

# MoMA PS1

## **MoMA PS1 TO PREMIERE NEW SERIES BY TITUS KAPHAR AND REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS FOCUSED ON BAIL REFORM**

**Exhibition to Feature Program Series with Kiese Laymon, Telfar, Nicole Sealey, Bail Bloc, Alexandra Bell, and The Marshall Project, Among Others**

***Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts***

**March 31–May 5, 2019**

**2nd Floor, MoMA PS1**

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, March 21, 2018—MoMA PS1 presents the first public installation of *The Redaction*, a collaboration between visual artist and filmmaker Titus Kaphar (b.1976, Kalamazoo, MI) and memoirist, poet and attorney Reginald Dwayne Betts (b. 1980, Suitland, MD). On view from March 31 through May 5, 2019, *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* centers on a presentation of more than 30 new prints and a series of public programs that examine the issue of money bail, the condition of the state and federal court system by which those arrested, but unable to afford bail, remain incarcerated even though they have been neither tried nor convicted.

Drawing inspiration and source material from lawsuits filed by the Civil Rights Corps on behalf of people incarcerated because of an inability to pay court fines and fees, *The Redaction* features poetry by Betts in combination with Kaphar's etched portraits of incarcerated individuals. Betts utilizes the legal strategy of redaction to craft verse out of legal documents, capturing the complicated and pervasive effects of time spent incarcerated. These poems have been screenprinted by Kaphar onto handmade paper using the Redaction font, a new open-source typeface created for the project. Together, Betts's poems and Kaphar's printed portraits blend the voices of poet and artist with those of the plaintiffs and prosecutors, reclaiming these lost narratives and drawing attention to some of the many individuals whose lives have been impacted by mass incarceration.

*Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* will be accompanied by a series of presentations that engage with poetry, literature, and language alongside programs that highlight the cash bail system and those victimized by it:

**Redaction Opening: Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts with Alec Karakastanis of Civil Rights Corps and typeface designers Jeremy Mickel and Forest Young**

**Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**2–3 p.m.**

On the occasion of the opening of their exhibition *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts*, Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts will join Alec Karakastanis, Executive Director of the Civil Rights Corps, creative director Forest Young, and type designer Jeremy Mickel for a conversation focused on the exhibition and the new typeface, Redaction, which is a typographic extension to Kaphar and Betts' work.

Redaction is meant to feel familiar, rooted in the history of Times New Roman and New Century Schoolbook as the de facto typefaces of legal documents in the United States. But the familiar has been abstracted and heightened—soft round forms are contrasted with razor-sharp terminals, a nod to the dichotomy of cruelty and kindness evident in the eagle grasping both arrows and an olive branch in the U.S. presidential seal. The letterforms also feature digital artifacts, or “notches,” in the joins of the letterforms, a reference to the distortion of documents that have been faxed or photocopied after passing through numerous hands and machines. Redaction is available in regular, bold, and italic styles, as well as special bitmap versions that range from subtly analog to nearly illegible, an homage to the transformation and marginalization that many people face in the criminal justice system today.

Free as part of MoMA PS1's Spring Open House.

**Reading by Kiese Laymon and Mitchell S. Jackson**

**Monday, April 1, 2019**

**3–4:30 p.m.**

Nonfiction writers Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy: An American Memoir*, and Mitchell Jackson, author of *The Residue Years*, present a reading of their work. Following the reading, Laymon and Jackson are joined for a conversation with Reginald Dwayne Betts.

Kiese Laymon is a Black southern writer, born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. In addition to writing numerous essays, stories, and reviews for leading publications Laymon is the author of the novel, *Long Division* and a collection of essays, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*, and *Heavy: An American Memoir*. *Heavy*, winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal, the LA Times Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose and Audible's Audiobook of the Year, was named one of the Best Books of 2018 by *Publishers Weekly*, NPR, *Broadly*, *The Washington Post*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The New York Times*.

Mitchell S. Jackson's debut novel *The Residue Years* received wide critical praise. His

novel also won The Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence and was a finalist for The Center for Fiction Flaherty-Dunnán First Novel Prize, the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Jackson's honors include fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the Ford Foundation, PEN America, TED, NYFA (New York Foundation for the Arts), The Center for Fiction, and a Whiting Award. His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Paris Review*, *The Guardian*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. His nonfiction book *Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family* is forthcoming from Scribner. He is a professor of writing in at New York University. A formerly incarcerated person, Jackson is also a social and criminal justice advocate who, as part of his efforts, visits prisons and youth facilities in the United States and abroad.

Free with museum admission.

### **No One Is Innocent**

**April 7, 2019**

**12–6 p.m.**

Imagine the abolition of cash bail with MoMA PS1, clothing line Telfar, and non-profit advocacy organization Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

In 2018, Queens-born designer Telfar Clemens created the "LeFrak" unisex capsule collection. Proceeds from the collection went to Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights' Mass Bail Out campaign to free women and youth from Rikers Island as a part of the largest bailout in a single city, posting nearly \$1.2 million to free 105 people. This action was made possible through the coordinated efforts of over 1,200 volunteers: community groups, service providers, public defenders, faith communities, formerly incarcerated people and their families, as well as public officials, influencers, and activists, who sought to demonstrate that closing Rikers Island and ending cash bail is possible.

As a continuation of this initiative, MoMA PS1 has invited Telfar and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights to participate in an afternoon of talks and performances, sharing practical information on how bail works, how to get involved in its reform, and how to envision radical alternatives. The program highlights ways in which the discourse of innocence is used disproportionately against people of color, women, and gender nonconforming people to discriminate who is worthy of justice, care, and life. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts*, the event will also feature a teach-in within the gallery led by public defenders and organizers, providing an overview of bail in New York City, offering training on how to pay cash bail, and connecting volunteers to relevant local organizations.

In conjunction with the program, a limited edition Telfar garment will be available for sale, the proceeds from which directly support Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights'

ongoing effort to free school-aged youth from Rikers Island.

No One Is Innocent is generously supported by White Castle.



**Volkswagen**

VW Sunday Sessions and the VW Dome at MoMA PS1 are made possible by a partnership with Volkswagen of America, who have supported the program since its inception.

Major support is provided by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

Tickets: General Admission: \$15; MoMA Members: \$13

**Conversation on Bail Bloc with Maya Binyam, Grayson Earle, Brett Davidson and Ana María Rivera-Forastieri**

**Friday April 12, 2019**

**4–5:30 p.m.**

Maya Binyam and Grayson Earle, two members of the team behind Bail Bloc, an app used to raise money for bail funds, come together for a discussion of their work, alongside collaborators Brett Davidson and Ana María Rivera-Forastieri of the Immigrant Bail Fund in New Haven, Connecticut. Binyam, Earle, Davidson, and Rivera-Forastieri discuss issues related to bail and bail reform raised in the exhibition *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts*.

Bail Bloc is an app that uses a portion of a computer's unused processing power to mine a cryptocurrency called Monero. At the end of every month, Monero is exchanged into US dollars, and the earnings are donated to bail funds in the National Bail Fund Network on a rotational basis. Bail Bloc is currently mining Monero for the Immigrant Bail Fund in New Haven, Connecticut, and, from November 2017 to November 2018, mined Monero for the Bronx Freedom Fund.

Free with museum admission.

**The Cases Behind the Prints with Alec Karakatsanis of Civil Rights Corps**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**

**4–5:30 p.m.**

*Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* draws inspiration and source material from lawsuits filed by Civil Rights Corps (CRC) on behalf of people incarcerated because of an inability to pay court fines and fees. In this program, Alec Karakatsanis, lawyer and Executive Director of CRC, expands on the individuals featured in the suite of prints, their cases, and the broader work of CRC.

Civil Rights Corps is a non-profit organization dedicated to systemic litigation and advocacy that challenges the pervasive injustices in the American criminal legal system. Karakatsanis graduated from Yale College in 2005 and Harvard Law School in 2008, where he was a Supreme Court Chair of the Harvard Law Review. In addition to being the Founder and Executive Director of CRC, he is the author of *Policing, Mass Imprisonment, and the Failure of American Lawyers*, 128 *Harv. L. Rev. F.* 253 (2015), and *The Human Lawyer*, 34 *N.Y.U. Rev. L. & Soc. Change* 563 (2010). Within his work and advocacy, Karakatsanis is focused on ending human caging, surveillance, the death penalty, immigration laws, war, and inequality. He was awarded the 2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year by Public Justice for his role in bringing constitutional civil rights cases around the country to challenge the money bail system.

Free with museum admission.

### **Poetry Reading with Nicole Sealey and John Murrillo**

**Monday, April 15, 2019**

**4–5:30 p.m.**

In conjunction with the exhibition *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts*, New York-based poets Nicole Sealey and John Murrillo present a reading of their poetry followed by a Q&A with the audience about the exhibition, its themes, and their respective practices.

The executive director at Cave Canem Foundation, Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast* and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*. Among other honors, she is the recipient of the Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, the Poetry International Prize, and a Daniel Varoujan Award, as well as being a finalist for the PEN Open Book and Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards. She was recently named a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and is currently a visiting professor at Boston University and the Doris Lippman Visiting Poet at The City College of New York.

John Murrillo is the author of the poetry collections *Up Jump the Boogie*, which was a finalist for both the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the Pen Open Book Award, and *Kontemporary Amerikan Poetry*. His honors include two Larry Neal Writers Awards, a Pushcart Prize, the J Howard and Barbara MJ Wood Prize from the Poetry Foundation, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Cave Canem Foundation, and the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. He is an assistant professor of english at Wesleyan University and teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Sierra Nevada College.

Free with museum admission.

**Robin Steinberg of The Bail Project and Alysia Santo of The Marshall Project in Conversation with Reginald Dwayne Betts**

**Thursday, April 18, 2019**

**4–5:30 p.m.**

Reginald Dwyane Betts draws from his experience as a federal law clerk to lead a discussion focused on local bail reform both within New York State and the broader national context. Betts is joined by Robin Steinberg, Chief Operating Officer of The Bail Project, a national nonprofit organization that pays bail for people in need, reunites families, and restores the presumption of innocence, with Alysia Santo, a journalist with The Marshall Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization working to create and sustain a sense of urgency about the failures of the U.S. criminal justice system through journalism, partnerships with other news outlets, and public forums.

Free with museum admission.

**Counternarratives Workshop with Alexandra Bell**

**Friday, April 19, 2019**

**4 p.m.**

In conjunction with the exhibition *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Bett* artist Alexandra Bell will give a presentation on her series Counternarratives. In the ongoing series of works, Bell redacts and annotates articles to highlight how language, both text and image-based can reveal latent bias within mainstream media. The presentation is followed by an exercise in which visitors are invited to annotate and redact articles themselves, experiencing directly how narratives can be re-contextualized.

Alexandra Bell is a multidisciplinary artist who investigates the complexities of narrative, information consumption, and perception. Utilizing various media, she deconstructs language and imagery to explore the tension between marginal experiences and dominant histories. Through investigative research, she considers the ways media frameworks construct memory and inform discursive practices around race, politics, and culture.

Works from Bell's Counternarratives were on view at MoMA PS1 in 2017 as part of VW Sunday Sessions.

Free with museum admission.

**Poetry Reading with Rachel Eliza Griffiths and Safiya Sinclair**

**Thursday, April 25, 2019**

**4–5:30 p.m.**

Poet and artist Rachel Eliza Griffiths and poet Safiya Sinclair present a reading of their poetry followed by a discussion of their work.

Rachel Eliza Griffiths is an artist whose most recent collection of poetry is *Lighting the Shadow*. Griffiths' work has appeared in many publications including *The New Yorker*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Progressive*, *Gulf Coast*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and many others. She is a recipient of fellowships from Kimbilio, Cave Canem Foundation, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Provincetown Fine Art Work Center, Millay Colony, and Yaddo, among others.

Safiya Sinclair is the author of the forthcoming memoir *How to Say Babylon*. She is also the author of *Cannibal*, winner of a Whiting Writers' Award, the Addison M. Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Poetry, and the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry. Sinclair's other honours include a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Poetry Foundation, Yaddo, and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The Nation*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere.

Free with museum admission.

*Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* is organized by Sarah Suzuki, Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints, The Museum of Modern Art; with Jocelyn Miller, Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1.

The program of events accompanying *Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* is organized by Reginald Dwayne Betts in collaboration with Taja Cheek, Assistant Curator, and Alex Sloane, Assistant Curator, MoMA PS1.

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*Redaction: A Project by Titus Kaphar and Reginald Dwayne Betts* is supported by the MoMA PS1 Annual Exhibition Fund.

The Redaction Project is supported by the Art for Justice Fund, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

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### **ABOUT MoMA PS1**

MoMA PS1 is devoted to today's most experimental, thought-provoking contemporary art. Founded in 1976 as the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, it was the first nonprofit arts center in the United States devoted solely to contemporary art and is recognized as a defining force in the alternative space movement. In 2000 The Museum of Modern Art and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center merged, creating the largest platform for contemporary art in the country and one of the largest in the world. Functioning as a living, active meeting place for the general public, MoMA PS1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses, and new trends in contemporary art.

**Hours:** MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit. Free admission as a Gift to New Yorkers made possible by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

**Directions:** MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

**Information:** For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit [momaps1.org](http://momaps1.org).

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