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**Paul Robeson Galleries Announces  
Group Exhibition on the Theme of Fashion**

Newark, New Jersey -- Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark, Rutgers University - Newark is pleased to announce *Dressed*, a group exhibition co-curated by Caren King Choi and Kristen J. Owens. The exhibition is on view from July 12 through September 29, 2018 at the Window Gallery (54 Halsey Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor). A public reception will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 o'clock in the evening, with short talks from participating artists Fabiola Jean-Louis, Sneha Ganguly, Dong Kyu Kim, Lauren Silberman, Joseph Liatela, LaKela Brown, and Dario Calmese beginning at 5:30 p.m.

“Clothing and adornment are such a ubiquitous part of our visual landscape that we rarely consider their value beyond what is practical and aesthetic,” says Co-curator and Associate Director of Programs at Paul Robeson Galleries Caren King Choi. “But aesthetics must come from somewhere; fashion and trends reference histories, lived experiences, cultures, and subcultures. Even the body itself can be a form of dress, as our outer shells undergo change.”

*Dressed* showcases a diverse group of eight artists working in a variety of media: LaKela Brown, Dario Calmese, Sneha Ganguly, Fabiola Jean-Louis, Dong Kyu Kim, Joseph Liatela, Whitney Lynn and Lauren Silberman. On the selection of artworks, co-curator Kristen J. Owens says, “*Dressed* was inspired by my desire to show the deeper meaning of the connections between personal narrative, dress, and the body. Each artist in this exhibition is connected to the stories and lived experiences exemplified in their work and it is the distinctiveness of each artist's story that also forms a beautiful undercurrent of universality.” Owens continues, “My hope is that *Dressed* will inspire viewers to think about their personal stories in relationship to dress and the body in a way that sparks meaningful cross cultural connections.”

The presentation of one's physical appearance intersects with opportunities to communicate a variety of messages—aesthetic as well as social, cultural, and political. *Dressed* explores both the idiosyncratic and universal ways adornment, clothing, costume, and fashion are used to communicate ideas about identity and representation in relationship to a variety of cultural, historical, and personal narratives. The artists in *Dressed* use elements of dress in their work to not only acknowledge traditional methods of representation, but to interrogate contemporary narratives in relation to topics such as race, beauty, gender, and to imagine other possible futures.

The exhibition is accompanied by a panel discussion on Thursday, September 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the evening in the Main Gallery at Express Newark. *Fashioning*



*Memory* will explore the connections between dress and personal narrative, particularly how the symbolisms imbued in the objects we choose to adorn ourselves with allow us to engage in the concealing or revealing of our identities. Discussants include artist Fabiola Jean-Louis; artist Dong Kyu Kim; curator Kalia Brooks Nelson, PhD; and fashion designer Marco Hall, and will be moderated by *Dressed* co-curator Kristen J. Owens.

## SPONSORS

The Paul Robeson Galleries' programs are supported, in part, by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and by private donations. Paul Robeson Galleries is supported by Express Newark, the Robeson Campus Center and the Cultural Programming Committee, Rutgers University - Newark.

## ABOUT THE PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES

The Paul Robeson Galleries' mission and programming embody Paul Robeson's life-long commitment to unfettered artistic freedom, cultural democracy, and transnationalism. The Paul Robeson Galleries is dedicated to presenting art and cultural artifacts as well as educational and public programming in the spirit of the diverse metropolitan context of Rutgers University at Newark, the Greater Newark communities, and the northeast region of New Jersey. The Gallery's programs strive to: present arts and visual culture exhibitions and events of the highest quality; enrich the University arts programs with cross-disciplinary collaborations; provide gallery educational experience to local and regional communities; strengthen collaborative relationships with Greater Newark's artistic, cultural, and educational organizations; advance Paul Robeson's legacy of encouraging cross-cultural artistic freedom and cultural democracy; emphasize the role of arts and culture in the shaping and functioning of society; reflect the spirit of the University's diverse metropolitan context; and enhance the quality of life for the campus and Greater Newark communities.

## ABOUT EXPRESS NEWARK

Express Newark is a university–community collaboratory in Newark's historic Hahne and Company building. A conceptual framework and an interdisciplinary learning space, Express Newark houses the Newest Americans; the Form Design Studio; the Design Consortium; Visual Means; Shine Portrait Studio; the Community Media Center; Scarlet Magazine; the Newark Print Shop; the Paul Robeson Galleries; and twenty-two resident artists in printmaking, photography, painting and video. At Express Newark, artists and community residents collaborate, experiment, and innovate in partnership with Rutgers University – Newark faculty, staff, and students with the goals of engaging in public work, creative practice, and democratic dialogue in order to promote positive transformation. Express Newark is co-directed by Victor Davson, founding director of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, Newark's longest lived and most respected gallery, and Anne Schaper Englot, RU-N professor of architecture and humanities in the interdisciplinary Arts, Culture and Media (ACM) Department.

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