provide Twin Cities art lovers an opportunity to safely experience new art outside of the confines of the gallery. Information on these projects will be available on our website, which will provide visitors with a map and navigation to the various projects.

Initial business partners for the first round of projects include Wall Companies, First and First, LLC, the HmongTown Marketplace, Aloha Landscaping, and Showcore. The first series of projects launched the first week of October and run into late fall/winter. Subsequent cycles of these projects will begin later this year and into next. The intention of the offsite project series is to provide artists with opportunities to create and show new works of art while simultaneously providing ongoing art offerings that can be safely experienced by the public within Minneapolis and St. Paul communities.

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