



**The Watermill Center**

a laboratory for the arts and humanities

Artistic Director, Robert Wilson

[www.watermillcenter.org](http://www.watermillcenter.org)

LIGHT + AIR is a new experience that celebrates the connection between our International Artists, Members, and the Global Community. Enjoy an evening of art, live performance, creative workshops, and a private dinner prepared by Chef Jason Weiner of Almond Restaurant hosted in The Watermill Center Residence — the home to our Artists-in-Residence, our “AIRS.” With one ticket purchase to The 2023 LIGHT + AIR event, you’ll receive a complimentary 2024 membership to The Watermill Center — our gift to you this season. All generations are welcome.

All complimentary tickets and membership benefits are based on space and availability. The Watermill Center is a nonprofit center for the arts and humanities and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) chartered in the State of New York and governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. All tickets and membership contributions to The Watermill Center are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

### **JAMES ULMER**

James Ulmer's paintings utilize a rudimentary vocabulary that is simple and universal. Whether people or animals, still lifes or landscapes, the artist's work renders childlike elements with sophistication and restraint. The human figure and its varying environmental relationships have been ongoing sites of intrigue for Ulmer, who excels in the depiction of boldly-hued shapes, evoking various narratives through soft geometric forms. Ulmer was most recently in a two-person exhibition at Carl Kostyal (Stockholm) alongside Lamar Peterson. Previous solo exhibitions were held at VI Gallery (Copenhagen), The Pit (Los Angeles), The Hole (New York), Marvins Gardens (Brooklyn), and Amala Gallery (Tokyo), among others. Select group exhibitions include presentations at Chart Gallery (New York), Jeffrey Deitch (New York), Salon 94 (New York), Eric Firestone Gallery (East Hampton), and Steinsland Berliner Gallery (Stockholm). Ulmer lives and works in Queens, New York. The artist received a BFA in illustration and design at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

A special exhibition of James Ulmer's work will be on display with works available for purchase. In addition, guests will enjoy an all-ages drop-in painting workshop inspired by the artist's work.

### **CRAIG HARRIS**

Craig Harris is a trombonist, composer, sonic shaman, and one of creative music's most progressive thought-leaders. From touring with Sun Ra to co-composing the film score for *Judas and the Black Messiah*, Craig uses his musical voice to comment on social injustice and humanity. A prolific composer, and bandleader of various-sized ensembles, Craig has amassed an extensive discography of his own influential work in addition to contributing to the projects of his esteemed colleagues. Craig's original works include *God's Trombones*, based on James Weldon Johnson's book of sermons; *Souls Within the Veil*, commemorating the 100th anniversary of W.E.B. DuBois's seminal work; *TriHarlemium*, a sound portrait and 30-year musical time capsule of Harlem; *Brown Butterfly*, a tribute to the exquisite movements of Muhammad Ali; and *BREATHE*, a sonic statement in response to the long term and current injustices inflicted upon African American people. Craig's recent projects include the stage premiere of *Craig Harris' FESTAC '77*, plus *Harlem Sonic Communiversity*, featuring open rehearsals and free public concerts introducing Craig's compositions to new and established audiences. Committed to presenting music in the iconic communities where it was created, Craig's designation as a *Jazz Hero* for his long-standing curation of Harlem concerts joins an array of prestigious honors bestowed upon him as artist community advocate. He was nominated by NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Soundtrack/Compilation Album for the Oscar-winning film *Judas and the Black Messiah*. Craig's newest recording, *Managing the Mask*, was released in 2022.

LIGHT + AIR will feature an exclusive musical performance by Craig Harris.



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### **ESTAR(SER)**

ESTAR(SER) is an international research collective concerned with the history—and the mythology—of attention. Recent work includes: "All Senses on the Qui Vive," 33rd São Paulo Biennial (2018); "El Halo del Cuidar," Reina Sofia, Madrid (2019); "The Dance of Attention," Glasgow International (2020/21); and "The Milcom Memorial Reading Room and Attention Library," Mana Contemporary and the Monira Foundation, Jersey City (2022). Other installations, performances, and lectures have taken place at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Manifesta (Zurich), MoMA PS1 (New York), the Museo Tamayo (Mexico City), and elsewhere. Associates of ESTAR(SER) collaborate on various publications, for instance: "Presenting and Representing the 'W-Cache,'" *Proceedings of the Esthetical Society*, New Series, Part VII Supplement (2016): 1-81; and, most recently, the edited volume *In Search of the Third Bird* (London: Strange Attractor, 2021). The collective's exhibition, "THE THIRD, MEANING," appeared at the Frye Museum (Seattle) from October 2022 to October 2023.

A small exhibition of ESTAR(SER) archival materials and recent investigations will be on display. Visiting researchers from ESTAR(SER) will offer a presentation, and lead interested guests in a durational practice of attention that is believed to hail from associates of the fugitive and trans-historical network of radical "attentionauts" known as the *Avis Tertia*. Events to take place in Watermill "vault."

### **OGEMDI UDE**

Ogemdi Ude is a Nigerian-American dance and interdisciplinary artist, educator, and doula based in Brooklyn. Her performance work focuses on Black femme legacies and futures, grief, and memory. Her work has been presented at Gibney, Danspace Project, Abrons Arts Center, BRIC, ISSUE Project Room, Recess Art, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Center for Performance Research, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Streb Lab for Action Mechanics, La Mama Courthouse, and for BAM's DanceAfrica festival. As an educator, she serves as Head of Movement for Theater at Professional Performing Arts School and has taught at The New School, Princeton University, Sarah Lawrence College, MIT, and University of the Arts. She is a 2022-2024 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence. She has been a 2022-2023 Smack Mellon Artist-in-Residence, 2021 danceWEB Scholar, 2021 Laundromat Project Create Change Artist-in-Residence, and a 2019-2020 Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU Resident Fellow. In January 2022, she appeared on the cover of Dance Magazine for their annual "25 to Watch" issue.

Ogemdi will lead a "Dance for Everyone" workshop for guests of all ages to help shake off the winter blues.

### **SARAH BRAHIM**

Sarah Brahim (b.1992, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) is a visual and performance artist working across many mediums to present work rooted in experiences of the body. She trained as a performer, teacher, and choreographer at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and received a BFA (Hons) from London Contemporary Dance School. Her research-based practice began while studying medicine at university, as she continued practicing and performing. The pursuit to understand the body through every possible lens – biological, physiological, experiential, and more – led her to receive her BS from Oregon Health and Science University, with a focus on medical anthropology and public health. In her work, Brahim examines how gestures of the body create a language that can be used to voice grief, metamorphosis, the unseen form, and our relationship to the natural world.

An original video piece by Sarah Brahim, developed during her residency at The Watermill Center, will be on view.