

***On Self-Defense –
a Cassandra Press Reader in action***
18. 11. 2022 – 8. 1. 2023

Co-curated by Jade Guanaro Kuriki-Olivo (Puppies Puppies)

Cassandra Press was founded in 2016 by artist Kandis Williams as an independent publishing project. At its core, Cassandra Press examines tools of perception and racism, and their dominant role and expressions within current sociocultural systems. The press publishes lo-fi readers with texts by Black critical theorists, organises courses and produces artist zines and catalogues covering a broad range of topics that fuse questions of ethics, racial colonial violence, white supremacist delusion, and aesthetics.

Some recent Cassandra Press publications include "Misogynoir", a reflection on sexual violence and slavery's perversion of sexuality; "Black Twitter", a crash course on media theory, literacy and intersections with critical race theory; and "Cannibalism, Blackface & Minstrelsy". The Cassandra Press artist zine series curated and commissioned by Williams invites artists to publish conceptual texts, original and sourced artworks, essays, poems and stories.

In partnership with Bergen Kunsthall, Cassandra Press presents the two-part project *On Self-Defense*. The first part includes an exhibition featuring a reading room and research installation containing the entire catalogue of Cassandra Press Readers and Special Collections and launching a new series of Artist Zines. Among the artists invited to produce contributions for this project are Christine Wang, Hannah Black, manuel arturo abreu and

Boz Garden and Charlotte Zhang. This will be the first presentation of the Artist Zines and Special Collections since Cassandra Press's participation in the Whitney Biennial 2022 at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. It will also be the first time the Artist Zines are shared in Europe.

For the second part of the project, Williams and artist Jade Guanaro Kuriki-Olivo (Puppies Puppies) produce a new reader and materials on self-defense, especially for people from trans and BIPOC communities. By meeting with martial arts, self-defense, and mental health coaches, as well as researching past self-defense movements, the two artists enter into a conversation about physical and spiritual forms of protection. The *Reader on Self-Defense* will help to shape a nuanced and complex dialogue about self-defense movements, centred on personal safety and social power dynamics. In an effort to redistribute institutional resources, parts of the project budget will be used for Cassandra Press to organise, promote and host courses on self-defense for queer communities of colour in New York, Berlin and Paris.

By stepping outside the traditional exhibition model, this project furthers the groundwork for a collaborative form of learning and theorising in community. The project will evolve throughout the exhibition period, using the exhibition space as a site for self-study and research.

List of publications

Readers

Reader on Plants. Movement, Metaphor and Migration
Reader on White Feminism White Supremacy
Reader on Cultural Property, Images, and Ownership, Vol. 1–3
Reader on Noh Theater: Conventions and Intersections with Blackness
Reader on Veritas
Reader on Whiteness, Dissonance, and Horror
Reader on Black Journalism
Reader on Essence and Disorder
Reader on Faces of the Colonizer
Reader on Fetishism (Value, Flesh, Real, Referent)
Reader on some Ethics: Imperceptibility, Invisibility, Detectability, Deniability
Reader on Double Consciousness, Then and Now
Reader on Medea: Suicide, Free Will, and Self Determination
Reader on Reparations
Reader on the Culture of the Fuccboi
Reader on Capital > Race > Sex > Logic
Reader on Performativity
Reader on Black and the Silver Screen
Reader on Devices of the Fetishist
Reader on Misogynoir
Reader on The White Savior
Reader on Cannibalism Blackface and Minstrelsy
Reader on Water and Power in California
Reader on Libidinal Economy
Reader on Porn and Power in California
Reader on Labor After Reconstruction
Reader on The Chitlin' Circuit
Reader on GET OUT Interraciality and PTSD
Reader on 2 Dimensional Design

Special Collections

Footnotes. The Absolute Right to Exclude: Reflections on and Implications of Cheryl Harris' *Whiteness as Property*

Blackity Black Black Black
With Collective X, Queer Black Poetry

RE: THE FURIES

RE: FAUCETS: A Reader on the School to Prison Pipeline

Endnotes: Thoughts on the Writings of Pope L.
In collaboration with Mitchell-Innes & Nash and New Documents

Reader on Blackness Indigeneity and Erasure
With Aline Baiana, commissioned by K'acha Willaykuna Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Arts and Humanities Collaboration, Ohio State University

Sanford Biggers Reader
With California African American Museum

RE: BLACK TWITTER
With Mandy Harris Williams, Devin Kenny, American Artist, manuel arturo abreu and Calvin Warren

A Monument, A Ruin
With CIRCA and Pompeii Commitment Archaeological Matters

A Chair: Notes Toward a Design

Notes. Darkness:Night:Blackness. Racial Colonial Implications of the Children of Nyx and Erebus

Artist Zines

Saidiya Hartman: Venus in Two Acts

Christine Tien Wang

manuel arturo abreu: Zombie Reader

manuel arturo abreu: 3 (n)Obsequies for Orchestra. Aftertexts

Boz Deseo Garden: An Ossuary for the Hunted

Hannah Black: SUNTITLED

Charlotte Zhang: Paradise Holds Itself Shut

Nikita Gale: Reader on the Question of the Animal

Events

Opening

Fri 18 Nov 20:00
Free

Members preview

Thu 17 Nov 18:00

Tours

Every Sunday 14:00
Every Sunday 13:00 Families

Plattform

Kandis Williams in conversation

Fri 18 Nov 19:00
Free

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Nora-Swantje Almes

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Thank you

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Kandis Williams

Co-curated exhibition with
Jade Guanaro Kuriki-Olivo
(Puppies Puppies)

Davone Sirmans
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Cassandra Press