



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Demetrius Oliver: Canicular

January 10 – March 22, 2014

Thursday, January 9: Gallery Talk 6:00 p.m.; Opening Reception 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Media are invited to meet the artist and listen to a Gallery Talk with the curator on Thursday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA –(January 2, 2015)- For nearly 100 years, The Print Center has supported printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encouraged the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. In January, ideas of form, function and appreciation will be challenged when The Print Center unveils *Canicular*, a major new exhibition by New York artist Demetrius Oliver. Curated by John Caperton, The Print Center's Jensen Bryan Curator, the exhibition is a direct response to Caperton's request for Oliver to think as expansively as possible about what constitutes a print, and reflects the artist's longtime desire to create an installation requiring a radical shift in the typical functions of an organization and its gallery spaces. "This poetic and whimsical exhibition raises provocative questions about audience expectations of the gallery experience," notes Paula Marincola, Executive Director of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. "We are pleased that we could support this new commission; it is yet more evidence of the richness and vibrancy of Philadelphia's cultural offerings."

Canicular includes a video installation that will consist of a projected, live-feed from a high-power telescope focused on Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. The video will be projected in a round structure, built within one of The Print Center's galleries, to resemble a small observatory. The live-feed will come from a telescope mounted on the roof of The Franklin Institute, one of the oldest centers of science education and development in the United States. The exhibition will also include a related, multipart video installation and a sculptural telescope crafted from 5 gallon paint buckets. The Print Center is working closely with Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer at The Franklin Institute, to make sure the stars will align for this exhibition – literally!

The term canicular is used to describe things pertaining to dogs, and is often used in reference to Sirius, the Dog Star. The converted galleries will only be open for one hour each night to coincide with the rising of Sirius in the night sky. The Print Center's gallery spaces will not be open during regular hours but will only be open from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, weather permitting (clear skies are required for viewing). A sign featuring a photographic image of dog fur created by Oliver, visible from the street, will be illuminated to announce when the exhibition is on view. An audio component, composed and performed by the artist on a dog whistle (and therefore inaudible to human ears), will also be broadcast from the front of the building during viewing times.

Oliver has become known for creating elegant, improvisatory, site-specific installations using photography, sculpture and video. Many of his works have included celestial imagery, metaphorically linking the moon (which is associated with the metal silver) and the silver process of traditional photography. For each exhibition opportunity presented to him, the artist has created a new piece, moving gracefully between media; he is gradually building an increasingly complex and resonant body of work.

An accompanying publication will include essays by Michelle White, Curator, The Menil Collection, Houston, TX, and Caperton, and will be designed by Chad Kloefer and Jeff Ramsey of Kloefer-Ramsey in close collaboration with the artist. This will be the first book-length publication dedicated solely to Oliver. A number of related programs will also be presented by The Print Center, including a performance by artist and musician Terry Adkins, with whom Oliver studied at the University of Pennsylvania; an evening of readings by experimental writers interested in the links between science and culture curated by Temple University's Jena Osman; and a lecture by Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer, The Franklin Institute, on the lore and meaning of Sirius and other aspects of the night sky.

The exhibition will be on view at The Print Center from January 10 – March 22, 2014, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, and is free and open to the public. The opening reception is Thursday, January 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with a gallery talk by John Caperton at 6:00 p.m. *Demetrius Oliver: Canicular* has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.