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# THE SHED Press Release

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING  
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New York, NY 10001

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The Shed presents “Call,” a live sonic performance that embraces the glitches of digital communication, featuring Justin Allen, Yulan Grant, and S\*an D. Henry-Smith

The Sixth Commission in The Shed’s *Up Close* series premieres on Sunday, June 28 at 6 PM



New York, NY, June 18, 2020— In *Call*, artists **Justin Allen**, **Yulan Grant**, and **S\*an D. Henry-Smith** create an improvised collaborative soundscape via the video conferencing platform Zoom. The artists manipulate the constraints of the technology to create a shared sonic, musical, and visual experience. As each artist joins the call from a different location, the trio layers sound with rhythms using instruments, electronic production technology, nearby household items, and their own voices.

*Call* will premiere on **Sunday, June 28 at 6 pm EST** on Zoom. Tickets are free and can be reserved at [theshed.org/call](https://theshed.org/call). Zoom meeting information will be provided in a follow-up email on the day of the event.

The lo-fi production of the performance, with materials assembled from what the artists had on hand while working at home, turns the challenges of digital communication into an opportunity for collaboration and sonic experimentation. While at this moment the whims of our Wi-Fi connections determine whether or not we can share time without technical interruptions, *Call* pushes the boundaries of real-time performance, video lag time, and digital connection.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Before the spread of COVID-19 necessitated social distancing, the three artists and friends had collaborated on previous projects, including Allen and Grant's work on the zine *BDGRMMR* with Brandon Owens and Grant's work with Henry-Smith on a sound performance. In 2019, Allen, Grant, and Henry-Smith all performed at The Shed as part of *Open Call*. In July, Grant presented *Buss Demon Choat*, a site-specific performance about non-linear time in the diaspora. In August, on The Shed's Plaza, Allen performed *Explain Totality* (version 4), a set of cover songs with altered lyrics about his teenage years, with Henry-Smith on guitar.

**Justin Allen** experiments with performance, writing, linguistics, and the still and moving image to understand our relationships to time, social context, and place. He has performed at Movement Research at the Judson Church, JACK, ISSUE Project Room and The Shed among other venues. He has read his poetry, fiction, and nonfiction at venues such as the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church, Kampnagel (Hamburg, Germany), and Artists Space. His work has received support from Franklin Furnace and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

**Yulan Grant** is a New York-based multidisciplinary artist from Kingston, Jamaica. As a creative positioned between Caribbean and American culture, her work interrogates ideas of identity, notions of power, perceived histories, and the entanglements that happen within these topics.

**S\*an D. Henry-Smith** is an artist and writer working primarily in poetry, photography, and performance, engaging Black experimentalisms and collaborative practices. The author of two chapbooks, *Body Text* and *Flotsam Suite: A Strange & Precarious Life, or How We Chronicled the Little Disasters & I Won't Leave the Dance Floor Til It's Out of My System*, and co-author alongside Imani Elizabeth Jackson of the poetry cookbook *Consider the Tongue*, S\*an's first full-length collection of poems and photographs, *Wild Peach*, is forthcoming from Futurepoem.

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## ABOUT UP CLOSE

The Shed is committed to expanding the scope of how a cultural institution can serve its communities, a mission that is even more critical while distanced from one another. To creatively engage artists and audiences in this moment of great uncertainty and upheaval, *Up Close* launched in April 2020 and continues every other Sunday with intimate performances, conversations, curated playlists, and other forms of original content that explore what it means to make art right now.

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*Up Close* has premiered commissioned works by **The HawtPlates** on April 19, **Reggie ‘Regg Roc’ Gray** and the **D.R.E.A.M. Ring** on May 3, and a collaborative music-ritual created by **Troy Anthony** and **Jerome Ellis** on May 17. *What Connects?*, a collection of poems and artwork by **Nova Cypress Black**, **Tasha Dougé**, and **Gabriel Ramirez**, teaching artists from The Shed’s *DIS OBEY* program for young writers and activists, premiered on June 7. The latest commission, *Go Off! Joy in Defiance*, by **DJ April Hunt** and **Rashaad Newsome** with **Legendary Monster Mon\_Teese** and **Precious** premiered on June 14.

Artists in future installments include; **Kiyan Williams** on July 12; **Tomás Saraceno** on July 26, and **Tony Cokes** on August 9.

*Up Close* is organized by Solana Chehtman, Director of Civic Programs, with Adeze Wilford and Alessandra Gómez, Curatorial Assistants; Justin Wong, Civic Programs Coordinator; and Lily Wan, Digital Content Producer. The Shed’s multidisciplinary commissioning program is developed by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots with the senior program team, including Emma Enderby, Chief Curator; Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer; Madani Younis, Chief Executive Producer; and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Senior Program Advisor

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## ABOUT THE SHED

Located on Manhattan’s west side, The Shed commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences. From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The building—a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect—physically transforms to support artists’ most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed, led by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots, is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.