

For immediate release

Stephanie J. Williams: *Things That Don't Have Names*
April 23–June 22, 2019



Stephanie J. Williams, *Things That Don't Have Names* (detail), 2019

Reston, VA: Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents Stephanie J. Williams: *Things That Don't Have Names*, a site-specific sculptural installation in a solo exhibition of interdisciplinary, DC-based artist Stephanie J. Williams, on view April 20–June 22, 2019 at the gallery located at the Reston Town Center. The exhibition is curated by GRACE Executive Director and Curator, Lily Siegel.

Williams has long been concerned with the creation of identity through omission and inclusion, fragments, perceived and constructed narratives, inside and outside, and ingestion. Over the years, she has built a lexicon of visual morphemes, pitches, and syllables that can be configured and reconfigured to form cohesive bodies (of work). She takes these pieces, made of yet smaller parts—fabric remnants, cheap and bulk materials, and found materials—to create the semblance of a larger organism that continues to remain nameless despite its uncanny familiarity. There are body parts, food parts, parts of clothing, glimpses of the locker room and the clubhouse, parts of you, parts of me, and parts of her. Williams continues to expand her vocabulary through animation, sculpture, drawing, and installation in persistent response to the question, “What are you?”

The exhibition, that artist’s largest installation to date, includes recognizable components from her past work reimagined to more deeply consider American identity specifically. The title comes from a quote in the novel *White*

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is for the Witching (2009) by Helen Oyeyemi. “Well. I know of witches who whistle at different pitches, calling things that don’t have names.”

Williams received an MFA in sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design in Providence; a Sheridan Teaching Certificate from Brown University, Providence; and a BFA from James Madison University, Harrisonburg. She currently teaches animation at Maryland Institute College of Arts (MICA) and has participated in exhibitions at 'sindikit, Baltimore; IA&A at Hillyer, DC; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; and Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington; among others. She is a [2019 Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize finalist](#).

The exhibition will be accompanied by an extensive schedule of programming, including a conversation between Williams and [Saisha Grayson](#), curator of time-based media at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, taking place at GRACE.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

Opening reception

April 27, 5–7pm

Free and open to the public

In Their Own Words: Stephanie Williams and Lily Siegel in conversation

May 4, 3pm

Free and open to the public.

Creative Response

May 30, 7pm: Genevieve Villamora of [Bad Saint](#)

June 20, 7pm: Presenter TBA. Held in conjunction with [By The People](#)

Free and open to the public.

Meditation Workshop: Contemplating Creativity

June 13, 7–8:30

Email info@restonarts.org to register. Free for members of the Greater Reston Arts Center. \$5 donation for non-members.

Artist-led Workshop: Stop-motion Animation Workshop with Stephanie J. Williams

June 15, 1–3 pm

\$30. Register at www.restoncommunitycenter.com

Insights: Saisha Grayson, curator of time-based media at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Stephanie Williams in conversation

June 22, 3pm

Free and open to the public.

Gallery hours: Tues–Sat, 11am–5pm

For more information please visit restonarts.org

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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.

