The SAAH DEI Committee Invites you to an Artist Talk by Barber

Tuesday, March 29th from 7:00 – 8:00PM (CST)
@ Visual Arts Building, E125

Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30 pm brown bag lunch with our guest @ VAB E125. Reading materials submitted by Barber at the end of this pdf

www.barberpaintspeople.com

Graduating Cum Laude in the MFA program at the University of Iowa in 2016, Barber uses interdisciplinary art practices to articulate various testimonies within and surrounding Black America. His interdisciplinary practice investigates the intersections of race, power, and humanity. He believes that true wealth, as defined by Grace Lee Boggs, American revolutionary, is the ability to relate to other human beings. Through drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and performance practices he articulates various testimonies within and surrounding Black America.

His artist residencies in 2022 include Allerton Park And Retreat in Monticello, IL, and Fortuna in Mexico City, Mexico. Personal recognitions, aside from collaborations with Propelled Animals https://propelledanimals.org/ a site adaptive art collective, includes the 2020 Biennial Artist Research fellowship at Sam Fox Island Press, Washington University, St. Louis. His work was included in #150 issue of the New American Painting; in 2020 he was nominated for the 2022 United States Artist fellow and in 2021 for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Award.

* Today, more so than ever before, biopolitical warfare is at the doorstep of every American. In 2004, I codified human figures into geometric shapes and lines, allowing viewers to predict their unique social/cultural identities based on their sensibilities. With their non-ostensible identity markers and vague gender assignations, these figures abstain from the constructed system of social performance, proposing an alternative form of self-expression. As a result, the body of the figures becomes fluid between viewers. My work offers targeted communities a perspective for addressing, articulating, surviving, and thriving
beyond the universal trappings of "resemblance prediction" (as coined by behavioral economist Daniel Kahneman). Due to racial dynamism, the body represents the least of who we are. I refer to the geometric figures in my art as "Ppl." By avoiding visual descriptions of ethnicity and the biological usage of genitalia, my work becomes an exercise in decolonizing the body — within the picture plane and viewpoint of the viewer. I hope, with this framing, to shift culture away from the harm of social categorizing to, in the words of bell hooks, "enable our ability to understand what it means to be free." The aim is to give succeeding generations a greater sense of belonging than I had growing up by contributing to the culture of acceptance.

A word about SAAH DEI Committee.
We see that as a School of Art and Art History, we currently do not represent a diverse community that can be attractive to BIPOC students, staff, or faculty. As a result, in Spring 2019, the SAAH Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was formed. Composed of faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students from the Studio and Art History Divisions, we are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming community as it is central to our mission as an institution of higher education.

The SAAH DEI committee mission is:
1. Help make our school a place where students, faculty, and staff safely and freely express themselves.
2. Facilitate teaching and learning opportunities to advance the school's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Contribute to building a more inclusive curriculum and visiting artists/scholars' programs in the visual arts.
4. To recruit and increase faculty, students, and staff from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

In 2021 the SAAH DEI Committee was awarded the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Strategic Initiatives Fund for art and art history initiatives to increase diversity and opportunities for success for underrepresented students. "The Institute of Excellence and Impact in Art History and the Visual Arts" collaborates with the Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa Writers Workshop, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, the UI Center for the Book, and other community organizations. We are launching this program in 2022.

For more info you can contact isabel-barbuzza@uiowa.edu


Materials submitted by Barber for brown bag lunch with our guest on Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.
@ VAB E125.
https://progressive.org/magazine/letter-nephew/

Please confirm with jager-palad@uiowa.edu or alan-carrillo@uiowa.edu

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the School of Art and Art History in advance at 319-335-1376.