

Yours Truly, Georgia Brown

September 14 – October 11, 2016

Opening Reception:
Tuesday, September 13
6–8pm

The International Studio & Curatorial Program is pleased to announce the opening of the solo exhibition *Yours Truly, Georgia Brown* by current resident and New York Community Trust Van Lier fellow, Raque Ford, in ISCP's first floor Project Space.

In this floor to ceiling installation, Raque Ford reimagines the story of Georgia Brown, who was originally portrayed as a temptress in the 1940s film and Broadway musical, *Cabin in the Sky*. The groundbreaking production played a pivotal role in the performing arts as the first all-African-American cast. Through Brown's persona, Ford critically examines the simplistic and short-sighted depiction of black culture in the mid-twentieth century.



Raque Ford, *Yours Truly, Georgia Brown*, 2016, laser cut plexiglass. Photo by Erin Law

Ford is interested in Georgia Brown as a complex black female character struggling with depression, and exploring issues pertaining to femininity, sexuality, and race. Through four plexiglass and text-based sculptures, Ford rewrites Brown's narrative following the order of the original plot. A takeaway, a zine resting on a pile of chains, accompanies the exhibition taking the form of an epistolary novel. The zine reveals handwritten letters by Brown to the Devil, recounting how the protagonist succumbs as she sells her soul to him. Ford's exhibition comes at a timely moment as New York City Center revives *Cabin in the Sky* in its 2016 season, last performed on Broadway in 1941.

Influenced by her family's involvement in the music industry from a young age and her experience as an African-American woman, Ford consciously places issues relating to gender, race, and performing identity at the core of her artistic practice. She is particularly interested in the politics of aestheticization, the worship and idolatry of the strong black female in American culture, feminism in pop imagery and music, and consumerism. By jamming materials and symbols, Ford creates alternative dialogues and approaches, often through the use of cutout techniques to create imagery from negative space.

Raque Ford was born in 1986, Columbia, Maryland and currently lives and works in Brooklyn. She received her BFA from Pratt Institute in 2010 and her MFA from Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University in 2013. Ford's recent solo shows include *That Which We Call A Rose By Any Other Name Would Smell As Sweet*, Soloway, Brooklyn, and *Raque, Welcome Screen*, London. She has exhibited in group shows at S1, Portland, Oregon; Evelyn Yard, London; 321 Gallery, Brooklyn; SculptureCenter, Queens; and Galerie Division, Montreal.

This exhibition is curated by Juliana Cope, Director of Development and Programs Manager at ISCP.

Opening Reception: Tuesday, September 13, 6–8pm
Public Discussion: Tuesday, October 11, 6:30–8:30pm

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Gallery Hours:
Wednesday–Friday
12–6pm

For further information,
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