

Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaime

September 9 - October 29, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, September 8, 6:00pm - 9:00pm



Jimmy's Thrift installed at Spring Break Art Show, image courtesy of the artist

Knockdown Center is pleased to present **Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaime**, a performative installation and fictional thrift store by artist **Azikiwe Mohammed**. New Davonhaime – a location conceived by Mohammed – is an amalgamation of the names of the five most densely populated Black cities in America: New Orleans, Detroit, Jackson, Birmingham, and Savannah. *Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaime* was created to serve as a safe space for Black and Brown people living in America, the artist's response to this country's constant persecution of the same. Knockdown Center's galleries will be fully transformed into a thrift store that contains objects both created and found by Mohammed that include tapestries, records, postcards, paintings, lamps, and books. The exhibition opens with a **reception on Friday, September 8, 6-9pm**, and is **on view through October 29, 2017**.

Mohammed will be on site daily performing as the thrift store owner, Jimmy. Throughout the run of the exhibition, Mohammed will be accepting donations from the public in the form of photographs to be added to the artist's Black Community Family Albums, or audio-recorded memories that detail the first time participants realized they were Black. These recordings, called "My First Time" stories, will be compiled and turned into 12" records that are then added to the installation's growing collection. These living archives offer an intimate, nuanced portrait of Black lives both contemporary and past. *Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaime* also contains a music library that invites visitors to exchange music using Mohammed's custom New Davonhaime flash drives, and encourages that musicians contribute original compositions in this way to be shared with future visitors.

In addition to the installation in the galleries, Knockdown Center's bar, the Ready Room, will be pouring a custom New Davonhaim Ale, created in collaboration with the Brooklyn craft brewery Interboro.

Previous versions of *Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaim* have shown at Spring/Break and No Longer Empty in 2016, and Knockdown Center's culminating presentation of *Jimmy's Thrift of New Davonhaim* will be its most extensive iteration yet.

Knockdown Center gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 5 PM to 9 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 2 PM to 8 PM. Knockdown Center is located at 52-19 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378.

About Azikiwe Mohammed

Azikiwe Mohammed graduated from Bard College in 2005 where he studied photography and fine arts. Since then he has shown his work in galleries both nationally and internationally. In 2015 he received the Art Matters Grant, and in 2016 was the recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grant. He lives in New York and currently works at Mana Fine Arts as part of their mana BSMT program.

About Knockdown Center

Knockdown Center is an art and performance space dedicated to cross-disciplinary projects and collaborations. Visit our century-old building for innovative and experimental programming in visual arts, performance, music and more. Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or visit our website at Knockdown.Center.

Knockdown Center's arts programming is proposal-driven. To learn more about how to submit a proposal for consideration, please visit: <https://knockdown.center/proposals>.

Press Inquiries:

Tara Plath, Marketing and Communications Manager

tara@knockdowncenter.com

347.915.5615