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BIOMYTHOGRAPHY: SECRET POETRY AND HIDDEN ANGERS

Curated by Chris Christion and Jessica Wimbley

October 20-31, 2014

PRESENTED BY

**CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY | ART DEPARTMENT
EAST AND PEGGY PHELPS GALLERIES**

Claremont Graduate University's East and Peggy Phelps Galleries presents the exhibition, *Biomythography: Secret Poetry and Hidden Angers*, on view **October 20-31, 2014**, with a public reception **Tuesday, October 21st, 6-9PM. Oct. 21st at 7 PM -- THE ADZE.**

"I am a reflection of my mother's secret poetry and hidden angers."
-Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*

Biomythography, a literary term defined by poet Audre Lorde in her seminal piece *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* as "combining elements of autobiography, the novel, and personal mythology" has been known to shape theories of intersectionality and highlight the idea of internal, external, and multiple selves. **The exhibition "Biomythography: Secret Poetry and Hidden Angers" is the first in a series of exhibitions that seek to investigate biomythography as an interdisciplinary visual arts practice.**

Biomythography: Secret Poetry and Hidden Angers is a mixed media exhibition featuring video, performance, installation, sculpture, photography and 2d mixed media works.

The artists in this exhibition investigate themes of representation using elements of institutional display, naming, and identifying of objects. They consciously or unconsciously invoke the literary form of Biomythography by fragmenting chronology, uniformity, and narrative. Their works juxtapose historical facts, life experience, pop culture, and mythology; challenging, forming and informing, art history, display, anthropology, identity, and ritual as well as personal, universal, and institutional perspectives and histories.

Artists Include:

THE ADZE, Zeina Baltagi, Crystal Z. Campbell, Chris Christion, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Abdul Mazid, Dan Taulapapa McMullin, Thinh Nguyen, Juliana Paciulli, Glynnis Reed, Rachelle Rojany, Yoshie Sakai, Monica Sandoval, and Jessica Wimbley.

Programming during the exhibition includes:

Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7 PM --THE ADZE

Inspired by Autoethnographic Performance as embodied methodological praxis, THE ADZE is moved to break silence within the intersections of space and place. THE ADZE incorporates work by Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name*, Gloria E. Anzadúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, bell hooks, *Outlaw Culture and Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics*, along with José Esteban Muñoz', *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*. Each of these works press up against "majority culture," and have as unifying threads acts of resistance; bodies in culture forming resistive and sometimes migratory identities. Along with the formation of identity is the physical space people occupy. Edward W. Soja's concept of trialectics, or "thirthing-as-Othering," explores spatiality and spatial thinking--*perceived, materialized, and conceived* space--which inevitably references Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space* and Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*. As thematic underpinning is a sermon by Rev. Rod Debs, "Guide My Feet." THE ADZE is compelled to explore Universalist Theology as a philosophy of radical inclusivity with the poetical-politics of gallery space.

Friday, Oct. 24, from 6-9 PM Kingsley Tufts Poetry Reading & Art Exhibit

Featured readings by 2014 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award winner Afaa Michael Weaver, Pomona College Professor and Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets Claudia Rankine, and *Footbill* poets Elizabeth Cantwell and Jason Morphew.

The art exhibition *Zero as Model*, featuring the work of CGU MFA candidate Christina Mesiti will also be on view.

ABOUT CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY ART DEPARTMENT

CGU Art provides the space, the tools, and a rich environment for individual art making and experimentation.

We are an incubator of creativity and thought, where a community of artists and teachers actively engages with culture, addressing the issues and concerns of our time through the making of art objects and experiences. We challenge convention, celebrate individual endeavors, foster collaboration and encourage you to make the art you want to make.

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