

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY

MICHAEL REESE

BIO

Michael Reese is an Atlanta based artist, photographer and educator. His work explores themes of identity and history; using past and current photographic processes as a base. With a fascination in cosmology and celestial science, he has created conceptual bridges between astronomy and the fight against human bondage. He sees photography as the perfect vehicle to stay curious about the world around him. Reese was recently selected by The Montresso Art Foundation for an art residency at Jardin Rouge in Marrakech, Morocco. The work created in the residency will be exhibited as part of 1-54. The 1-54 is the first leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora. Reese continues to exhibit regularly through the traditional gallery system and the broader reaching visibility of public art. Notable exhibits include "Call and Response", Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta GA, SCORE: Artist In Overtime, Museum Of Contemporary Art, Atlanta GA and E-Merge, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Atlanta, GA.

Reese's work is also featured in selected private and public collections including The High Museum, Clark Atlanta University, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Fulton County Arts Council, Atlanta Office Of Cultural Affairs and Agnes Scott College.

ARTIST STATEMENT

It explores the terrestrial limitations of bondage and the celestial wayfinding knowledge of enslaved persons in the American south. During the mid to late 19th century, enslaved people navigated their way to freedom by observing stars and other sky patterns. I've used the constellation Ursa Minor as a design element in all of my isolated map making. The North Star, also known as Polaris, is located within Ursa Minor, and it is the brightest star within that constellation. From a terrestrial vantage point, Polaris was key in understanding North from South directionally. This cosmic knowledge led many enslaved people to freedom during this time. Decoding Polaris is a reimagining of a schematic and a celebration of human ingenuity. In addition, I am also acknowledging that the basic nature of the human spirit is its need to simply be free.

CV

Education:

Atlanta College Of Art - Atlanta, GA - B.F.A. Photography - 1996

Public Art Commissions:

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2019 "Sacred Street Photography", (Elevate) Atlanta, GA
2014 "Fulton County Aviation and Cultural Center" A Force Proportional To Their Masses, Atlanta GA
2008 "New Genre Landscape" (When Pigs Fly) Grant Park, Atlanta, GA
2007 "Art In Motion" MARTA Buses, Atlanta, GA

Solo Exhibitions:

2017 "Amalgam", Arnall Golden Gregory, Atlanta, GA
2014 "Inches Above Earth", Fulton County Aviation and Cultural Center, Atlanta, GA

Group Exhibitions:

2018 "Miniature", Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
2017 "Call and Response", Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2015 "Monolithic", Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
2015 "Sprawl", The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
2015 "Summer Salon", Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2014 "The Shape Of A Pocket", Sandler Hudson Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2014 "SCORE, Artist In Overtime", MOCA GA, Atlanta, GA
2013 "E-merge" Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, Atlanta, GA
2011 "Painted Photograph" SW Arts Center Atlanta, GA
2010 "Patterns Of Play" Greylock Arts, Adams, MA
2009 "Flux", Castleberry Hill (N' Yo Face), Atlanta, GA
2008 "Le Flash", Castleberry Hill (Installation), Atlanta, GA
2007 "30 Years AJF", City Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2007 "Works On Paper", City Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2003 "Only Skin Deep" ICP, New York, NY
2002 "Atlanta's Master Photographers" Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA
2002 "Reflections in Black" Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA
2002 "One Nite Stand" The Acme Lofts, Decatur, GA
2002 "FLASH" City Gallery East, Atlanta, GA
2002 "25 Years AJF" Chastain Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2001 "Moments in Jazz" Sotheby's, New York, NY
2001 "Decatur Fine Arts Festival" Dalton Gallery, Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, GA.
2000 "The One Nite Stand Show" The Mattress Factory, Atlanta, GA.
1998 "The Blue Dress Show" Ballroom Studios, Atlanta GA.
1998 "Our True Collective Face-African American Art" Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
1997 "Precise Significance; Symbolism and Iconology" Hammonds House Gallery, Atlanta, GA.
1996 "Fragments Unseen, Fractures Unheard" New Visions Gallery, Atlanta, GA.

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1996 "Post Olympia or How We Spent The Summer Of 1996" Piedmont Park Bathhouse, Atlanta, GA.

Radio/Television:

2014 Felecia Church (A Force Proportional To Their Masses) interview, Fulton Focus Forum,

860 AM WAEC

2009 Pamela Martin (Public Art) interview, WSBTV, Channel 2 Atlanta

2008 Dave Barasoain (New Genre Landscape) interview, WABE 90.1 FM

Blogs:

David Rosenberg, "The Whimsical World Inches Above Earth" SLATE, November 2013, www.slate.com

Selected Collections:

Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, Atlanta GA

Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta GA

Dekalb College, Decatur GA

BCA Art On Loan Collection, Atlanta GA

OCA "Art On Loan" Collection, Atlanta GA

Selected Publications/Bibliography:

Suggs, Ernie. "Budget-squeezed Atlanta leaders to scrap arts grants", Atlanta Journal Constitution, May, 12th, 2011

Hicks, Cinque. "A (new) Genre Landscape: Artsy Parksy", Creative Loafing, June, 4th, 2008.

Cullum, Jerry. "Precise Significance," review, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, January, 2nd 1998.

GRAPHIS 98, Pedersen, Martin "Emerging and Amateur Photography", January 1998, pp. 50,87.

ATLANTA SUMMER 1996, Bird & Alston, December, 1996, pp. 73.

Fox, Catherine. "The Wide World, Seen Through the Eyes of Atlanta," review, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, September 21st, 1996.

Byrd, Cathy. "Photo Finish The Arts Festival's Post- Olympia" review, Creative Loafing, September 24th , 1996.