

TheFeministArtProject

TFAP@CAA DAY OF PANELS

Performing Identity as Intersectional

College Art Association Annual Conference 2016

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 9am-4:30pm

National Museum of Women in the Arts

ABSTRACT

Panel: Two Performances: *Candidate* and *Male Polish*

Performances

DANIELLE ABRAMS, SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Candidate

Candidate is a participatory play that exposes the behind-the-scenes dialogue that takes place when Danielle Abrams applies for a job as *Executive Administrator of the Cultural Council for Transdisciplinary, Intersectional, and Divergent Processes of Post-Structural Creative Production*. A hiring committee of cardboard puppets that include African-American art world notables and politicians, Barack Obama, and a pair of Jewish grandparents debate over Abrams' suitability for the position. Suspicions arise about her mixed race heritage. Some of the puppets are suspicious about how Abrams' phenotype has privileged her career. Others believe that Abrams could be a cultural ambassador in and unite the races. The committee member's myriad viewpoints reveal deeper intraracial conflicts pertaining to tokenism, radicalism, class, and expression. Within a tragedy of fractured ideologies, the hiring constructs a wider and nuanced dialogue about being biracial and black in America.

SHELDON SCOTT, INDEPENDENT ARTIST

Male Polish

"Male Polish" interrogates the transactional nature of femininity and the effeminate through the lens of male-desired, gender normativity.

The performance is sourced from the longest period of my life where I felt un-present in my own body as a cornerback on my 7th grade football team. It was in those four months of gender-based psycho-displacement where the rules of cis-gendered performance were violently, emotionally and physically, made aware to me.

The installation will be based on 45-minute football practice, with practice drills and physical conditioning. During the performance, the body will examine the power, pain and presence of the feminine in spaces explicitly designed against its own expression and the attempted exorcism of feminine qualities from male bodies.