

AF/AM/50

BLACK ARTS: A CANVAS FOR SOCIAL ACTIVISM

Panel: “Black Arts: A Canvas for Social Activism”



Saturday, November 9, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium, Visual Arts Center

This intimate conversation between Coretta King '12, singer-songwriter, and George Ellzey '13, actor, writer, and producer, seeks to shed light on the goal of furthering social justice ideals in an artistic setting. The discussion explores the history of the underrepresentation of black creatives in artistic spaces and how it perpetually disadvantages blacks in art spaces—and in society in general—and the artists personally.

As a small-town native and Memphian, **CORETTA KING '12** spent her childhood thriving around a vibrant music community. Throughout her college experience at Bowdoin, she shared her musical talents and voice in church, service projects, and performance groups. After graduating, Coretta embraced her passion for singing-songwriting. She honed her craft with The Consortium Memphis Music Town, an organization founded and mentored by renowned Songwriter Hall of Fame inductee David Porter. She was recently selected for The Arts and Business Council of Greater Nashville 2019 Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training Program. Her music has hooked listeners to on-air radio programming, including the *Earle Augustus Show* (Soul Classics WIOI FM), and has been featured at songwriting shows: *Top Writer Series* and *Backstage Nashville*. Coretta currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee.



GEORGE ELLZEY JR. '13 is a Chicago director and producer. Currently pursuing his MFA in directing for film and television at DePaul University, George is driven to explore the often-ignored narratives of minorities, specifically unpacking black masculinity, intercommunity prejudice, and black trauma in society. George is a core member of the Agency Theater Collective and founding member of ROME Production Group. In 2018, George directed the short film *DIVISION*, which was featured in the Miami Independent Film Festival and received over \$14,000 through crowdfunding.

Moderated by English and theater major **JESSICA SPEIGHT '21**.