

For immediate release

Mike Cloud: Figure Studies

April 28–July 7, 2018

Reston, VA: The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to present *Mike Cloud: Figure Studies* featuring Brooklyn-based artists Mike Cloud on view April 28–July 7. This is the first time Cloud's work has been shown in the greater DC area.

Figure Studies addresses how we read symbols, shapes, faces, and history. The exhibition includes the artist's critically acclaimed series of Leibovitz Orange collages, a selection of paper quilts, and painting. The title refers to the artistic exercise of creating preparatory drawings, often using live models, to most exactly portray the human form. The exhibition is organized around Cloud's version of a prevalent scene in Renaissance history painting, *The Rape of the Sabine Women*, entitled *Cycle and Stable* (2015). He does not follow in the tradition of history painting per se with his depiction. Instead, he insists on his subject through written language.

Cloud asks us to question our assumptions and look at the way we look. For the Leibovitz Orange collages, 26 of which are included in this exhibition, and Paper Quilts Cloud mined Annie Leibovitz's photographs for moments he could dissect and repurpose to question subjective systems of perception. He plays with ideas of celebrity and recognition in a poignant presentation of humanity.

Cloud earned his M.F.A. from Yale University School of Art and his B.F.A. from the University of Illinois-Chicago. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago; P.S.1, New York; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Slovak Republic; Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles; and Thomas Erben Gallery, New York; among others. Cloud has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Art Review*, and featured in the publication *Painting Abstraction* by Bob Nickas, published by Phaidon Press. His awards include the inaugural Chiaro Award from the Headlands Center for the Arts, an artist Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Barry Schactman Prize in Painting from the Yale University School of Art, as well as the Grace Holt Memorial Award in African American Issues from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

His work is held in private and public collections including The Bronx Museum, New York; Lincoln Center, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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EVENTS:

Artist Talk

April 28, 4pm; free and open to the public
Greater Reston Arts Center

Opening reception

April 28, 5–7pm; free and open to the public
Greater Reston Arts Center

Creative Responses

May 31: Presenter TBD

June 28: Tim Doud

7pm; free and open to the public
Greater Reston Arts Center

Gallery hours: Tues–Sat, 11am–5pm

For more information please visit restonarts.org

The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) serves 80,000 people annually, providing Virginia, Maryland, and DC’s diverse communities with abundant opportunities to experience and explore contemporary art through exhibitions, education programming, and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. Greater Reston Arts Center strives to increase understanding of different cultures through art, brings diverse audiences together around a common interest, and ensures access and opportunity for engagement in the arts to all residents, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or income. Admission to the GRACE gallery is always FREE, as are most programs.

The Greater Reston Arts Center gratefully acknowledges the leadership of its Board of Directors and the support of its sponsors, members, and patrons. GRACE programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the Reston Community Center.

