

HAND TO MOUTH

CURATED BY TK SMITH

FEBRUARY 9 - JUNE 22

1250 E 13TH ST. CHATTANOOGA, TN

OPEN WED - SAT, 12-6:30

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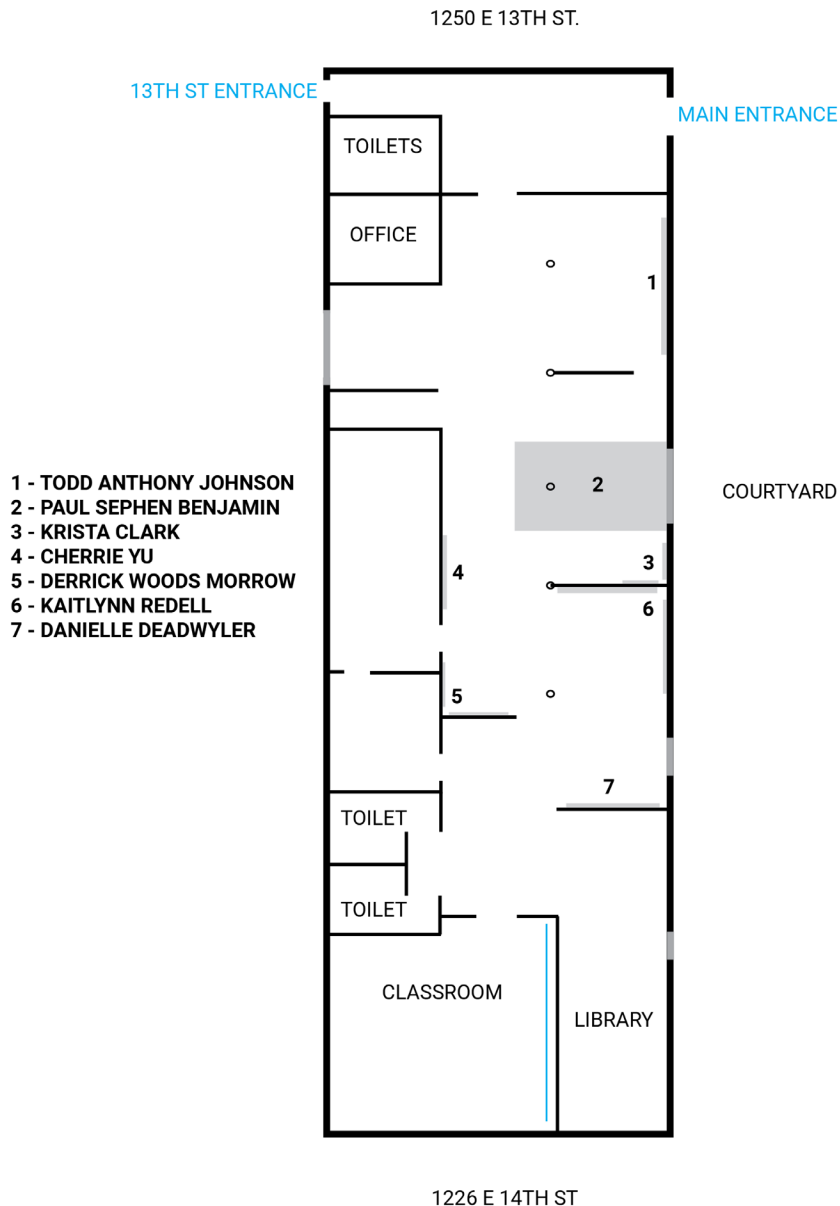
ARTS *Build*

Hand to Mouth

Hand to Mouth is a group exhibition of early and mid-career artists who explore labor through movement and performative gestures. The labor undergirding our capitalist society requires a synchronicity of physical movement that functions much like choreography. The repetitive actions of manual laborers—pushing, pulling, lifting— are rarely considered expressive, if considered at all. Essential forms of labor are often devalued as being both menial and expendable, blurring the individuality of laborers, rendering them invisible. Hand to Mouth participates in a multimedia exploration of the intersections of art, process, and labor brought to popular discourse in the mid-twentieth century by feminist and experimental artists. Centering the body, Hand to Mouth explores how contemporary artists are making visible the invisible, how they imbue laboring bodies with value, and how creating performative dissonance can be an act of resistance.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Paul Stephen Benjamin
Krista Clark
Danielle Deadwyler
Todd Anthony Johnson
Derrick Woods Morrow
Kaitlynn Redell
Cherrie Yu



TK Smith (Philadelphia, USA)

Curator

His curatorial projects include Hand to Mouth at Stove Works, Kelly Taylor Mitchell & Sergio Suárez: Material Memory at Swan Coach House Gallery, Roland Ayers: Calligraphy of Dreams at the Woodmere Museum of Art, the 2021 Atlanta Biennial exhibition Virtual Remains at the Atlanta Contemporary, and Zipporah Camille Thompson: Looming Chaos at the Zuckerman Museum of Art. Most recently, Smith completed a curatorial residency on behalf of the Barnes Foundation at Yinka Shonibare's G.A.S. Residency in Lagos, Nigeria.

Currently, Smith is a doctoral candidate in the History of American Civilization program at the University of Delaware, where he researches art, material culture, and the built environment. He received his Master of Arts in American Studies and his Bachelor of Arts in English and African American Studies, with a certificate in Creative Writing from Saint Louis University.

www.tksmith106.com/
[@tksmith106](https://www.instagram.com/tksmith106)

Paul Stephen Benjamin (Atlanta, USA)

Ceiling, 2024, Tempered glass, Dimensions variable

Paul Stephen Benjamin received his BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his MFA from Georgia State University. Benjamin is a recent recipient of The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia Working Artist Project. Benjamin will exhibit new works in 2017 at the MOCA GA as a part of the award. Benjamin was also recipient of the 2014 Artadia Award. In 2016 Benjamin exhibited Black is the Color at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA. His work has been on exhibit at the Mayor Office of Cultural Affairs in Atlanta, Georgia. Among his awards to date are the MOCA GA WAP, Artadia Award 2014, Winnie B. Chandler Fellowship, Diasporal Rhythms Artists Recognition Award, Hambidge Fellowship, The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center Studio Program and the Forward Arts Emerging Artists Award.

www.paulstephenbenjamin.com
[@paulstephenbenjamin](https://www.instagram.com/paulstephenbenjamin)

Krista Clark (Atlanta, USA)

Sheltered Meditation no. 7, 2022, pastel and graphite, 22" x 15"

How to Water a Garden, 2024, walnut frame, concrete, shovel, worklight, Dimensions variable

Krista Clark was born in Burlington, VT and lives and works in Atlanta, GA. She holds an MFA from Georgia State University. Her work has been exhibited at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, The Studio Museum in Harlem New York and the New Museum in New York. She was the recipient of the Artadia Award and the Working Artist Project Award with MOCA GA in 2018. Clark is an Assistant Professor at Emory University.

www.kristaclark.com
[@kristaaaaaclarck](https://www.instagram.com/kristaaaaaclarck)

Danielle Deadwyler (Atlanta, USA)

CHOR(E)S, 2019, Video, 13 minutes, Performer: Danielle Deadwyler

An Atlanta native, Deadwyler is rooted in theatre, dance, and creative writing. Hometown staples such as Gate City Heritage House, Total Dance Theatre, Gary Harrison Studios, Atlanta Street Theatre, Henry W. Grady High School, and Spelman College cumulatively honed Deadwyler amongst a distinctly Southern landscape. As a graduate student under Dr. Robin D. G. Kelley, she focused her analysis on issues facing women and African Americans while attaining a Master's of Arts in American Studies from Columbia University.

www.danielledeadwyler.com
[@danielledeadwyler](https://www.instagram.com/danielledeadwyler)

Todd Anthony Johnson (St. Louis, USA)

FIELD HOLLA, 2015, Video, 6 minutes, Performer:
Todd Anthony Johnson

Todd Johnson was born in East St. Louis, Illinois in 1966 to Sandra and Tony Johnson. He attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he studied film production. Though managing to gain some training during his years there, self-discipline and money issues compelled him to drop out and return to St. Louis, where he soon found work at the US Post Office as mail carrier. Within a few years, however, performing this job led to a serious back injury. Fearing losing his health insurance, after a year of not working, he returned to his job at the Post Office and worked for the better part of the next thirteen years in increasingly debilitating discomfort, before finally being laid off because of his inability to work at full capacity. With disability and Social Security money, he began making films. In these films, he has focused on, through the prisms of drama and comedy, blacks his age and younger, and their difficulties in trying to communicate with and their desire and demand to be valued by each other and those outside the race; that being, particularly, white people. He hopes to continue to work on and finish future projects with similar themes, as his health permits.

@joh3888

Derrick Woods Morrow (Newport, USA)

Fire Island Polaroids (23 total), 2016, Ink Jet Prints

Originally from Greensboro, North Carolina, Derrick Woods Morrow's work reflects on his experience growing up in the Black American South and centers on the exploration of Black sexuality and the complex journey in navigating this discovery. Woods-Morrow's practice spans photography, film, installation, performance, and sculpture to capture and illustrate the queering of Blackness and the spaces in which this takes place. His work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; the Museum of Modern Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Schwules Museum in Berlin; the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans; the Brooklyn Museum, New York; and UIC Gallery 400, among many other institutions across the world.

www.derrickwoodsmorrow.com
@moresweetbeef

Kaitlynn Redell (Los Angeles, USA)

not her(e) photograph series, 2016-2017

Kaitlynn Redell is a visual artist based in Los Angeles, CA. She received her BFA from Otis College of Art and Design in 2009 and her MFA from Parsons the New School for Design in 2013. Her practice is invested in dismantling socially constructed, categorizations of the body. More specifically she is interested in inbetweenness and how “unidentifiable” bodies—that do not identify with standard categories—negotiate identity. She has participated in numerous exhibitions nationally and internationally including at El Museo del Barrio (NYC), Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LA), Charlie James Gallery (LA), Pearl Conard Gallery at Ohio State University Mansfield (OH), Zuckerman Museum of Art (GA), Københavns Universitet, Institut for Folkesundhedsvidenskab (Copenhagen), Museo Laboratorio - Ex Manifattura Tabacchi (Italy) and was included in the 32nd Biennial of Graphic Arts: Birth As Criterion, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Redell has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Wassaic Project (NY), Popp's Packing (MI) and Yaddo (NY). She is a 2018 recipient of a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award.

www.kaitlynnredell.com
@kyredell

Cherrie Yu (New York, USA)

Lydia and Matthew, 2019, Video, 20 minutes,
Performer(s): Lydia Feuerhelm and Matthew Lemus,
Camera: Wanbli Gamache, Armin Hayrapetian,
Sound: Armin Hayrapetian
Cherrie and Matthew (2022 Edit), 2022, Video, 16
minutes, Performers: Cherrie Yu, Matthew Lemus,
Video and sound recording: Julian Flavin

Cherrie Yu was born in Xi'an, China in 1995. She relocated to the US in 2013. Her films and performances have shown at Chicago Cultural Center, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Roman Susan Gallery and Arts Club of Chicago, Trestle Gallery, Wassaic Project in New York, and Chengdu Times Museum in China, the David Ireland House in SF, Kala Art Institute in Berkeley CA, Contemporary Calgary Museum in Calgary Canada. She has been an artist in residence at ACRE Residency, Contemporary Calgary Museum, Monson Arts, Yaddo, and McColl Center. She was an awardee of the Kala Art Institute Media Award Fellowship in 2022. She has been a visiting artist at Emory University's anthropology department, and a visiting teaching artist at the Visual Art department at UNC Charlotte. She is currently a resident of the Sharpe Walentas Studio program in Dumbo, Brooklyn.

www.cherrieyu.cargo.site
@cherriechurro

ABOUT STOVE WORKS

Our mission is to serve the Chattanooga community by providing local, national, and international artists a venue for the production of, the exhibition of, and education through contemporary works of art.

Stove Works' goal is to use Contemporary Art as a megaphone in order to foster an environment of exchange and reflection, to provide opportunities to learn from the experiences of others and to give voice. Stove Works seeks to bring outside elements into Chattanooga where creators, their work, and those that witness are engaged in a dynamic process: all three are impacted by the other in an evolving way, enriching outcomes for all. Stove Works aims to draw greater attention to the production of contemporary works in the Southeast, expand and educate an audience outside of traditional art goers, create an active base of arts advocates, and further establish the Southeast's (and Chattanooga's) contribution to the national dialogue surrounding contemporary art.

Stove Works is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

SPECIAL THANKS

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Caroline Gikas (Exhibitions Director)
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Clay Aldridge (Interim Programs Director)
TK Smith (Guest Curator)
Trevor Reese (Projector Handler)
Kate Greenwell (Intern)
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