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National Artist Residency program launches at Brew House Arts with inaugural artist Seitu Jones

Multidisciplinary Artist will premier new work, meet the community during new Brew House national residency

September 12, 2023. Pittsburgh, PA... Two distinctly different artist residency programs come together in an effort to provide the most holistic experience for artists visiting and living in Pittsburgh.

Brew House Arts (previously Brew House Association), is a South Side non-profit already known locally for their emerging artist and curator residency programs. This fall as part of its strategic vision for national presence, Brew House Arts will pilot an inaugural national artist residency program.

“Brew House is excited about this collaboration because it will connect local artists to important voices outside of our immediate community. We believe this exchange across cities can be beneficial for artists not only to build national connections but to expand our ways of thinking and offer new modes for problem solving across disciplines” says Brew House Arts Executive Director, Natalie Sweet.

In partnership with The Roll Up CLT – a host organization previously based in Charlotte, NC that enables visiting artists to work in new environments with funding support, mentorship, resources and community – the new residency at Brew House Arts will bring a visiting artist together with local Pittsburgh based artists to encourage collaboration and exchange. Other goals of the program include to increase representation and visibility of professional Black artists in the Pittsburgh region, fostering national peer- to-peer mentorship networks, and to honor flexible and adaptive ways of working and experimentation towards continuous artistic growth.

The Roll Up CLT will provide an unrestricted honorarium, free housing, transportation stipend, and food and meal stipend for the national artist while Brew House Arts will support residents of the program with access to space to produce and exhibit their works in progress and management of a residency calendar that connects the visiting artist directly to Pittsburgh based artists and community members.

The inaugural 2023 Brew House Arts resident is multidisciplinary artist, advocate and maker Seitu Jones. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jones works between the arts and public spheres, channeling the spirit of radical social movements into experiences that foster critical conversations and nurture more just and vibrant communities from the soil up. He is recognized as a dynamic collaborator and a creative force for civic engagement.

Throughout the first two weeks of October, Seitu will call Pittsburgh home. During this time, he will activate Brew House Gallery as his experimental studio production and fabrication space. His residency will be focused on developing a new body of work for an upcoming exhibition at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in 2024, meeting local residents and community leaders, participating in studio visits with artists across disciplines, and exploring different natural environments, urban farms and gardens throughout Pittsburgh. Seitu says, "I look forward to absorbing the rich cultural mix of Pittsburgh and having that inform and inspire my work while in residence with The Roll Up at Brew House Arts"

Brew House Arts will host a public Artist Talk at the Brew House Gallery (711 S. 21st Street) on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 7:00pm. Resident artist Seitu Jones will share some insight into his practice, process and his plans while visiting Pittsburgh.

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About Brew House Arts

Brew House Arts (BHA) is a nonprofit art center located in Pittsburgh's South Side. Previously known as Brew House Association, BHA produces and presents fine art exhibitions in a contemporary gallery and provides studio spaces for professional artists. Emerging artists and curators work through the organization's residency programs to develop their skills and hone their artistic voices. Brew House Arts enables creatives to experiment, exhibit, and connect directly with communities in Pittsburgh by providing space and support for people to connect and expand their relationship with the arts. Learn more at www.brewhousearts.org.

About The Roll Up CLT

The Roll Up CLT is an artist residency program founded in 2016 by artist and curator Jessica Gaynelle Moss, for Black contemporary artists practicing across disciplines. The Roll Up CLT connects national artists, local talent and community residents through innovative pedagogical collaborations, participatory interventions and art creation over the residency period and beyond. We transform neighborhoods, bring people together, and create a platform that nurtures our global Black arts community.

About the Artist, Seitu Jones

Artist and advocate Seitu Ken Jones has been tending the soil of community through art for more than 40 years. Throughout his career, he has harnessed the tools of visual art, infrastructure, and civic engagement to create work that links history to the present and honors the community's assets — from its historic figures to natural resources to cultural traditions. In his public art and events, Jones pushes beyond traditional art spaces to reach people in the context of their lives and communities. His large-scale sculptural installation Turnip Greens was dedicated in 2019 in the Nashville Farmers Market, inspired by the city's bounty of food and black culture. First enacted in St. Paul in 2014, A Community Meal convened two thousand people over dinner at a table half a mile long. Jones's site-specific art installations for the Twin Cities Light Rail Transit system blend visual beauty with local history. In 2013, Jones co-founded Frogtown Farm, a five-acre urban farm in a St. Paul city park created with and for neighborhood residents.

Jones is a recently retired faculty member of Goddard College in Washington State. He holds a BS degree in Landscape Design and a MLS in Environmental History from the University of Minnesota. He's been a Senior Fellow in Agricultural Systems in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Science Resources at the University of Minnesota and is a member of the board of managers for the Capitol Region Watershed District. He resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, with his partner the poet Soyini Guyton. Learn more at www.seitujonesstudio.com.