

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY GALLERIES PRESENTS THE EXHIBITION
NA'YE PEREZ: *TEACHING TO TRANSGRESS*

ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 2024



Na'Ye Perez. *Mood/ Toast/ No L's*, 2022.
Acrylic, spray paint, sand, gel transfers,
fiber paper, lino block prints on rice paper, newsprint, molding paste on canvas.
Courtesy of the artist

Montclair, NJ – Montclair State University Galleries presents the exhibition Na'Ye Perez: *Teaching to Transgress* from September 17 through December 15, 2024. The exhibition will be on view in the Alexander Kasser Theater display cases.

Na'Ye Perez is a Haitian-Cuban artist based in Brooklyn, NY. His exhibition, *Teaching to Transgress*, explores themes of community, presence, shared experiences, identity, and accessibility. Perez's antidisciplinary practice spans painting, drawing, printmaking, performance, and socially engaged art, transcending traditional academic boundaries to present innovative frameworks and methods.

Central to Perez's work is the concept of the "Black Presence," which is intricately tied to community, experiences, objects, and materials left behind, memory, and the embodiment of collective will. His art is a reflection of his personal journey through various communities, including New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Columbus, OH; Camden, NJ; and other places, each contributing unique attributes to his work. This series tells stories of grief, joy, belonging and community through imagery and socially engaged practice. Perez's work often uses day-to-day activities and objects to serve as catalysts for visceral experiences of the "Black Presence."

Na'Ye Perez (b. 1992) is a Haitian-Cuban artist whose work has been exhibited at the Community Folk Art Center at Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY); RegularNormal Gallery (New York, NY); 129 Studio Gallery (Columbus, OH); Residency Gallery (Los Angeles, CA); Welancora Gallery (Brooklyn, NY). He has been an artist in residence at The Shed's DIS OBEY (Queens, NY); New Wave (West Palm Beach, FL); and Pratt>FORWARD (New York, NY). Perez holds a BFA from the University of Toledo in Ohio and an MFA from Pratt Institute in New York.

The exhibition title draws inspiration from bell hooks' *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*, a text that brings practical knowledge of the classroom alongside emotions and personal expression. Visitors are invited to engage with Perez's work through our community classroom on the Bloomberg Connects app.

Digital Engagement

The University Galleries is a proud partner of Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app created by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Bloomberg Connects app, available for download from Google Play or the App Store, makes the University Galleries accessible for both onsite or offsite visits through photo, audio, and video features that offer insights into past and current exhibitions from artists, curators, professors, students, and more. The Galleries' joins over 500 cultural organizations worldwide with exclusive digital guides on Bloomberg Connects.

Public Hours

Monday – Friday: 12 – 6 p.m.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Artist Reception

Tuesday, September 17

5 – 7 p.m.

Alexander Kasser Theater Lobby

6 p.m. Remarks by the artist and Director Megan C. Austin

About The Montclair State University Galleries

The Montclair State University Galleries brings together ideas, perspectives, and dialogues to foster curiosity and shared understandings through art. The University Galleries presents diverse and inclusive exhibitions and programs, creating connections that unite the campus experience with local and global communities. www.montclair.edu/galleries

All exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public.

Social Media

Join the conversation on social media by tagging @montclairstategalleries and using the hashtag #MontclairStateGalleries when posting.

Support

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by funds from the McMullen Family Foundation, the College of the Arts, and private contributions.

Media Contact

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