



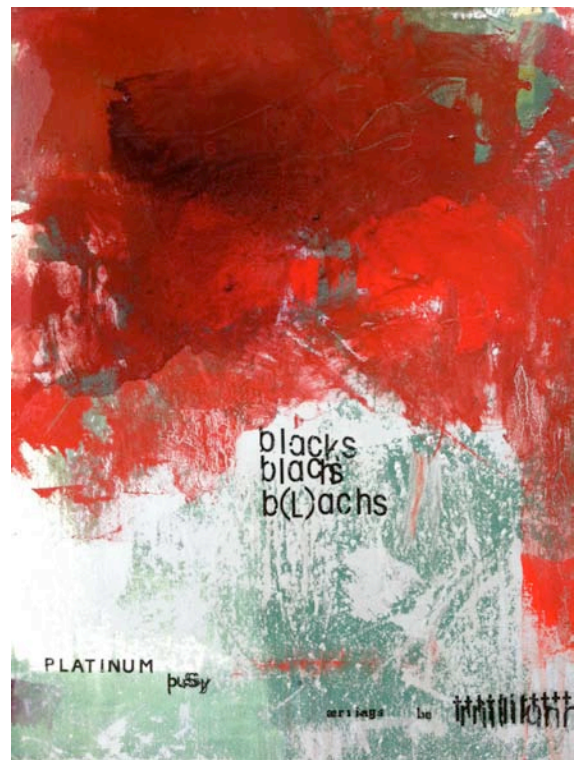
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Dreams in Jay-Z Minor:
New works from Amanda Williams and Krista Franklin
October 5, 2012 - December 29, 2012
Blanc Gallery***



Krista Franklin, *Black Power 1*, 2012



Amanda Williams, *Bring 'em On Home (study)*, 2012

This exhibit presents new works from two contemporary artists who have used their clandestine dream world connection, in which hip-hop artist Jay-Z has made dual appearances, to explore the fantastical nature of excess. Using sculpture, mixed media, oil paints, collage and text, their shared-consciousness makes visual the illusory foundations of American culture. As Black women, simultaneously indispensable and expendable within this framework, the artists are uniquely positioned to elucidate the discussion.

Dreams is about the disfigurement of value in a system fueled by fantasy (and the yearning that is born of it). From the personal narrative to the unapologetic lap of Lil' Kim, an arc forms to consider the easy fluidity between our love for people and our love of things. Observing the comfort and absurdity of familial relationships, religion, hip-hop luxuries, and redundant materiality, we are rocked into a fitful reverie. Artworks not only highlight the confusion of over-stimulation, but also reflect the collective underpinnings within all of us that allow it flourish.

Exhibiting Artists: Amanda Williams, Krista Franklin
Curated by: Camille Morgan

SHORT BLURB:

Dreams in Jay-Z Minor is an exhibition of works created by Chicago-based artists Amanda Williams and Krista Franklin. Inspired by a series of recurring dreams that both artists were experiencing, the exhibition explores notions around dream states, hyper-reality, upward mobility, hopes and aspirations of African Diasporic peoples, black opulence, black excellence, and excess. Using a variety of mediums, from paintings, handmade paper, print, altered books and collage, *Dreams in Jay-Z Minor* is a visual metaphorical play of installation, 2D, and 3D works.

WHEN: October 5, 2012 – December 29, 2012
Reception: October 5, 2012, 6pm – 9pm

WHERE: Blanc Gallery, 4445 Martin L. King Dr., Chicago, IL 60653

GALLERY HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 11am – 3pm/ Saturday Noon – 5pm

COST: Free and open to the public

MEDIA INQUIRIES: cpjmorgan@gmail.com, tenille@romesjoy.com

MORE INFO: <http://blancchicago.com/>

PROGRAMMING*: **October 20, 2-4pm** – "Dreaming of Jay-Z" Curator-Artist Coffee Chat Talk
November – "Teen Night" Workshop with Local Youth and Artists
December – "Spoken Word & Hip-hop Karaoke" Community/Artist Event
(*Check website for confirmed dates and times)

PROFFESIONAL PARTNER:

Chicago Artists Month – October 2012: *Dreams in Jay-Z Minor: New works from Amanda Williams and Krista Franklin* is part of Chicago Artists Month 2012, the seventeenth annual celebration of Chicago's vibrant visual art community presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. For more information, visit www.chicagoartistsmonth.org.

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