

ARTIST PROFILE

DECLARATION
APRIL 21st –
SEPTEMBER 9th

ICAVCU.ORG
#DECLARATION
#ICAVCU



Installation view, *Passin' on to others*, Institute for Contemporary Art, Richmond, Virginia, 2018. Photo: Terry Brown

AMOS PAUL KENNEDY JR.

Passin' on to others is a new multi-site project produced by Kennedy Jr. in collaboration with barbershops and salons around Richmond. Over many months, these business owners gathered words and phrases, proverbs and aphorisms from their patrons and stylists and passed them on to Kennedy, Jr. He typeset and produced hundreds of letterpress prints, combining their words with bright color and pattern. The resulting prints then formed a large installation at the ICA and ten smaller installations in downtown Richmond and the Jackson Ward, Northside, and Southside neighborhoods.

The installations at the barbershops and salons consist of proverbs and aphorisms generated at each business by its owner, stylists, and patrons. The ICA's installation presents submissions from all the participants, along with the artist's own words.

The project creates a bridge to the ICA's neighbors while honoring barbershops and salons as historic cornerstones for communities, conversation, and entrepreneurship. It acknowledges the integral role that barbershops and salons have played in communities, particularly African American communities since the turn of the 19th century. These sites function as spaces for social refuge, political mobilization and action, and the passing down of knowledge from generation-to-generation. Together these installations, produced from the words of Richmond citizens, reflect the strength, love, and resilience within these historic spaces.



ON VIEW

Passin' on to others, 2017–2018
Letterpress prints

Courtesy of the artist and community collaborators

LOCATION

Royall Forum,
Beverly Reynolds Gallery 1
and barbershops and salons around
Richmond

*See map for locations

RELATED PROGRAMS

**TOPIC TOUR:
LOOKING AT ART**
June 9, 2018, 1pm

STAFF PICK
Anita Yearwood
Special Events Manager
June 28th, 2018
12:30pm

Visit ICAVCU.ORG for event details and ticketing information. All events are free and open to the public.

MOBILE TOUR



icavcu.org/exhibitions/declaration/#mobile-tour

DECLARATION

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INTERVIEW

*Printing allows for declarations to be distributed to the masses.
Declarations are about the redistribution of power.
—Amos Paul Kennedy Jr.*

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AS AN ARTIST?

Paying my monthly bills

PLEASE SHARE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK YOU'RE SHOWING IN DECLARATION.

A bunch of 6 x 8 inch chipboard cards with the wisdom of the communities printed on them. All the text is hand set metal and wood type printed by the letterpress method.

DO YOU BELIEVE ART HAS SOCIALLY TRANSFORMATIVE POWER?

Creating is a transformative power. The results of creating are also transformative. The questions is the impact of the transformation...is it truly progress?



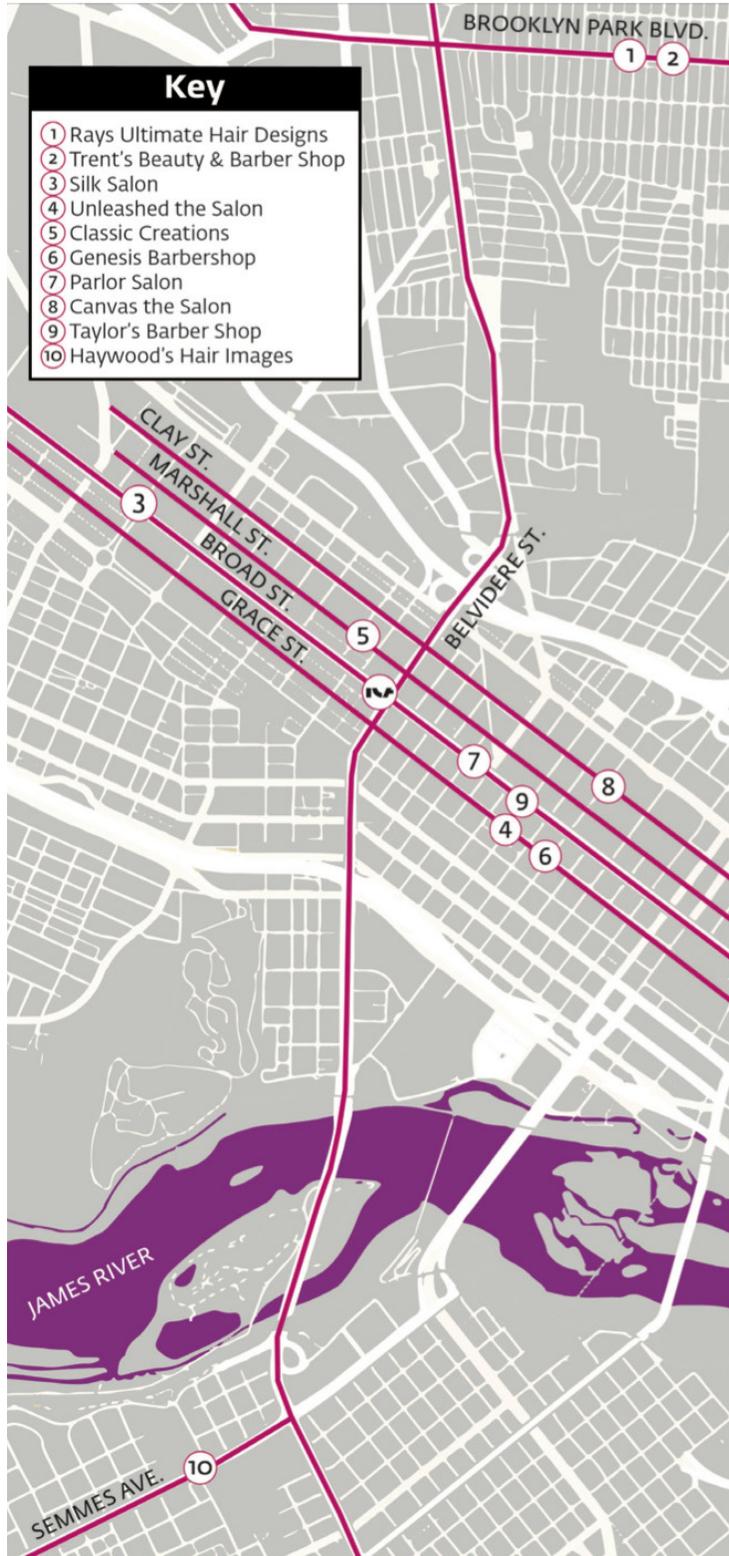
Installation view, *Passin' on to others*, Institute for Contemporary Art, Richmond, Virginia, 2018. Photo: Terry Brown

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PROJECT MAP +
LOCATIONS

DECLARATION



- Key**
- ① Rays Ultimate Hair Designs
 - ② Trent's Beauty & Barber Shop
 - ③ Silk Salon
 - ④ Unleashed the Salon
 - ⑤ Classic Creations
 - ⑥ Genesis Barbershop
 - ⑦ Parlor Salon
 - ⑧ Canvas the Salon
 - ⑨ Taylor's Barber Shop
 - ⑩ Haywood's Hair Images

Ray's Ultimate Hair Designs
215 West Brookland Park Blvd
Richmond, VA 23222

Trent's Beauty and Barber Shop
19 Brookland Park Blvd
Richmond, VA 23222

Silk Salon
1657 West Broad Street #1A
Richmond, VA 23230

Unleashed The Salon
11 East Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Classic Creations
731 West Marshall Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Genesis Barber Shop
200 East Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Parlor Salon
115 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Canvas The Salon
212 E Clay Streer #1C
Richmond, VA 23219

Taylor's Barber Shop
11 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Haywood's Hair Images
2201 Semmes Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225

Amos Paul Kennedy
Barber Shop & Salon
Project

ICA Institute for
Contemporary
Art
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

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BIOGRAPHY



Tony and Martina Turner, Unleashed the Salon. Image courtesy of Robin Boone, *Richmond Free Press*

B. 1950, Lafayette, Louisiana; Lives in Detroit, Michigan

Kennedy is a self-proclaimed "humble Negro printer" whose letterpress work represents the messages and identities of African-Americans whose "words... have largely been excluded from 'fine print.'" He uses traditional letterpress techniques to create richly colored, hand-pulled prints that often incorporate messages and aphorisms that spur conversation about race and class. Through his fine, layered printing of simple text using traditional letterpress technique, Kennedy's work encourages reflection on historical and current African-American identities and overlap between the struggles of the Civil Rights movement and contemporary needs for bold action to pursue social justice.

Kennedy received a BA in Mathematics from Grambling State University in Louisiana and his MFA in Graphic Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His recent awards include a Joyce Award (2016–17), and in 2015 United States Artists named him the USA Glasgow Fellow.

Select solo exhibitions include Museum of Modern Art in New York (2017); Brooklyn Public Library (2017); Kennedy Art Museum, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio (2014); Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Illinois (2014); La Stamperia del Tevere in Rome, Italy (2010); Point Jaune Museum in St. Gallen, Switzerland (2010); Select group exhibitions: Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, AL (2012); Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts in Chicago, Illinois (1995); and Minnesota Center for Book Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota (1994). Collections include: Library of Congress, Washington D.C., Charles Deering McCormick Library, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, Manuscript Archives and Rare Book Library, CA Kohler Art Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and The Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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