

For immediate release

OVERLOOKED
July 13–August 31, 2019



Larry W. Cook, still from *Untitled 1*, 2014

Reston, VA: Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents *Overlooked*, a group exhibition featuring nine artists who are seeking to bring awareness to issues that are often unnoticed, ignored, or otherwise not part of “polite conversation,” on view July 13–August 31, 2019 at the gallery located at the Reston Town Center. The exhibition is curated by GRACE Associate Curator and Festival Director Erica Harrison and Executive Director and Curator Lily Siegel. An artist talk (4pm) and opening reception (5–7pm) will held on July 13.

The participating artists are Leila Abdelrazaq, Lorenzo Cardim, Larry W. Cook, Leigh Davis, Helina Metaferia, Matt Storm, Julie Wolfe, Homie House Press, and Red Sand Project. These artists are not necessarily proposing solutions to society’s ills but are alternatively offering an opportunity for the viewer to engage in compassion, empathy, critical reflection, and even healing. Instead of offering a comprehensive exhibition of hot-button issues, *Overlooked* turns to the artists in our community and beyond to bring awareness to subjects that are important to their lives.

Leila Abdelrazaq is a Palestinian author and artist born in Chicago and currently living in Detroit. Her debut graphic novel, *Baddawi* (Just World Books 2015) was shortlisted for the 2015 Palestine Book Awards and has been translated into three languages. She is also the author and illustrator of *The Opening* (Tosh Fesh, 2017) as well as a number of zines and short comics. *Overlooked* will feature her short animated film *Still Birth* (2018), which was originally commissioned for the 2018 Palestinian Young Artist of the Year Awards exhibition. She received a BFA in Theatre Arts and a BA in Arabic Studies from DePaul University, and is currently pursuing an MA in Modern Middle Eastern & North African Studies at the University of Michigan.

Lorenzo Cardim’s multi-media practice is a commitment to making work that questions social and political structures. His works express themes of social injustice through sculpture, video, and performance. His work looks at how society perceives those who exist outside culturally dominant norms. Specifically, he is interested in how queers, people of color, and other minority groups question the status quo. Cardim was born in Brazil. His work has been featured nationally and internationally in museums, galleries, universities, and film festivals in San

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Francisco, Oakland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Milan. He received a BFA in Fine Arts from the Corcoran College of Art + Design and an MFA from California College of the Arts.

Larry W. Cook explores ideas of Black identity, race relations, and community in his photography and video work. Cook is currently Assistant Professor of Photography at Howard University. He is an Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2019 Finalists, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery; 2017 Trawick Prize Winner; 2016 Sondheim finalist; former Hamiltonian Fellow (2013-2015); and has been included in various group shows at Delaware Contemporary; Walters Art Museum; Baltimore Museum of Art; Hemphill Fine Arts; Katzen Arts Center; Galerie Myrtis; and Rush Arts Gallery. Cook has also had solo presentations at Hamiltonian Gallery, (e)merge art fair, Stamp Gallery and Pleasant Plains Workshop. Cook had a series of videos screened at the National Gallery of Art, as part of the Black Cinema House project. He holds a BFA from Plattsburgh State University of New York and an MFA from George Washington University.

Leigh Davis creates multimedia work that is both deeply personal and anthropologically rich, navigating the complex line between voyeurism and empathy. Her work is designed to foster connection between viewers and community members, encouraging conversation about the aspects of humanity that keep us apart and bring us together. She has exhibited at Maryland Institute College of Art; Arlington Arts Center; California College of the Arts; and Dumbo Arts Center in Brooklyn, NY. Davis teaches courses at Parsons the New School for Design and works between Brooklyn, New York, and Washington, DC. She holds a BFA in Photography from Savannah College of Art and Design and an MFA in Photography from Concordia University.

Helina Metaferia is an interdisciplinary artist working in performance, video, installation, and collage. A large part of her creative inquiry is devoted to asserting the black body into sites of systemic oppression — including institutional spaces, art history, gentrified communities, or land marked by historic trauma. She has exhibited her work at venues including Museum of African Diaspora; Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. She has taught in the BFA and MFA programs at the San Francisco Art Institute, Michigan State University, and Parsons Fine Arts. She is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Gateway Fellow / Assistant Professor at Brown University and lives and works in New York City. Helina holds an MFA from Tufts University's School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Matt Storm is a photo-based artist, making photographs, performances, installations and sculptures in Washington, D.C. Storm's work engages with the theme of identity, and the question "who are we, and how do we know?" He approaches this question through self-portraiture, and visual topics including transgender and queer issues, family, and community. His work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. Storm serves on the leadership team of the LGBTQ Caucus of the Society for Photographic Education. He holds a BA in Studio Art, and East Asian Studies from Dartmouth College.

Julie Wolfe is a visual and conceptual artist living and working in Washington D.C. Her work is conceived by harvesting data, discarded objects and images that create a new narrative in the context of ecological environment and social / cultural evolution. Wolfe's work is featured in institutions and collections internationally and has been reviewed in *ARTnews*, *BBC American* and *Hyperallergic*. Her work has been exhibited at Hemphill Fine Arts; The American University; Washington Project for the Arts; and Kunstraum Tapir in Berlin, Germany. She holds a BFA in Painting and Art History from The University of Texas.

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Homie House Press was founded by Adriana Monsalve and Caterina Ragg and is a skeleton bones crew of femmes creating and publishing in the photo book medium. They are photographers, book makers, and educators holding space for and with QTPOC artists and other underrepresented communities. Homie House Press are storytellers and visual communicators that produces in-depth stories on identity through the nuances in between.

Red Sand Project is a participatory artwork created by Molly Gochman that uses sidewalk interventions and earthwork installations to create opportunities for people to question, connect, and take action against vulnerabilities that can lead to human trafficking and exploitation. Participatory actions have taken place in all 50 states and in 70 countries around the world.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

Artist Talk and Opening Reception

July 13, 4–7p

Free and open to the public

Creative Response

July 18 and August 22, 7pm

Free and open to the public

Lunchtime Creative Response

July 25, 12:30pm–1pm

Free and open to the public

Artist-led Workshop

August 3, 1–3pm

\$30. Register at www.restoncommunitycenter.com

Meditation Workshop

August 8, 7–8:30pm

Email info@restonarts.org to register.

Free for members of the Greater Reston Arts Center. \$5 donation for non-members.

Family Day

August 24, noon–3pm

Free and open to the public

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.

GRACE gratefully acknowledges the leadership of its Board of Directors and the support of its sponsors, members, and patrons. GRACE is a Virginia Commission for the Arts "50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award" winner in the category of Bedrock Institutions and is supported in part by ARTSFAIRFAX, Reston Community Center, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

