



## DMRC Artist in Residence Workshop: Wayne Dunkley

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION – Developing A Socially Relevant Practice

**For School of Image Arts, Ryerson University Students only** (undergrad BFA programs and Doc Media MFA)

#### **Introduction**

Are you interested in using art to examine issues of anti-Black racism and other prejudices? Do you want your practice to be more social-minded, intentional and reflective? If so, join DMRC Artist-In-Residence Wayne Dunkley in a workshop that uses community involvement, conversation, journaling and social media engagement to refine your creative practice and deepen your ability to engage the most pressing issues of today.

This workshop is not intended to promote a particular ideology or political movement. It is not didactic or prescriptive. Its purpose is experiential, inspirational and aspirational as we endeavour to use media to facilitate meaningful encounters with ourselves, each other and the surrounding world.

#### **What is the Workshop?**

Wayne Dunkley's practice asks, "is it possible to truly know another?" Using photography, digital media and community engaged actions, this workshop digs into how we relate to each other. By helping to develop a socially-minded artistic practice, this workshop will motivate us to look beyond society's default narratives to imagine and create a revolutionized way of being in the world. Each stage of the workshop process will be guided and facilitated by Dunkley.

For Part 1 of the workshop you will create a poster of yourself using the visual treatment from Dunkley's practice. You will then post this image multiple times in a neighbourhood and produce photo documentation as they age and deconstruct over time. By doing so you will provoke your own inquiry into what it feels like to be considered the other. What do you feel when people look at you?

For Part 2 you will be given printed copies of Dunkley's poster to repeat the process of posting and documenting in the community. You will also receive a digital copy of the poster for you to manipulate and alter, creating your own photographic and/or other visual interpretation of the image. Your responses to Dunkley's image will be

provocative, evocative, and complex as you are confronted with the question, "...what do you feel when you encounter a black man?"

Throughout the two-semester duration of the workshop, you will use Instagram to upload your documentation, adding reflections and commentary. You will keep a process journal on the experience of the workshop that will be used in group conversations (remotely and in-person when possible), facilitated by Dunkley. You will also have multiple opportunities to schedule remote one-on-one time with the artist-in-residence.

The workshop will conclude with a gallery exhibition at the end of the second semester featuring select student photographs and media content.

### **Who is the Artist in Residence?**

For over 20 years Dunkley has used a photographic portrait of himself to subvert society's default tropes on otherness, blackness and being male. He has used this portrait to disrupt the spaces where these stereotypes are found; online, within social media and on public-facing billboards and hoardings. From his earliest project, the award-winning web artwork "the degradation and removal of the/a black male" to his most recent #whatdoyoufeelwhen, Dunkley creates experiences that allow participants to better articulate their own existential experience of feeling like the other.

*#whatdoyoufeelwhen* is a nation-wide campaign that saw one thousand 24"x 36" posters of Dunkley's portrait posted in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal. The poster uses Dunkley's own face that has been altered to resemble pen and ink drawings published in the 17th century Montreal Gazette. Slave owners would buy space and place these drawings in papers in order to hunt for escaped slaves. By recontextualizing and re-imagining the escaped slave poster, Dunkley references the history of slavery in Canada and the United States as well his own contemporary feelings of being dehumanized, studied, and pursued.

### **How can I participate?**

18 Students will be selected to participate. To be considered, submit by **September 25:**

- a) a statement of interest (250 word max)
- b) bio/artist statement (200 word max)
- c) samples of artistic work: up to 10 still images (1mg max each), or video samples (max 2: up to 5 minutes - include link(s) to video)
- d) An image list indicating title, year, medium and dimensions.

**Upload your submission materials on Google Drive:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rtzSHmHIQrDm3QTsP1RJYxgDj2E4zSGH>

**For video files include a link to videos on Vimeo, YouTube or Dropbox.**

Space is limited to 18. Applicants will be selected and notified **by Monday, Oct 5, 2020** and given a date and time for the first meeting, which will occur (in a park) on a day between Oct 6-9.

**Questions:** email Katy McCormick: [kmccormi@ryerson.ca](mailto:kmccormi@ryerson.ca)

This workshop is sponsored by the DMRC, The School of Image Arts, The Photography and ID program and the MFA in Documentary Media Program.

