

PHILADELPHIA
CONTEMPORARY

**Philadelphia Contemporary Presents *Supine Horizons*—an Immersive Site for Rest, Resistance,
and Renewal—at the KDD Theatre**

A restorative and experiential audiovisual installation by local multimedia artist Gralin Hughes, Jr. (Television Sky) invites viewers to reconsider rest as the ultimate form of self-care and collective healing



Installation view of Supine Horizons. Photo credit: David Evan McDowell.

(Philadelphia, PA — November 1, 2022) Philadelphia Contemporary—a contemporary art organization connecting the people and places of Philadelphia through art and partnership—is pleased to announce the opening of ***Supine Horizons***, an immersive site for rest, resistance, and renewal, featuring synthesized sound and projected visuals by local multimedia artist **Gralin Hughes, Jr. (Television Sky)**.

Open November 1st through December 20th at the Kinesics Dance Dynamics (KDD) Theatre in Germantown, *Supine Horizons* seeks to subvert capitalist ideals of “hustle” and “grind” culture, dismantling the idea that rest is solely a luxury or a privilege. The installation features couches, ultra-supportive bean bag chairs that mimic the sensations of flotation therapy, and restorative yoga props alongside relaxing, ambient soundscapes and soothing projected visuals. In inviting visitors to

rest, *Supine Horizons* aims to recenter rest as the ultimate form of self-care and collective healing, particularly for the Black community.

The sound and visuals for the project were developed by Hughes—a member of PhillyAV, an artist-led experimental multimedia collective, and a founding member of blkpatches—during a month-long residency in October 2022. The artist created original sound compositions and corresponding visuals using modular synthesizers and software, in addition to incorporating non-traditional techniques such as the biorhythms in plants. Enhanced by projection mapping and lighting techniques, the resulting compositions are generative and ever-changing, creating an experience that is constantly evolving, akin to our relationship to ourselves and one another.

“As a Black man, I grew up with the idea that you had to work twice as hard to get even half of the respect of a White person. Rest or taking care of yourself was perceived as lazy in that framework. *Supine Horizons* counters that as an invitation to rest, a space where people—especially Black people—can feel safe, cozy, and comfortable physically and mentally. The installation's interactivity is not to move or control the environment but to rest and do nothing. The project is particularly poignant to me being situated in Germantown, where I grew up, as an offering to my late grandmother and other family members. They were not given such an invitation,” said **Gralin Hughes, Jr.**

For *Supine Horizons*, Philadelphia Contemporary has partnered with the **Kinesics Dance Dynamics (KDD) Theatre**, a Black-owned performance space with a mission to create opportunities to share arts and culture with the community. Situated within a storefront in Germantown, Philadelphia—a predominantly Black neighborhood steeped in history, rebellion, and emancipation—*Supine Horizons* transforms a once-commercial location into an environment for rest.



Philadelphia Contemporary's Curator of Lived Culture Nicole Pollard with Gralin Hughes, Jr. (Television Sky) outside of Supine Horizons at the KDD Theatre. Photo credit: David Evan McDowell.

“It has been an honor to collaborate with Gralin on *Supine Horizons*, which represents both his first major solo installation and my first solo curatorial project. By offering this place for renewal and acknowledging the importance of rest as both an individual and community practice, we hope that visitors will take the time and space to consider rest as resistance—as an intentional practice that is rooted in care,” said **Nicole Pollard, Curator of Lived Culture** at Philadelphia Contemporary, who organized the exhibition with Hughes.

“Since Philadelphia Contemporary’s founding in 2016, our primary focus has been connecting the people and places of this city through art and partnership. We hope that creating a physical site where the community can relax and engage with Gralin’s multimedia works will inspire new connections and encourage collective healing,” added **Harry Philbrick, Founding Director and CEO** of Philadelphia Contemporary.

Existing in dialogue with the work of Black women and femme leaders such as **Nap Bishop of The Nap Ministry, Tricia Hersey, Octavia F. Raheem, and Navild Acosta and Fannie Sosa of Siestas Negras (Black Power Naps)**, *Supine Horizons* aims to call into question our relationship to capitalism by resisting its fabricated sense of urgency and elevating the importance of personal renewal.

Throughout the course of the installation, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of restful programming, such as a rest workshop with **Octavia F. Raheem**—the visionary author of *Pause, Rest, Be: Stillness Practices for Courage in Times of Change*—whose teachings on yoga and wellness contributed inspiration to *Supine Horizons*. Other events will include a recurring restorative yoga class led by **Hanae Victoria Manson** of Studio 34 Yoga Healing Arts, acupuncture sessions by licensed acupuncturist **Sarah Lefkowich**, and a poetry reading and guided meditation session by Philadelphia Poet Laureate **Airea D. Matthews**. On **Saturday, November 12th** at 6pm, **Hughes and Chaka Benson**, founder of POC modular art collective “blk patches,” will perform at the KDD Theatre. A full calendar of events is available below.

A free resource booklet has been created as a companion piece to the installation and will be available for visitors to take away as they reconsider their own rest practices. The booklet will include activity prompts and focus on the concepts of rest, renewal, and resistance, as well as how that translates into communal care. Visitors are encouraged to dress comfortably, and lockers are available on site.

Installation Dates and Hours:

Tuesday, November 1st through Tuesday, December 20th
KDD Theatre, 5427 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144

- Tuesdays, 4-8pm
- Thursdays, 4-8pm
- Fridays, 12-8pm
- Saturdays, 11:30am-6pm

Visitors are encouraged to make reservations [here](#).

Please note that Supine Horizons will be closed on Thanksgiving. For additional information, dial 1-833-793-REST or visit <https://philadelphiacontemporary.org/projects/supine-horizons>.

Calendar of Programs:

- **Every Saturday at 10am**
Restorative yoga class led by Hanae Victoria Mason
- **Select Thursdays (11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15) from 4-8pm**
Acupuncture by Sarah Lefkovich, licenced acupuncturist
- **Saturday, November 12th at 6pm**
Live performance by Chaka Benson, founder of POC modular art collective “blk patches”, and Gralin Hughes, Jr.
- **Friday, December 9th at 6:30pm**
Rest workshop with Octavia F. Raheem, author of Pause, Rest, Be: Stillness Practices for Courage in Times of Change
- **Friday, December 16th at 6pm**
Poetry reading and guided meditation by Airea D. Matthews, Philadelphia Poet Laureate

Supine Horizons is generously supported by The Barra Foundation.

About Gralin Hughes, Jr.

Gralin Hughes, Jr. (aka Television Sky) is a multidisciplinary artist based in the Philadelphia area, working at the intersection of sound and visuals. He merges visual art and sound design through projection mapping, audio/visual live performances, and installation art. His work explores the manipulation of fragmented textures through modular synthesis, field recordings, and software. His artistic practice is rooted in collaboration; he uses technology to activate and elevate work by visual artists, musicians, galleries, and museums. He is a member of PhillyAV, an artist-led experimental multimedia collective, and a founding member of blkpatches, a collective of Black modular synthesizer artists. His recent collaborative work has activated spaces at the Barnes Foundation, Franklin Institute, International House, Philadelphia City Hall, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Swarthmore College, and Taller Puertorriqueño. Gralin holds an MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from the University of the Arts.

About Philadelphia Contemporary

Founded in 2016, Philadelphia Contemporary is a contemporary art organization whose mission is to connect the people and places of Philadelphia through art and partnership. Currently nomadic, Philadelphia Contemporary presents visual art, performance art, and spoken word across the city, with ambitions to establish a freestanding, globally oriented, and locally aware non-collecting arts institution.

The Lived Culture Curatorial Program

The Lived Culture curatorial program celebrates a decolonial approach to recognizing and presenting art that aligns closely with Philadelphia Contemporary's value of *embracing the breadth of what art can be*. It affirms that everyday individual skill and labor, done with joy and with purpose, as well as various forms of culture, both popular and obscure, lend themselves to some of the most fundamental expressions of artistry.

Lived Culture works to expand the idea of what art can be beyond its traditional forms and institutional limitations, by highlighting individuals, collectives and communities that may not consider what they do to be art, or themselves to be artists. This program aims to expand the reach of that work by sharing it more broadly, while also providing the resources for it to grow. Lived Culture aims to shift perceptions of power and privilege in our society by looking to the hands of the people.

About Nicole Pollard, Curator of Lived Culture

Nicole Pollard is the inaugural Curator of Lived Culture. Her curatorial work hinges on concepts of identity and belonging. Her previous work with PC, as Program Coordinator and Associate Curator, has included *Festival for the People* and *Commonwealth*. In the past, she has worked as Project Manager at Temple Contemporary, Curatorial Assistant for No Longer Empty, and an Exhibit Designer for Museum of Impact. She holds an MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning + Design from the University of the Arts and a BFA in Art Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

About The Kinesics Dance Dynamics Theatre

The KDD Theatre is a black box performance space owned and operated by Kinesics Dance Dynamics. Located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, a rapidly blossoming arts district, the black box provides an opportunity to share arts and culture with the community. The KDD Theatre is a multifunctional space, serving as a dance/movement studio and live performance space.

About Studio 34 Yoga Healing Arts

Since 2008, Studio 34 has cultivated a community; it has offered affordable yoga classes, workshops, and art shows for those who seek healing, as well as space for wellness practitioners to provide various forms of therapy, from acupuncture to massage to psychotherapy & more. In early 2018, community member Kari Thompson took over as owner and remains committed to Studio 34 being a space of healing, creativity, and inclusivity for the West Philadelphia community and beyond.

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