

Kahlil Robert Irving

- American, b. 1992 in San Diego, CA
- Lives and works in St. Louis, MO
- MFA, 2017, Washington University, St. Louis; BFA in art history and ceramics, Kansas City Art Institute
- www.kahlilirving.com



Body of Work

Kahlil Robert Irving is a multimedia artist whose recent work is comprised of large sculptures that challenge the setup of traditional means of viewing and relating to sculptures and objects. He wants to address historical notions of colorism, Eurocentric analysis, structural barriers that separate communities, and objects that exist in and around the urban environment. Contrasts are integral to his message: fine china displays/ trash, precious / disposable, etc. He stated in a Feb. 2017 interview with Strange Fire Collective, "I collect items, used my clothes, and studio materials to make what I call my 'remnants series.' . Within some works I wanted to conceal and reveal certain aspects of the work upfront and direct." He has studied historical objects including Sevres porcelain, garniture, water vessels and daily wares from the past 3 centuries, and he has produced hundreds of sculptures. Irving hopes to build respect among diverse audiences. He stated, "blackness is not synonymous with darkness. Within colonialism demonizing the color Black and idealizing whiteness has added a great barrier within contemporary culture....I also see my practice as a means of protesting. I am not out on the street but continuing to make my voice present within contemporary art is a way to take up room to talk about issues that are important. "

Currently, Irving is the 2017/ 2018 Alice C. Cole Fellow at Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA, where he plans to work with engineering students to build a wooden maze with thrift store objects embedded in the walls. His work has been exhibited internationally at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, in Jerusalem, Israel; The International Ceramics Studio, in Kecskemet, Hungary; and the Riga Porcelain Museum in Riga, Latvia. He has also exhibited at The Glassell School and Museum of Fine Art in Houston, TX; The Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in Milwaukee, WI; and the Kansas City Artist Coalition in Kansas City, MO. In the summer of 2016, Irving was a resident artist at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice, Italy. His work is in the collections of the Riga Porcelain Museum, in Riga, Latvia; The Ken Ferguson Teaching Collection at KCAI; and the Foundation for Contemporary Ceramic Art in Kecskemet, Hungary. He recently completed a Durwood Trust Provenance Research internship at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. He has a fall 2017 exhibition at Callicoon Fine Arts in New York.



Black Matter, 2017 thesis; *Seven Pack – Memorial edition*, August 2014 (RIP), 2017, glazed and unglazed porcelain and stoneware, blue slip, gravel, glass, decals, various shades of luster