



AT HILLYER

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What: September exhibitions featuring Zofie King, and Jamilla Okubo + Lou Dawson

When: September 6– September 29, 2019

Where: IA&A at Hillyer, 9 Hillyer Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

Reception: September 2, 2019, 6-9pm
(During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

More Info: <http://athillyer.org>

Description: Hillyer presents two new exhibitions featuring a solo presentation by Zofie King, and a two-person exhibition featuring Jamilla Okubo and Lou Dawson. Using a cabinet of curiosity format, Zofie King's *Secular Relics and Apocryphal Fossils* reflects on how both geological and cultural objects connect us to history. Playing with ideas about objects as evidence, King has created her own "fossils" that invite viewers to think critically about them in a time of post-truth. Inspired by Afrofuturist pioneers such as Octavia Butler and Sun Ra, DC natives Jamilla Okubo and Lou Dawson present *Dreaming While Woke: Speak of the Future in the Now*, consisting of works that are a conversation between the two artists on their experiences growing up in Washington, DC, while reimagining nostalgic cultural spaces as safe spaces for the black community. Guests can meet the artists at opening reception on Friday, September 6th from 6-9pm.

(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer presents two new exhibitions featuring a solo presentation by Zofie King, and a two-person presentation by Jamilla Okubo and Lou Dawson. Also on exhibit is *Starting from the Island, Contemporary Art from Taiwan*, featuring Yun-Ting Hun, Kuen-Lin Tsai, Tai-Chun Chou, and Don Don Houmwm. **The exhibitions will open on Friday, September 6, 2019 and run through September 29,**

2019. King, Okubo, and Dawson will be present to talk about their work with visitors at the **reception on Friday, September 6, 2019 from 6-9pm.**

Zofie King: *Secular Relics and Apocryphal Fossils (Arlington, VA)*

Using a cabinet of curiosity format, Zofie King reflects on how both geological and cultural objects connect us to history. Fossils serve as a record of geological time, in which humans are a mere blip, while reliquaries encapsulate myths that go back several centuries. The origin of relics is often dubious, and their provenance hard to track. In fact, a reliquary is venerated for what it is thought to contain, and its real value lies in the story that surrounds the object. Similarly, fossils hold our fascination by telling us about the history of life before humans. Studied extensively, they are put into context using the scientific method, but in holding a fossil, one is also physically connected to a prehistoric time.

King has created her own "fossils" using antique holiday molds, which celebrate pagan holidays that have been claimed by religion, and mixed them with objects that reference both religion and contemporary issues. Playing with ideas about objects as evidence, King invites the viewer to think critically about these objects in a time of post-truth.

Born in Poland and raised in Germany, Zofie King immigrated to the United States in 1998. After graduating with a psychology degree in 2002, she studied interdisciplinary craft at Towson University. For six years she worked in interior design while taking classes at MICA and the Corcoran, and devoted herself to her studio art practice in 2012. Currently, King is a sculptor working primarily with found objects, both conceptually and visually. She has had solo shows at the NVCC Margaret W. Fisher Art Gallery, DC Arts Center, Mount St. Mary's University Gallery, and her work has been included in numerous group shows. King was part of the Sparkplug Collective from 2017-2019 and is currently a member of the Washington Sculptor's Group.

Jamilla Okubo + Lou Dawson: *Dreaming While Woke: Speak of the Future in the Now (Washington, DC)*

Sharing a common thread of exploration, mixed media artist Jamilla Okubo, and fashion designer and visual artist Lou Dawson, both native to Washington, DC, come together to present *Dreaming While Woke: Speak of the Future in the Now*. Inspired by Afrofuturist pioneers such as Octavia Butler and Sun Ra, this exhibition consists of works that are a conversation between the two artists on their experiences growing up in Washington, DC, while reimagining nostalgic cultural places as safe spaces for the black community.

Jamilla Okubo is a mixed-media artist living and working in Washington, DC. Her work has consistent themes that explore the intricacy of belonging to an American, Kenyan, and Trinidadian identity. She aims to use her interdisciplinary concentration as a medium to address topics within her culture. Rotating between collage, painting, fashion design, and screen printing her work is heavily inspired by the art of storytelling. Okubo's most recent accomplishments include collaborating with Christian Dior, Gorman shop, creating live art installations for Culture Corp x Hudson Yards, and the Line Hotel DC. Her work has been exhibited at The Torpedo Factory, Milk Gallery, Calabar Gallery, Weeksville Heritage Center, and the Dray Walk Gallery.

Lou Dawson is a Washington, DC-based fashion designer. Her label HUEMANZ is ____

Also on exhibition:

Starting from the Island in partnership with the Taiwan ArtBank

Starting from the Island shows how the artists discuss the global social issues from personal experiences and concerns in the contemporary environment of a massive amount of information and rapid changes. Starting from their own emotion and imagination, they analyze the land they situate and speak to the external world through their works. Hence, a "space of imagination" is thus represented.

Selected Artists include:

Hung Yun-Ting
Tsai Kuen-Lin
Dondon Houmwm
Chou Tai-Chun

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Gallery Information

IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) is a program of International Arts & Artists (IA&A), a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. IA&A fulfills its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public. Hillyer supports IA&A's mission through a series of exhibitions and public programs that feature local, regional, and international artists. Hillyer's exhibition series focuses on under-represented artists, both emerging and established, that have not had a major solo exhibition within the last three years. Hillyer is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. We are located in Dupont Circle, next to the Phillips Collection, in Washington, DC, two blocks from the Red Line Metro, Dupont Circle Q Street Exit. The gallery is open seven days a week, Saturday-Monday 12-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 12-6pm, and by appointment.

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High-resolution images available upon request