



CITY OF SYRACUSE PUBLIC ART APPLICATION

All applications for the installation of public art will be evaluated based on the seven (7) criteria enumerated below. It is understood that some criteria will have more relevance than others depending on the proposed artwork. This will be taken into account and the criteria weighted accordingly.

- Artistic merit and quality, as substantiated by an artist's past history of exhibitions or sales, awards or other recognition, or an outstanding first work, as well as the inherent quality in terms of timelessness of vision, design, aesthetics and excellence;
- Intentionality of the artist, concerning the meaning and proposed or desired effect of the work as Public Art upon the viewing public, as rationalized and elaborated upon in the project description;
- Local significance, creating a sense of excitement in public spaces and presenting fresh ways of seeing the community and city reflected;
- Representation of styles and tastes within the public art collection, acknowledging existing works in the public art collection and striving for diversity of style, scale and media;
- Safety and durability, including the ability of the artwork to withstand weather conditions, as well as structural and surface integrity;
- Unrestricted public viewing, primarily the opportunity for public access, but also suitability for public participation, social and political attitudes, and functional considerations; and
- Installation and maintenance of the work, from practicality of fabrication and transport, to installation and long-term care.

PROJECT NAME: *PORTRAITS (GOOD LUCK)* by Ben Russell

PROJECT TYPE: Temporary installation, April 12-May 26, 2018

LOCATION: Urban Video Project, Everson Museum of Art (permissions have been granted)

ARTWORK TYPE: Looping video projection, 48:42

ARTWORK DESCRIPTION:

A series of black and white S16mm film portraits, filmed both underground (in the state-run RTB copper mine in Bor, Serbia) and above-ground (in the illegal Kiiki Negi gold mine in Brokopondo District, Suriname), processed in buckets by hand on-site. Accompanied by a viscerally spatial soundscape and made in the style of Andy Warhol's SCREEN TESTS, the subjects here pause in their unyielding work of mineral extraction to give us a subjective vision of their inner selves - a vision controlled by their own hand, as they reach forward to start and stop the camera with every take.

For the related event, we currently plan to screen the related 2.5 hour-long epic, *GOOD LUCK*, Russell's latest feature length piece which takes us deep into the unforgiving copper mines of Serbia. When we emerge, we're thousands of miles away, amongst an illegal band of gold miners in the Suriname jungle. The physical demands of labor, as well as the transformative power of music, connect these communities, each equally fortified by the realities of capital and a spirit of masculine camaraderie. The piece will screen in full surround sound inside the Everson's Hosmer Auditorium followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker present on April 19.

LINK TO VIEW WORK:

<https://vimeo.com/246505270>

password: FACES

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY:

Ben Russell (b.1976, USA) is an artist and filmmaker whose work lies at the intersection of ethnography and psychedelia. His films and installations are in direct conversation with the history of the documentary image, providing a time-based inquiry into trance phenomena and evoking the research of Jean Rouch, Maya Deren and Michael Snow, among others. Russell received a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship, a FIPRESCI International Critics Prize (IFFR 2009) for his first feature film *Let Each One Go Where He May*. His second feature film, *A Spell to Ward Off the Darkness* (co-directed with Ben Rivers), premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2013. Curatorial projects include Magic Lantern (Providence, USA, 2005-2007), BEN RUSSELL (Chicago, USA, 2009-2011), and Hallucinations (Athens, Greece, 2017). He currently resides in Los Angeles. In the summer of 2017 he was an exhibiting artist in documenta 14.

Artist's website: dimeshow.com

APPLICANT:

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