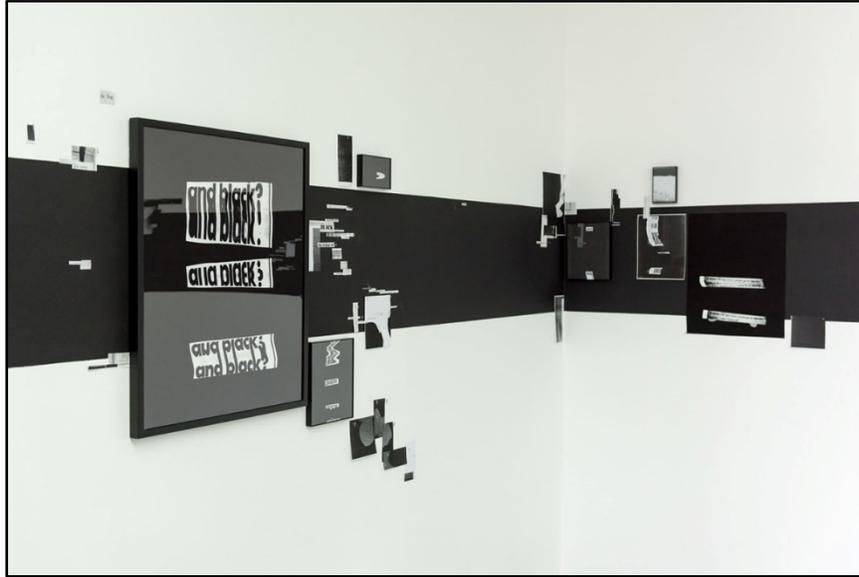




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S HERMAN MARIL GALLERY OPENS FALL SEASON WITH
SOLO EXHIBITION BY KAMEELAH JANAN RASHEED



Kameelah Janan Rasheed, *Unto Itself* (installation detail), "21 Shortlisted Artists for the Future Generation Art Prize," 2017. Pinchuck Art Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo courtesy of the artist.

College Park, MD – This fall the University of Maryland Department of Art's Herman Maril Gallery presents *Unto Itself*, a solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Kameelah Janan Rasheed (b. 1985). Originally created for the Future Generation Art Prize exhibition at the Pinchuk Art Centre in Kyiv, Ukraine in spring 2017, *Unto Itself* in its second iteration is made possible at the University of Maryland by the Department of Art and its annual John Dorsey Prize. *Unto Itself* is on view September 19–October 6, 2017, with an opening reception September 20, 5–7 pm, and a lecture by the artist on October 6 at 4 pm.

Unto Itself (second activation) is an immersive installation that explores the relationship of language to notions of history, progress, and personal development. Rasheed constructs a layered, textual environment using an array of media—from archival text fragments and found images to digital collage, photographic monoprints, and xerox copies. Rasheed invites viewers to spend time in this environment, considering the possibilities for reading in space and examining how words become elastic, opaque, and duplicitous when enlisted to address the subject of time. The exhibition is accompanied by a small, satellite installation in nearby administrative display cases of posters from Rasheed's 2017 series, *Are We There Yet? (and other questions of proximity, destination, and relative comfort)*, which first debuted in another form as a large-scale banner at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Kameelah Janan Rasheed is an artist, archivist, and former public school social studies teacher based in Brooklyn, New York. Her work is currently on view in The Floating Museum at the Chicago Riverwalk and at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Arts Center on Governors Island. This fall, Rasheed will participate in *Speech/Acts*, a group exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia. Her work was recently part of an official collateral exhibition of the 57th Venice Biennale and has been in

exhibitions at numerous venues including the Studio Museum in Harlem, Bronx Museum, Queens Museum, and A.I.R. Gallery in New York, and Vox Populi in Philadelphia. Rasheed was a 2016–2017 artist-in-residence at Smack Mellon and faculty member at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and a 2015 Keyholder Resident at the Lower East Side Printshop. www.kameelah.com

Unto Itself (second activation) is curated by 2017 Dorsey Prize winners Raino Isto and Cecilia Wichmann, both graduate students in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland-College Park. The exhibition was conceived in conjunction with the recent acquisition of two prints from Rasheed's 2016 series "How to Suffer Politely (And Other Etiquette)" by the University of Maryland's 2016–2017 Contemporary Art Purchasing Program. The prints will be on view alongside other new acquisitions in *New Arrivals 2017* (August 28–October 14, with a reception on August 30, 6–8 pm, free and open to the public) at the Stamp Gallery in the University of Maryland's Adele H. Stamp Student Union—Center for Campus Life. Rasheed will visit the campus on October 6, 2017, to deliver an artist talk.



Kameelah Janan Rasheed, *Unto Itself* (installation view). 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

ABOUT THE DORSEY PRIZE

As the leading art critic for *The Baltimore Sun* and a well-known area curator, John Dorsey's incisive critical perspective and passion for visual arts provided immeasurable contributions to the contemporary art community. The University of Maryland's annual John Dorsey Prize for Outstanding Curatorial Practice, awarded by a jury of faculty from the Department of Art in support of a single exhibition proposal, rewards students in the Department of Art and in the Department of Art History and Archaeology who excel in critical thinking skills and curatorial practice.

ABOUT THE HERMAN MARIL GALLERY

Located on the ground floor of the Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Building (3834 Campus Drive) at the University of Maryland, College Park, the Herman Maril Gallery is the Department of Art's multifunctional exhibition space dedicated to the exhibition of student works, curatorial projects, visiting artist presentations, and community gatherings. The gallery is named for the acclaimed painter Herman Maril (1908–1986), a Baltimore native and long-time professor of Art and Art History at the University of Maryland. **FREE** and open to the public; **HOURS** vary by exhibition, for *Unto Itself* open hours visit: thestamp.umd.edu/Gallery.

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