

Open Sessions 8: Planes and Corridors

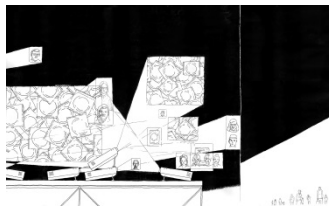
October 7–November 6, 2016

The Lab

Opening Reception: Thursday, July 14, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
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October 6, 2016



James Mercer, *People Looking at People Looking at Condoms*, 2016.
Ink on paper. 18 x 30 inches.
Courtesy of the artist.

New York – *Open Sessions 8: Planes and Corridors* is a group exhibition which considers drawing as a shifting outline around narratives of alienation, proximity and distance. Featuring artists ruby onyinyechi amanze, Eric Ramos Guerrero, Nsenga Knight, Lei Lei, James Mercer, Edwin Torres and Ezra Wube, the exhibition explores real and imagined landscapes, whose fluid borders and disorienting geographies reference issues around migration and complicated topographies of the everyday. Including work that features poetry, drawing, books and video, *Planes and Corridors* presents drawing as an open equation where the strange and ordinary meet.

ruby onyinyechi amanze, (b.1982, Nigeria) is a visual artist whose practice is primarily centered around drawing and works on paper. In a non-linear and open narrative, her drawings explore space as a malleable construct, the freedom to play as revolutionary and cultural hybridity as a mundane norm.

Eric Ramos Guerrero (b.1977, Philippines) is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York City. Guerrero considers the detritus of the West as a landscape where latent political and cultural unrest endure. Through painting, drawing, sculpture, video and performance, he mines our cultural mythologies.

Nsenga Knight (b. 1981, Brooklyn) is a visual artist, living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Knight makes drawings, text paintings, prints, photographs, and social practice projects. Her work explores drawing as a physically direct process of archiving, engaging with communal memory and an expression of self-recognition, which connects the aesthetics and theoretical concerns of new media, conceptual art, minimalism, Suprematism, and Islamic geometric art with an African-American experience.

Lei Lei (b. 1985, China) is a multimedia animation artist living in Beijing, China. Working between graphic design, illustration, short cartoon, graffiti and music, he explores the mysterious

side of historical archives, navigating the factual in contrast to the imagined. His work is playful and has a sense of innocence and humor.

James Mercer, (born 1984, Boston) is a New York based artist working across drawing, video, sound and installation. Since 2005 he has stockpiled books filled with drawings. In his recent work narrative impulses are countered by powerful uncertainty; where the viewer becomes the outsider.

Edwin Torres (b. 1958, New York) is a poet, performer and graphic designer working in New York City. His work investigates the alchemy of language; expanding a sensory dialogue with the audience to create transformative lines beyond predictable narratives.

Ezra Wube (b. 1980, Ethiopia) is a mixed media artist lives and work in Brooklyn, NY and Addis Ababa. His work comes from his life; collapsing past and present in a rhythmic procession of images and shifting scales, Wube produces a dialogical tension between "here" and "there."

OPEN SESSIONS

Open Sessions is a hybrid exhibition/residency program created by Lisa Sigal and Nova Benway, Open Sessions Curators. It provides unique opportunities for selected artists to find new approaches for contextualizing and exhibiting their work through exhibitions, public programs, workshops, and working dinners. The artists selected for Open Sessions may or may not draw as their primary means of art-making. The two-year program engages musicians, architects, dancers, poets—anyone who is interested in expanding the boundaries of drawing. Open Sessions artists work together to create a dynamic, continuous conversation, viewing drawing as an activity rather than a product.

Open Sessions Artists 2016–2017

Regina Agu, ruby onyinyechi amanze, Daniel Bejar, Cammisa Buerhaus, Alexander Fleming, and Karin Schneider, Danielle Dean, Mustafa Faruki, Eric Ramos Guerrero, Sheree Hovsepian, Sue Jeong Ka, Olalekan Jeyifous, Rafael Kelman, Arnold Kemp, Nsenga Knight, Florentine and Alexandre Lamarche-Ovize, Carolyn Lambert, Lei Lei, jc lenochan, Thessia Machado, Srinivas Mangipudi, James Mercer, Irini Miga, Ana Penalba, Sreshta Rit Premnath, Jennifer May Reiland, Gabriela Salazar, Slinko, Sun Moqing, Edwin Torres, Hong-An Truong, Tuguldur Yondonjams, Rodrigo Valenzuela, Ezra Wube, and Sara Chang Yan.

CREDITS

Open Sessions is made possible by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, the Tom Slaughter Open Sessions Fund, Faber-Castell, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open

Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the Drawing Papers publication series; and education and public programs.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | info@drawingcenter.org | drawingcenter.org

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrawingCenter)

TWITTER: twitter.com/drawingcenter

TUMBLR: the-drawing-center.tumblr.com

INSTAGRAM: [instagram.com/drawingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/drawingcenter)

AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Cecily Brown: Rehearsal</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Olga Chernysheva: Vague Accent</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 8: Planes and Corridors</i>	October 7–November 6, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 9</i>	November 18–December 18, 2016
<i>Mateo López: Undo List</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Jackson Mac Low</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Amy Sillman</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Exploratory Works: Drawings from the Department of Tropical Research Field Expeditions</i>	April 14–June 25, 2017
<i>Open Sessions 10</i>	April 14–June 4, 2017
Installations	
<i>Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels</i>	October 7, 2016–October 2017
<i>Jackie Ferrara: Lines</i>	Through March 2017

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Images Available for Reproduction

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ruby onyinyechi amanze, *The Divers*, 2016. Graphite, ink, photo transfers, fluorescent acrylic, colored pencils. 38 x 50 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



Eric Ramos Guerrero, *Lean Like a Camaro*, 2016. Graphite and ink on paper. 14 x 20 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



Nsenga Knight, *Untitled (Plateau #1)*, 2016. Archival inkjet print. 32 X 40 inches. Courtesy of the artist.



Lei Lei, *Books on Books*, 2013-16. Video, collage on paper. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.



Edwin Torres, *Palimpsest 5: To Read With The Silent Runners*, 2016, Laser print on paper, 18 x 36 inches, Courtesy of the artist.



Ezra Wube, *When we all met*, 2009. Stop action animation, mixed materials on Mylar, 3' 54". Courtesy of the artist.