

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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Announcing *If These Walls Could Talk* a Group Exhibition by the 2023 WaterFire Accelerate Cohort

Open from June 1-July 9, 2023

Opening Reception: Thursday June 1 from 5-9 p.m.

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces *If These Walls Could Talk*, a month-long group exhibition by the 2022-2023 WaterFire Accelerate cohort running from June 1- July 9 in the Gallery of the WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC). Produced by [Denzel Amoah](#), [Justin DeGraide](#), [Savaree "Sav" Hazard-Chaney](#), [Hannah Nahas](#), [Rhue Nobre](#), and [Elijah Trice](#); The exhibition is a mixed media art show that showcases a collection of captivating artworks based on the art of storytelling. Each piece explores the power of visual narratives and invites viewers to embark on a journey through the artist's imagination.

"We are incredibly excited to showcase the extraordinary talent of the 2022-2023 WaterFire Accelerate cohort through their remarkable exhibition, 'If These Walls Could Talk.' This month-long group show represents a significant milestone in the artistic journeys of the six cohort members who have been a part of WaterFire's Accelerate program since September of 2022." says Peter A. Mello Managing Director + coCEO of WaterFire Providence.

About the artists:

Denzel Amoah is an Ghanaian interdisciplinary artist and designer currently living in Providence, RI. He earned a bachelor of science in Urban Studies from Worcester State University and is pursuing a graduate degree in Landscape Architecture. The mediums that he often uses are collage, photography and sculpture, but also experiment's with sensory phenomena, including sound and touch. Some of the themes that his earlier work explored included identity and the ways in which we negotiate/tap into our own multiplicities and the ways in which urban development leaves its mark on city spaces. His newer work explores themes of memory as it pertains to place and spatial sensory experiences, as well as mysticism through pulling from cultural symbols.

Justin DeGraide is a film photographer based out of Providence, Rhode Island. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communication from Rhode Island College. For Justin, photography has become his way of communicating. Growing up, Justin has always had a hunger and eye for

photography. He has been making photographs for over a decade but has focused his attention to film photography since 2017. Throughout the years, he has found that his favorite subjects to capture are different kinds of landscapes and architecture. He wants to draw emotion from people when they look at his photographs, whether it's good, bad or just want you to feel something. Through practice, patience, and understanding, he has come to a point where he truly knows what this form of art is to him. He hopes to provide a collection of work that truly represents who he is and what he sees in life.

Savaree "Sav" Hazard-Chaney is a "978" raised and "401" based self-taught artist. Sav explores her big three; community, culture and design through art. She continues to navigate self and self-expression through her joy of exploring different mediums. By nature Sav is a painter capturing all her favorite things from present to childhood. Recently, Sav has begun rug tufting as an extension to her passion for painting. She is excited to bring these pieces and this experience to her community. Sav hopes to inspire other young black creatives. Sav recalls seeing "Saltwater" by Garden of Journey in downtown Providence. She remembers looking up at that mural and saying "this will be me one day". Sav has embodied this moment of representation and hopes to be that for more black queer artists.

Hannah Nahas is a multi-disciplinary artist of Syrian and Russian descent. Nahas is capturing the constant yearning and existential culture of today with an homage to early storytelling. Between dreamy visuals and delicate materials, her sweet delivery slips from understated themes into swoon-full visions. The energy of her artistry is a reflection of her personality - Unique and starry-eyed. Nahas makes art that you'll treasure like an unforgettable memory and that fills your soul with the easy warmth of a lovelier time. She works to reshape the unknown from something fearful into something hopeful.

Rhue Nobre is a self-taught filmmaker, photographer & designer with a passion for "creating worlds" through visual storytelling & design. Born in New Bedford, MA and currently based out of Providence, RI - Rhue set her roots in the Providence creative community early on as an assistant videographer for a local music video production company back in 2012. Since then, she has gone on to complete a variety of production + design projects through her own freelance practice, alongside heading up all content & design at stay silent PVD in her role as Art Director. Some of her favorite projects include the [DAY TRILL \(2019\) film "7 SUMMERS"](#), merchandise design & editorial capture for [stay silent's "9 Years In" collection](#), and the ideation & completion of the ["DAY TRILL Confessional Booth."](#)

Elijah Trice is a contemporary artist, born and raised in Baltimore. Trice was born into a family of skillful artists, varying from photographers to musicians. At a young age, he developed figurative and technical drawing skills and started to experiment with graphite and charcoal. He went on to receive his B.S. in Architecture at Morgan State University. After a year of working in an architecture firm, he decided to continue his studies at Rhode Island School of Design. Over the course of a year and a half, a few of Trice's works have been showcased and sold in multiple art markets and billboards throughout cities such as Providence and Baltimore.

WaterFire Providence will be partnering with their neighbors in the Valley, [Troop PVD](#) to bring back TroopTop Thursdays to the roofdeck every Thursday in the Summer, including the four Thursdays throughout the run of the exhibition. The third Thursday of the month, June 15, is Gallery Night Providence, the WFAC gallery as well as other galleries in the city are open late and trolley tours are available. There will also be a Emerging Artists Networking event on June 15 in the Gallery. An artist panel will take place within the month with the date soon to be announced.

The WFAC store + gallery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm and until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays. The exhibition is free and open to all, donations encouraged.

For more about the WaterFire Arts Center, visit waterfire.org/wfac or follow @waterfireartscenter on Instagram.

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About WaterFire Providence

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>.

About the WaterFire Arts Center

WaterFire Providence purchased the Art Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and a multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit: <https://waterfire.org/wfac>