



Palm Springs
Art Museum

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PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES
OUTBURST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Gives artists freedom to experiment with new bodies of work

PALM SPRINGS, CA (Feb. 8, 2022) Palm Springs Art Museum has announced the formation of a new program called **Outburst Projects** which are small-format exhibitions that artists create following a month-long artist-residency at the museum. The program is designed to support creative exploration, allowing artists to experiment with new bodies of work. The first two participating artists, **Mr. Wash**, and **Devin Reynolds**, will be featured in Outburst from March 31 – July 3, 2022; two more artists will take part in the second iteration of the program from Aug. 4 - Nov. 6, 2022.

Mr. Wash (Fulton Leroy Washington) is a self-taught artist who learned his craft while serving 20 years of a life sentence in prison for nonviolent drug offenses he did not commit. His first subjects were his fellow inmates, often depicted free and dressed in civilian clothing.

Many of his paintings include elaborate allegorical elements. For example, he often depicts his subjects with large tears running down their faces to represent their inner life, the source of their pain and fears. In his painting *Emancipation Proclamation* (2014), made while still incarcerated, he depicted himself in prison clothing seated before President Barack Obama and his cabinet; a reference to a famous portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Wash credits his 2014 painting with attracting the attention of then-President Obama, who commuted his sentence and granted him clemency in 2016. Born in 1954 in Tallulah, Louisiana, Mr. Wash lives and works in Compton, California. His work was recently featured in the group shows *Shattered Glass* at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery in Los Angeles and Miami Art Basel 2021, and *Black American Portraits* at LACMA. Mr. Wash will be creating a new sculptural installation for Outburst following his residency.

Los Angeles-based Devin Reynolds typically creates paintings that incorporate language and evoke the hand-made signs and advertisements of post-War America. With typography and style that conjure a sense of nostalgia, the work counterbalances its romanticism by raising powerful issues related to poverty and racial justice.

Born in Venice Beach in 1991, Reynolds spent much of his youth surfing and working as a deckhand on a sport-fishing boat. He studied architecture at Tulane University and found a path into painting through his work as a sign painter and graffiti writer. For his project in Palm Springs, Reynolds is exploring his relationship to the desert context, expressing a “tangible connection” to an environment that he sees as “both treacherous and yielding.”

Outburst will be part of a two-day **Opening Celebration Event** on Wednesday, April 20 and Thursday, April 21. The **Spring Exhibitions Preview Dinner** on April 20 is an intimate sit-down affair. The **Opening Celebration Party** on April 21 will feature an open bar, passed appetizers, and special guest DJs. Both evenings will celebrate not only Outburst but also the openings of the exhibitions *Leon Polk Smith: 1945-1962* and *Gonzalo Lebrija: Miracle of the Eternal Present*, as well as *Pattern Play: The Contemporary Designs of Jacqueline Groag* at the museum's Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion.

Graeme Flegenheimer is the curatorial advisor for the Outburst Program.

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum exhibitions, programs, and events, please visit psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800.

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About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. The Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. In Palm Desert, Palm Springs Art Museum’s four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.