

ASPECT / RATIO

Announcement for Immediate Release:

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Thanks for not breeding

LAURA DAVIS & DERRICK WOODS-MORROW

Friday, September 6 – Saturday, October 19, 2019

Opening reception: Friday, September 6th 5:00 - 8:00p

Durational performance: *Acts of Divination: Southern Seas*: Friday, September 20th 2:00-7:00p



Aspect/Ratio is pleased to present *Thanks for not breeding*, a two person exhibition with Laura Davis and Derrick Woods-Morrow. The works in *Thanks for not breeding* will focus on dualities of work and play, assessing and challenging the otherwise normative notions of such acts. Davis will create an installation of sculptural objects and projection which freezes time while alluding to stress; whereas Woods-Morrow references a performative space for play as an act of disruption. While both are seemingly contradictory, each asserts to question heteronormativity and the gaze.

Both Laura Davis and Derrick Woods-Morrow are Chicago based artists who have received an Artadia Award (Davis in 2015, Woods-Morrow in 2018), participated in BOLT residency (Davis in 2013, Woods-Morrow in 2018), and were included in exhibitions at the MCA Chicago: Davis in *Homebodies*, curated by Naomi Beckwith in 2013 and Woods-Morrow *in-progress*, curated by January Parkos Arnall in 2019.

Laura Davis is a multi-disciplinary artist interested in objects and craft. Her works both present their own histories but easily adapt to Davis' recontextualization of them. She wields and contradicts assumed archetypes of gendered roles, reimagining new relationships by creating handcrafted metal sculpture combined with gender specific ready made objects. Further, her interactions disrupt notions of value at the intersections of art, design, and craft.

Derrick Woods-Morrow, often reassesses material in his work. By deploying a wide variety of media— including photographic material, ceramic sculpture, film, and narrative performance, he attempts to reconcile the painful, personal and shared experiences of existing as black & queer in America. His works asks what it would mean to imagine a past and future where bodies like his own can exist as 'whole' —to not perpetually labor merely in order to exist, but to thrive and play; to be renewed.