BROWN PEOPLE ARE THE WRENS IN THE PARKING LOT

Logan Center Exhibitions Presents Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot, Highlighting Themes of Connectedness, Home, and Immigration

Immigration and Home Project Initiated by Artist and UChicago Faculty Member William Pope.L and facilitated by students, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Chicago

(Chicago, IL, November 2, 2017) From November 10, 2017 to January 7, 2018, Logan Center Exhibitions presents Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot, an exhibition that stems from a series of secret interventions that took place across the Logan Center over the course of six weeks during UChicago’s fall quarter. Initiated by artist and University of Chicago Department of Visual Arts faculty member William Pope.L, Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot is a DIY media campaign and exhibition facilitated by faculty, students, staff, and community members of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts to reflect on issues of connectedness, home, and immigration.

Using the Logan Center as the site of its activities, and through interventions like postering, audio sloganeering, video interviews, and a library containing over 1,200 books on the subject of immigration, the Wrens project and exhibition aims to highlight how immigration is a part our daily lives in subtle and overt ways. The
Poster intervention at the Logan Center

project explores the experiences of not wanting to know—which often manifests as willed ignorance—and asks us to consider how the limits of our knowledge play a part in our understanding of where we work, live, or learn in relation to themes of home and immigration.

_Wrens_ calls on visitors to reflect on, at a significant moment of discourse, how ignorance works in our society. Nationally and globally, there is heightened debate around immigration, race, and the fight of the 99%. In Chicago, as in many other American cities, race relations and class distinctions mark our daily experiences. The _Wrens_ project and exhibition provides a platform to think about these issues in a fresh way—for example, to address what we are afraid of or are reluctant to know specifically in regard to immigration today. The artwork aims to provide opportunities in the Logan Center Gallery for visitors to actively and collectively address these questions. A number of public programs will take place throughout the duration of _Wrens_, most notably a town hall meeting during the opening on November 10 from 6pm to 8pm.

Additionally, there are several ways to interact with the project:
- Stop by the Logan Center Gallery during the run of the exhibition from November 10, 2017 through January 7, 2018 and leave a comment on the comment walls.
- Submit an anonymous comment on the _Wrens_ website. ALL submissions may be presented in the exhibition.
- Propose a bit of programming you’d like to do in the space by emailing logancenterexhibitions@uchicago.edu. First come, first served.
- Stay for a coffee and conversation.
- Organize an informal gathering for further discussion of the themes of _Wrens_.

_Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot_ is presented by Logan Center Exhibitions. The project is made possible by the generous support of the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry at the University of Chicago.

**Public Program Schedule**
(NOTE: More programs will be added as the exhibition goes on)

**Town Hall Meeting and Opening Reception**
Friday, November 10
6pm
Join curator Yesomi Umolu and artist Pope.L, as well as some of the interventionists, during the opening of _Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot_ to participate in a town hall meeting where attendees will eat, drink, and converse about the project, and reflect on issues of immigration, home, and not-knowing.

**Community Hours**
Tuesdays-Sundays, 11am-9pm
_Brown People Are the Wrens in the Parking Lot_ is a communal space, free and open to the public. Stop by to browse through our
library of books on immigration, have a coffee at our coffee bar, relax in the lounge, and post a story, poem, drawing, or comment on our walls. Additionally, if you need to rest, want a place to do homework, or hold a meeting, you are more than welcome.

**Sitting Ovation Sessions**
November 14, 2pm
December 14, 2pm
Chicago-based artist Brit Barton leads a two-part choreographic workshop that uses movement to explore questions of collective migration, instability, and improvisation. The workshops include studies of focused breathing, stillness, and repetitive gesture. No prior movement experience is necessary and any attire can be worn.

**An Evening of Music**
December 1, 6pm
Join Dieter Roelstraete in the gallery for an evening of music and conversation on the issues related to immigration.

**Micro-Performances**
December 4, 12pm
December 5, 12pm
Curator Dieter Roelstraete recites from memory a text written by Pope.L.

**Reading: The Migration Stories Project**
December 7, 4pm
Join us for a public reading on the theme of changing as we move through space. Student and faculty readers will read from work featured in the newly-issued community anthology of *The Migration Stories Project*. Presented in partnership with the Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Chicago.

**Artist Talk with Pope.L and Dieter Roelstraete**
January 4, 6pm
Join artist Pope.L and curator Dieter Roelstraete as they discuss Pope.L's contribution to Documenta 14, Flint Water, and the *Wrens* campaign.

All events are **free** and open to the public.

**About Pope.L**
Pope.L (1955, Newark, NJ) is a visual artist and educator whose multidisciplinary practice uses binaries, contraries and preconceived notions embedded within contemporary culture to create art works in various formats, for example, writing, painting, performance, installation, video and sculpture. Building upon his long history of enacting arduous, provocative, absurdist performances and interventions in public spaces, Pope.L applies some of the same social, formal and performative strategies to his interests in language, system, gender, race and community. Pope.L received his BA from Montclair State College in 1978 and his MFA from Rutgers University in 1981. Major performances include *Baile* (2016); *The Problem* (2016); *Pull* (2013); *The Black Factory* national tour.
Black Domestic aka Roach Motel Black (1994); How Much is that Nigger in the Window (1990-1992); Times Square Crawl (1978); and Thunderbird Immolation (1978). Recent exhibitions, performances, and projects include documenta 14 in Athens, Greece and Kassel Germany (2017); the Whitney Biennial (2017); “PLAMA” (“The Spot”), a commercial commissioned for On the Tip of the Tongue at Museum of Modern Art Warsaw (2016); the 32nd Biennial de São Paulo (2016); The Freedom Principle at ICA Philadelphia (2016) and MCA Chicago (2015); and Trinket at The Geffen Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2015); Pope.L is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Joyce Foundation Award, the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, Solomon R. Guggenheim Fellowship, Andy Warhol Foundation grant, Creative Capital Foundation grant, National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and Artists Space grant. He lives and works in Chicago, IL.

About Logan Center Exhibitions
Logan Center Exhibitions presents international contemporary art programming at the Logan Center Gallery and throughout the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. Reflecting the spirit of inquiry at the university, Logan Center Exhibitions focuses on open, collaborative and process-based approaches to cultural production. Working closely with artists, students, scholars and community members, Logan Center Exhibitions presents innovative exhibitions by emerging and established artists; supports ambitious new commissions and research projects; disseminates knowledge through publications; and facilitates connections through talks and other public programs.

General Information
Logan Center Exhibitions is located at:
The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts
University of Chicago
915 E 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
t: (773) 834-8377
arts.uchicago.edu/logan/gallery
Facebook.com/LoganCenterExhibitions
Instagram @LoganCenterExhibitions

Gallery Hours
Tue-Sat, 9am-9pm
Sun, 11am-9pm
Mon, closed