

Tufts University Art Galleries

Mirror/Echo/Tilt Workshop Thursday March 5, 3-5 PM

Join us for a two-hour performance workshop that considers the gestures and language used to define experiences of arrest and incarceration, led by artist Shaun Leonardo and peer facilitators. This workshop is in conjunction with Bridges: Walls Turned Sideways symposium:

<https://artgalleries.tufts.edu/blog/news/2019/04/27/symposium-bridges/>



This workshop prioritizes participants who are impacted by the criminal justice system or identify as vulnerable to it, but is open to all. To register, please email Liz Canter at Elizabeth.Canter@tufts.edu. There is a maximum of 20 participants.

Mirror/Echo/Tilt is a project created by artists (Melanie Crean, Shaun Leonardo, and Sable E. Smith) in collaboration with people who are court-involved, formerly incarcerated, or otherwise affected by the criminal justice system. Through a curriculum based on visual storytelling, participants translate personal narratives into performance in order to replace a culturally embedded conception of black criminality with new language so that the mind and body may think, feel, and move in a way not defined by their previous experience with incarceration. Their goal is to facilitate participants' agency to tell their own stories and ultimately, reframe existing narratives defining the "criminal."

Since 2015 they have piloted their methodology working with individuals caught in cycles of incarceration and now collaborate with the Brooklyn downtown criminal court as an arts-based diversion program for youth. When individuals successfully complete the course, their cases are closed, sealed, and do not appear on their adult record. The immediate goal of their project is actionable impact on youth recidivism. While doing so, they refine and compile a tool kit that includes input from different populations affected by the system, archived online with visual documentation. More information at <http://mirrorecho tilt.com/>

This symposium and workshop are part of [Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System](#) on view at Tufts University Art Galleries from January 23 – April 19, 2020.