

# INTERNATIONAL

*And Thy Neighb(our)*

Letitia Huckaby

Fall 2020 International Artist-in-Residence

In residence September 28–November 23, 2020

Exhibitions on view November 19, 2020–January 10, 2021

a

## ABOUT <sup>THE</sup> ARTIST

Letitia Huckaby (b. 1972, lives in Fort Worth) received a BA in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma, a BFA in Photography from the Art Institute of Boston, and an MFA in Photography from the University of North Texas, Denton. She has exhibited at the Tyler Museum of Art, Harlem School of the Arts, The McKenna Museum of African American Art in New Orleans, Camden Palace Hotel in Cork City, Ireland, and the 2013 Texas Biennial at Blue Star Contemporary. Her work is included in such collections as the Library of Congress, McNay Art Museum, Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Brandywine Workshop and Archives in Philadelphia, and the Samella Lewis Contemporary Art Collection at Scripps College, Claremont, CA. Huckaby was a featured artist in *MAP2020: The Further We Roll, The More We Gain* at the Amon Carter Museum and *State of the Art 2020* at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. *Beautiful Blackness*, a solo exhibition of new work, was presented at Foto Relevance, Houston, in spring 2020.

## ABOUT <sup>THE</sup> EXHIBITION

Letitia Huckaby has photographed figures and silhouettes throughout her career. In her Artpace exhibition *And Thy Neighb(our)*, the artist expands this practice with new media and deepened interests as she here presents her subjects in the vein of Old Master paintings. This centuries-old style typically pictured Western European male subjects in paintings done by the hand of European male artists, a narrow view that Huckaby updates and democratizes. As suggested by the exhibition's title, derived from a Biblical

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

passage (Luke 10:27), *And Thy Neighb(our)* conjures and queries essential concepts for our globalist twenty-first century, including community, the collective, home, and identity.

All of the fifteen subjects portrayed by Huckaby identify as refugees or immigrants from countries with majority Black populations. Much of current immigration news centers on persons crossing the U.S./Mexico border. However, in photographing Black subjects, Huckaby presents those whose experiences may not be as visible but are nevertheless shortchanged and abused at every step of the immigration process. These subjects include social workers, students, a model, a seamstress, and business professionals—in essence, individuals who make valuable contributions to society wherever they reside.

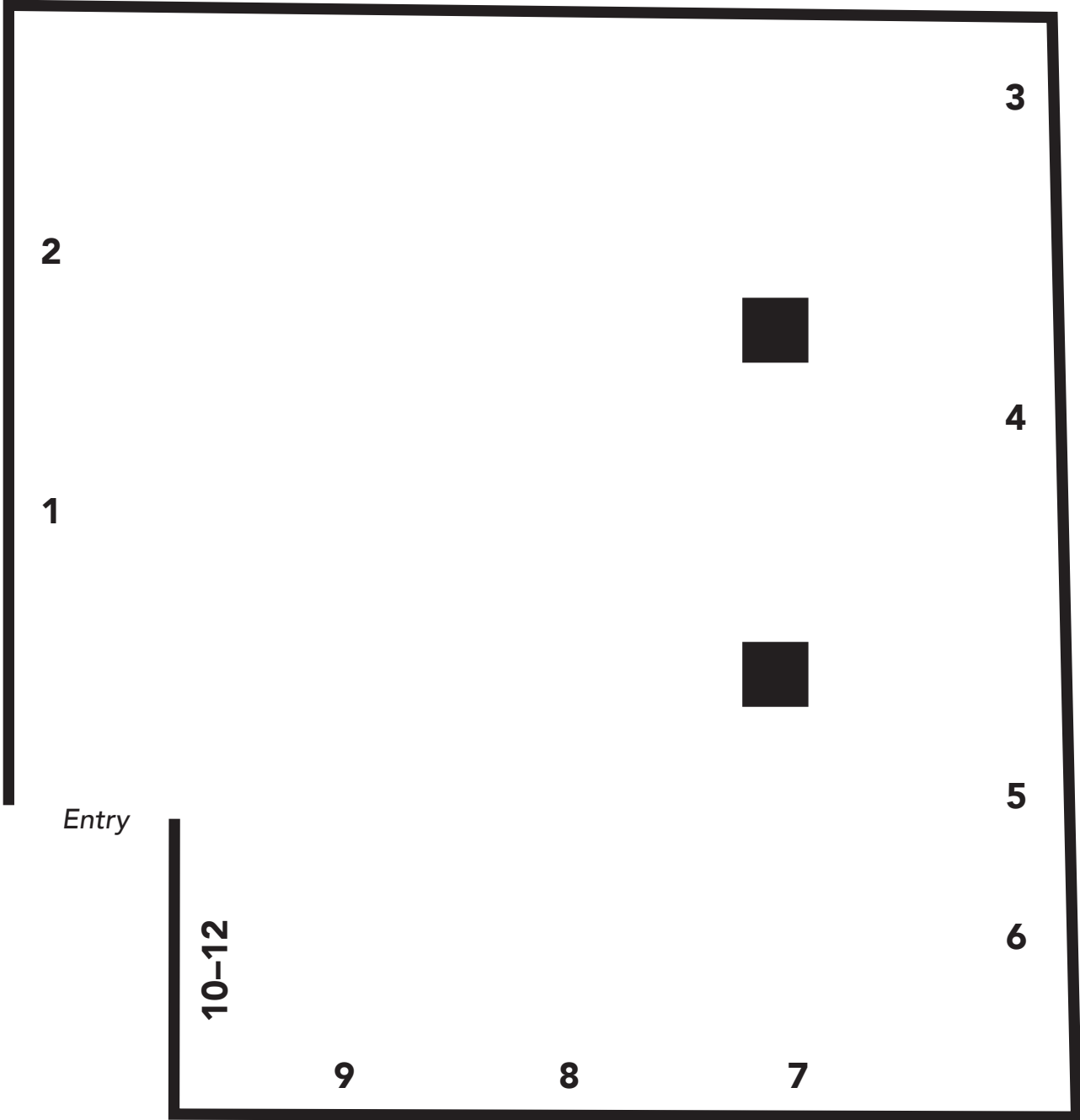
Huckaby's subjects were photographed against vintage, patterned bedsheets. Some of these backgrounds are vibrant and eye-catching, while others are simple and understated. In some of the works, the subjects selected the sheet patterns they most identified with; in others, Huckaby made the background selection herself, inspired by aspects of the subject's story or led purely by aesthetic considerations. The resulting images were then printed onto cotton fabric, which itself possesses a loaded relationship to the histories of colonialism and slavery in North America.

Continuing her practice of presenting images within wooden embroidery hoops, Huckaby has increased the size of the hoops and images of figures to slightly larger than life. At the bottom of each, in thread color matching the silhouettes, Huckaby includes subtle text indicating the ethnicity or nationality of the subject. Each of the fifteen appears proud and regal, and the glow emanating from behind the figures portrays them as awe-inspiring and divine. This sensitive approach to depicting fifteen individuals from around the world underscores a reverence for their personal identity, experiences, and, indeed, their spirit.

## WORKS LIST (clockwise from entrance)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <i>Stephanie &amp; Gloria</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery | 7 <i>Lemi</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery                |
| 2 <i>Sho</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery                    | 8 <i>Bethlie &amp; Naika</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery |
| 3 <i>Barbara</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery                | 9 <i>Juliana</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery             |
| 4 <i>Leelah &amp; Reuben</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery    | 10 <i>Dubem</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery              |
| 5 <i>Sadako</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery                 | 11 <i>Donna</i><br>Pigment print on fabric with embroidery              |
| 6 <i>Chaulinne</i><br>Pigment prints on fabric with embroidery             | 12 <i>Shwanda</i><br>Pigment prints on fabric with embroidery           |

# GALLERY MAP



*Please refer to the Works List for titles and materials.*

The artist would like to thank Shokare Nakpodia, Aissatou Sidime Blanton, Juliana Horn, Chaulinne Spencer, Sadako Ogata, Donna Talley, Dubem and Dr. Lulu, Bethlie Paul, Naika Etienne, Shwanda Onwuachi-Robinson, Lemi and family, Stephanie & Gloria, Barbara Ankamah, Reuben, Leelah, Hare & Hound Press, Monograms Pro & Alterations, and her family.

# ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Since 1995, Artpace has welcomed more than 240 artists through its renowned International Artist-in-Residence program. Annually, Artpace hosts three residencies, which each feature one Texas-based artist, one national artist, and one international artist, who are selected by a notable guest curator. Each eight-week residency culminates in a two-month exhibition on site. The mission of this program is to provide artists with unparalleled resources that allow them to experiment with new ideas and take provocative risks.

## ABOUT ARTPACE

Artpace San Antonio is a nonprofit residency program which supports regional, national, and international artists in the creation of new art.

As a catalyst for artistic expression, we engage local communities with global art practices and experiences.

@artpace  
#MakeArtHappen



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

Support for the International Artist-in-Residence Program comes from Artpace members & donors and:

LINDA **PACE** FOUNDATION

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**  

---

[arts.gov](http://arts.gov)



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
ARTS & CULTURE**

[SANANTONIO.GOV/ARTS](http://SANANTONIO.GOV/ARTS)

 **Texas  
Commission  
on the Arts**  
Investing in a Creative Texas

 **San Antonio Area Foundation**  
**John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation**