



**Genesis Tramaine: I SURRENDER: Letter of faith, includes 5 Devotional self portrait paintings Which are Offerings of gratitude :: to my guiding fe:male spirits**

On view: October 18, 2018 – March 21, 2019

Opening reception: October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m., with an artist talk at 5:30 p.m.

Paul Robeson Campus Center Gallery  
350 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor | Newark, NJ 07102

Newark, New Jersey -- Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark, Rutgers University - Newark is pleased to announce *I SURRENDER: Letter of faith, includes 5 Devotional self portrait paintings Which are Offerings of gratitude :: to my guiding fe:male spirits*, a solo exhibition by Genesis Tramaine. The exhibition is on view from October 18, 2018 through March 21, 2019 at the Robeson Campus Center Gallery (350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor). A public reception will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 o'clock in the evening with an artist talk at 5:30 p.m.

*I SURRENDER* presents a selection of Tramaine's recent works. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Tramaine is a highly motivated, self-identified Black- Queer- Female- bodied Urban Expressionist and Educator. She creates abstract portraits of men and women who transcend gender, color, and social structures as political or representative. Through a mixture of collage, acrylic, and oil based mediums, Tramaine's portraits are layer upon layer of real moments and imagined metaphors. She explores ethics and insanity, the mundane and the inhumane, spirituality, and sexuality. The artist digests the everyday experiences of living and serving in disenfranchised communities and regurgitates it as work that evokes déjà vu, beckoning memories of past lives and glimpses of undiscovered futures.

"I paint as a devotional gift to God, and feel compelled to create visual archives of biblical narratives that continue to leave stories like mine out of the conversation," the artist asserts. "I pray to God in the name of Jesus as a resistance to the patriarchal agency that King James depicts as truth. I identify as Hue-man'. Race and Gender are paradymns that I rebuke in the name of Jesus because they are worldly distractions from the most high God."

Tramaine continues, "I am unafraid to speak in tongues, I am unafraid to pray from a place I don't recognize. I am willing to use my body, both inwardly and out to praise and glorify Jesus. The journey of a painting spirit is lived in isolation, behind the paint. God is in between the color. That is where I found God, in my quiet struggle to accept self."

*I SURRENDER* is the culmination of Tramaine' six-month residency at the Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark. The Artist-in-Residence is selected by a jury of art professionals and receives a stipend and free studio located in the former Hahne and Co. Department Store. During their six-month tenure, the artist is an active member of the dynamic community of Express Newark and Rutgers University - Newark.

Genesis' solo and group exhibitions include The Tree House, Governors Island, New York; The Salt Space, New York; AOF Gallery, New York; Gallery Aferro, Newark; and



The Raging Spoon Gallery, Toronto. She has spoken on panels at Harvard University, Cambridge and The New School, New York. Tramaine has also been featured in the *Grio*, *Afro Punk*, *Blavity*, and *Knack Magazine*.

## **ABOUT THE PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES**

Established in 1979, 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 - 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 Co. 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*; Newark Print Shop; 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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