

# RESOURCE OF THE WEEK

## Racial Justice Resources for Art Educators

In this week's post, we are addressing the topic of racial justice, a pressing issue that every art educator must grapple with in their teaching.

There is no way to address this topic here in a comprehensive way, or to provide any easy answers. We claim no expertise, and are only publicly joining others in committing to move toward understanding and action, with the knowledge that our students are watching and listening. **Our goal is to share the urgency of committing ourselves to this work, and to point ourselves in some useful directions.**

Making change begins with ourselves. Heading into the summer months, we may find some time to continue the work of understanding our own biases and where we are located within systems of privilege. **After understanding comes action.**



*We are horrified by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota this week. It's difficult to accept the reality that this is not an isolated incident of police violence. The massive systemic failures to ensure justice further traumatizes not only the families and communities of the victims, but every marginalized community. Indeed, every one of us and our students are impacted, especially our black students.*



# Lynden's Programming Call & Response and HOME



## Constructing a Space for Artists of Color



Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group: *Citizen*

Lynden is committed to creating the conditions for thoughtful production, fruitful collaboration, **innovative presentation for artists of color**, and connecting these artists to our community. Increasingly, our public programming—exhibitions, residencies, performances, workshops—revolves around two initiatives:

**Call & Response and HOME.**



Fo Wilson: *Eliza's Peculiar Cabinet of Curiosities*

Call & Response is a cross-disciplinary, community-focused, artist-driven approach to programming. Since 2015, Lynden's been working with artists, scholars, educators, and community members, to construct a space for artists of color working across disciplines **to celebrate the radical Black imagination** as a means to **re-examine the past and imagine a better future**. This has redefined Lynden as a place where **Black creativity is nurtured and celebrated**, and where its role as a **"unique technology of Black agency, resistance, and survival"** is being explored.



Rosemary Ollison, *Mama*, 10 x 14 feet (2019). Courtesy of the artist and Portait Society Gallery.

Rosemary Ollison: *Prosperity in a Million Scraps*

The intention behind *HOME* is to build a space of leading, of coming together, and of **celebrating refugees in Milwaukee through art, food, and performance**. It was essential that it be refugee-led. The 2019 outdoor festival included wax-resist dyeing with Arianne King Comer, sample foods from many communities, handicrafts and artworks, and back-to-back performances and speeches by artists, community advocates, and refugee organizations. Following the HOME event, we launched a series of **Conversations on Displacement and the Arts**. These bimonthly, free panel discussions bring together artists and activists.

**To listen to the panel discussions, click [here](#) or [here](#).**

We focus attention on these communities as we prepare for the virtual launch of HOME 2020 in June.



Arianne King Comer: [IBILE! Ancestral Call in Cloth](#)

As with similar conversations at Lynden, the Conversations on Displacement and the Arts **look at displacement broadly, as both an internal and an external phenomenon**: from the experiences of **refugees and immigrants coming to the United States to those of Indigenous, and formerly enslaved and interned populations within the country**.

We work with artists, educators, students, and activists to develop Lynden as a place that responds to community needs.

# Local Organizations

## Overpass Light Brigade

"The Overpass Light Brigade was forged in the activist climate of the Wisconsin Uprising. Our messages shine at night over highways and other public spaces. We believe in the power of communities coming together in physical space, as well as the importance of visibility for grassroots and progressive causes. We are a loose and inclusive affiliation of people dedicated to the power of peaceful protest and artful activism."



## America's Black Holocaust Museum

"ABHM builds public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery in America and promotes racial repair, reconciliation, and healing. We envision a society that remembers its past in order to shape a better future – a nation undivided by race where every person matters equally."

"The Art Build Workers (ABW) are a group of six artists, designers, photographers and educators who are based in Milwaukee, WI. We work locally and travel around the country organizing multi-day art builds that help unions, organizations and movements amplify our messages through visual art, media, and archiving. Our motto is that before the march and before the strike there is the art build."

## Voces de la Frontera

"Voces de la Frontera is a membership-based community organization, led by low-wage workers, immigrants and youth whose mission is to protect and expand civil rights and workers' rights through leadership development, community organizing and empowerment."

## Art Build Workers



*"The Art Build Workers is a collective of artists, educators and designers who are committed to making art that challenges structures of oppression and helps to imagine a better, more just world."*

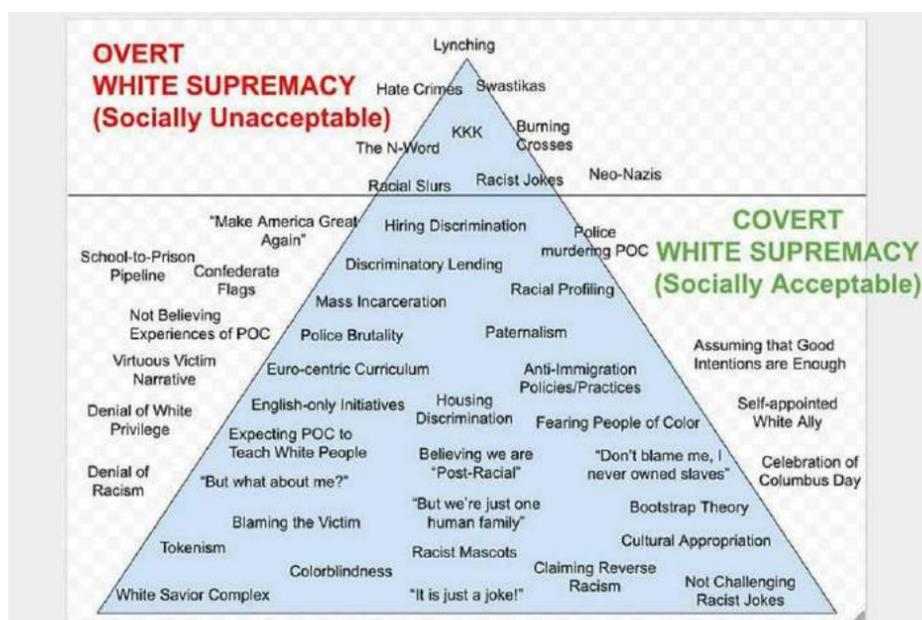
-Kim Cosier



# Resources

## Acknowledgment & Accountability

(Source: Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (2005) "Building a Multi-Ethnic, Inclusive & Antiracist Organization-Tools for Liberation Packet for Anti-Racist Activists, Allies, & Critical Thinkers")



## Online Resources for Educators

### BLACK LIVES MATTER

Jamilah Pitts (2016). Don't Say Nothing. Teaching Tolerance.

Anti-racism resources for white people

Racial Justice in Education - Resource Guide. NEA

The 1619 Project Resource Page. edjustice. NEA

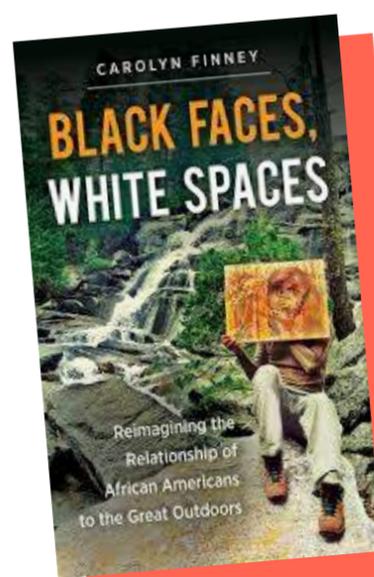
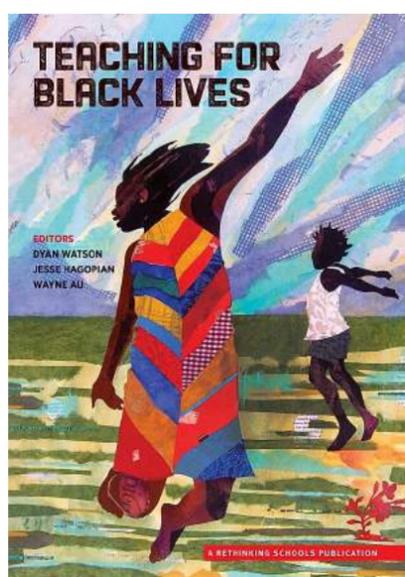
Until We Are All Free

Kim Cosier (2020). What Can Art do in the Perilous Present?

Rethinking Schools.

Justseeds Collective

For more reading, here are some suggested book titles.



We hope that you will join us in these efforts to educate and equip ourselves toward reflection and action. There are many other resources and organizations dedicated to the struggle for racial justice. Share those that you are finding worthwhile with us at <https://lynden.tours/resource-of-the-week/>, in the comments section or at [agrosch@lyndensculpturegarden.org](mailto:agrosch@lyndensculpturegarden.org)

Visit Lynden Sculpture Garden Virtual Hub for more resources