



The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Michaela Pilar Brown

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, will present *The Space Between*, an exhibition by Michaela Pilar Brown, on view in the McMaster Gallery at the USC School of Visual Art and Design, from Jan. 4 through Feb. 5, 2016. A reception will be held on Jan. 21, from 6-8pm, with a live performance of *Mother Wound* at 6:30pm and a gallery conversation at 7:15pm.

The Space Between is an exploration of the effects of psychological trauma on physical movement, posture and muscle memory. This body of work is an intense personal exploration of a larger phenomenon of psychological and physical disease among black women and the roots of that disease in the oppression of black American women beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The exhibition includes a series of photographic prints, a site-specific installation, and a live performance.

From Michaela Pilar Brown's artist statement: "my installations, sculpture, collage and photographs address issues attendant to the black body. I use nontraditional materials and their juxtaposition to each other, and or dissimilar objects to make statements about the body and its relationship to larger cultural themes of age, gender, race, sexuality, history, and violence. I consider memory, myth, ritual, desire and the spaces the body occupies within these vignettes. The narratives move between past, present and surreal projections of the future, sometimes occupying these spaces simultaneously".

The exhibition includes a series of photographic prints titled *Death Eater* and a site-specific installation examines these ideas through a more formal exploration of materiality using synthetic hair, paper, glass and wood.



Work by Michaela Pilar Brown

Brown describes the *Mother Wound* performance as an exploration of the genetic memory of trauma. "Using sound, video projection and body markings I will invite audience participants to join me, as I will explore the history of my mother's wounds, both physical and psychological as metaphor for the existing psychological and physical disease among black women and the connection of that disease to the oppression of black women in the Americas." This performance may include nudity and potentially provocative subject matter and situations and you must provide identification proving you are at least 18 years old to attend.

Brown is an image and object maker. She studied sculpture and art history at Howard University, though she has always been a maker of things. Born in Bangor, ME, and raised in Denver, CO, she cut her teeth in the halls of a museum where her mother worked as a security guard, and has been immersed in the culture of objects, their making and interpretation ever since.

Shannon Rae Lindsey, Director of the McMaster Gallery states: "this exhibition fosters an ongoing examination of contemporary cultural and social contexts regarding race and gender. The imagery, installation materials, and the performance should evoke and inspire reflection on

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the perception, interpretation, and our relationship to societal constructs that determine human existence."

McMaster Gallery is located in the University of South Carolina's School of Visual Art and Design on Senate Street, Columbia, SC, with accessible street parking on Pickens, Senate, and Henderson.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Shannon Rae Lindsey, Gallery Director at 803/777-5752 or e-mail to (slindsey@email.sc.edu).

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