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The Contemporary Dayton's Final Summer First Fridays at the Co**Featuring RENA1SSANCE & Chasing Dreams and Aaron Thomas "ATV" Vance**

DAYTON (Jul 31, 2023) – The Contemporary Dayton (The Co) is thrilled to present the final installment of its Summer First Friday Series, curated by Scripted in Black. The event will take place Friday evening, Aug 4, 2023, from 7 – 10 p.m. in The Co galleries.

Summer First Fridays require no registration nor admission, inviting art appreciation for all. The evening includes light bites, a donation bar, and Spotlight Tours by Curatorial Assistant, Cyndie King.

FIRST FRIDAY PERFORMANCES

RENA1SSANCE & Chasing Dreams, formerly known as Mariah J, is a multi-talented creative who contributes as a music artist and producer, dancer, writer and herbalist. She is gifted at cultivating peace, culture and love through various means of art and healing. Her influences include gospel choirs, funk music, and Afro-centric culture.

Aaron Thomas "ATV" Vance. Aaron has been singing as since speaking his first words. At age 7, Aaron toured Dayton as the young Michael Jackson. Through High School Aaron was know by his peer as Most Musical. Aaron Attended Central State University where he really found his voice and growth for music touring with the CSU Chorus. Since leaving CSU. Aaron has made it his purpose to chase his dreams in music. While being vocalist for Saxtone, saxophone player for The Zapp Band , and was really pushed to strengthen his craft. It was at this time that Aaron's love for funk and soul music really took over . Entertainers like James Brown Stevie Wonder, Gary Clark jr and Chris Stapleton to name a few really helped ATV to grow into the Entertainer he is today. ATV joined "FREAKQUENCY " a high energy, multi genre band where he began to create and write original music. Aaron decided to take a break from the band where in Feb 2019 he moved to Cleveland, to help future find his voice and fine tune his craft. ATV release his first single "You and I" which is now streaming on all music platforms. ATV is prepared, and declares he will do great things along this musical journey.

Join The Co and Scripted in Black on Aug 4 from 7 - 10 p.m. at The, located at 25 W 4th Street, for an evening that promises to ignite your senses and leave you inspired. For more information about First Fridays and upcoming events and free public programs at The Co, please visit codayton.org/public-programs.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON

On View / Jul 14 – Oct 1, 2023

vanessa german with Sandra Keat German (1948-2014) / *THE BLUE MOTHER*

The Contemporary Dayton presents *THE BLUE MOTHER*, an installation of sculptural works by artist and activist vanessa german that celebrate the human form as a vessel of power and change. A visual storyteller, german utilizes assemblage and mixed media, combining locally found objects to build protective ritualistic structures known as her power figures or tar babies. Modeled on Congolese Nkisi sculptures and drawing on folk art practices, they are embellished with materials including beading, glass, fabric, and sculpted wood, and come into existence at the axis on which Black power, spirituality, mysticism, and feminism converge. The exhibition will also feature quilts by german's mother, Sandra Keat German, a prominent figure in the quilting community and enormous influence on vanessa german's consciousness and work.

Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin De Burca: *Swinguerra*

The Contemporary Dayton presents *Swinguerra*, a film by Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Burca that premiered 2019 Venice Biennale. Collaborating since 2011, Wagner and de Burca create works in video, photography, and installation that explore contemporary histories of underground dance and musical genres. *Swinguerra* focuses on disadvantaged queer communities of color in Recife, Brazil, with an emphasis on transgender and non-binary performers.

The film features three contemporary dance styles—swingueira, brega funk, and passinho da maloca—as performed by three competitive dance groups. These mixed dance styles recall Brazil's colonial and slave trade history, where music and dance functioned as discreet methods of organizing politically under oppressive regimes. Fast-paced, athletic, sexy, dreamlike, and aggressive, the dance styles, like the music, make *Swinguerra* an exhilarating and unforgettable viewing experience, illustrating how dance and music offer rich sources of agency, resistance, and community for marginalized individuals.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SUMMER FIRST FRIDAYS WITH SCRIPTED IN BLACK / FRIDAY AUG 4

7–10 p.m.

Free and open to all.

CONVERSATIONS, vanessa german / THURS, SEPT 21

Conversation begins / 6:30 p.m.

In The Tank at the Dayton Arcade

Free and open to all.

GALLERY & CoSHOP HOURS

Wednesday–Saturday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Summer First Fridays, Aug 4, 7 - 10 p.m.

ALWAYS FREE

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON

Mission: To provide art for the community and a community for artists.

Overview: The Contemporary Dayton (The Co) is the region's contemporary art center. Established in 1991 as The Dayton Visual Arts Center, a 501c3, The Co produces and presents original exhibitions and educational programs, events, community partnerships, and artist opportunities. Exhibitions and education programs feature the most exciting and meaningful work of our time created by artists living and working today, with an emphasis on the artists of Ohio, women artists, and artists of color.

ABOUT SCRIPTED IN BLACK

Mission: To create spaces for Black and Brown identities to thrive.

Overview: Scripted in Black (SIB) is an exclusive multi-disciplinary arts collective that centers the work and collaboration of Black and Brown unconventional creatives to provide feel good experiences for High-vibe Black and Brown communities, especially millennial identities, through diverse yearly installments. Currently based in Dayton, Ohio.

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