Related Programs

LINCOLN IN NEW SALEM: An Experimental Opera By Corey Smith
January 5-7, 2023 at Steppenwolf Theater, Chicago
Ground Floor artist Corey Smith looks at Abraham Lincoln’s life in his twenties through a kaleidoscope — a whirlwind of music, dance, and mythmaking for our most mythologized president. Purchase tickets through www.steppenwolf.org/tickets

Ground Floor: A Living Project
February 11, 2023, 1 - 4:30 pm
This program includes artists who explore selfhood, identity, and performance through world building, spatiality, and objecthood. Through a multi-layered approach to understanding the world at large, these artists consider how our interactions with self, others, found objects, and the abstraction of identity offer insight into living space.

Schedule:
1 - 2 pm Poetry and Domesticity Workshop with Emily Plunkett
2 - 3:30 pm The Perception of Selfhood Panel with Natasha Moustache, Scott Vincent Campbell, and Payton Harris Woodard
3:30 - 4:30 pm Looking, Feeling and Trying Materials with Sofía Fernández Díaz

The Body in Practice: An Evening of Performances
March 2, 2023, 6 - 8 pm
Join Ground Floor artists, Ále Campos aka Celeste, Ajmal Millar aka MASMAN, and Corey Smith for an evening of performance. These artists utilize their bodies and alter personas to explore the evolution of themselves and others, alternative worlds, and personal and cultural histories.
Featured Artists

Sungho Bae (SAIC, 2021)
Juan Baños (UIC, 2022)
Scott Campbell (U of C, 2022)
Ale Campos (SAIC, 2022)
Sofía Fernández Díaz (SAIC, 2022)
Ali Georgescu (CCC, 2021)
Sara Grose (U of C, 2021)
Payton Harris Woodard (SAIC, 2022)
Patrick Hubbell (SAIC)
Nicholas Jackson (UIC)

Ajmal “MAS MAN” Millar (SAIC, 2021)
Travis Morehead (NU, 2022)
Natasha Moustache (CCC, 2021)
Elissa Osterland (U of C, 2022)
Jess Atieno (SAIC, 2021)
Shabtai Pinchevsky (NU, 2021)
Emilie Plunkett (CCC, 2022)
Corey Smith (SAIC, 2021)
Frank Vega (SAIC, 2022)
Jessica Walker (NU, 2022)

Ground Floor brings together artwork by some of the most promising emergent talents from across the city and offers a single destination to discover diverse artists whose work demands to be seen and supported now.

Ground Floor—so named because it provides a crucial platform for new artists and fills the entire lower level of the Art Center—is an ongoing biennial project that began in 2010. Based on nominations of artists by respected members of the arts community, a small selection committee of artists and curators determines the twenty artists representing notable concepts and techniques in the past two years of art production coming out of local art schools. All the artists included in the exhibition have recently graduated from one of Chicago’s Master of Fine Art programs: Columbia College Chicago (CCC), Northwestern University (NU), The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), The University of Chicago (U of C), and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Special thanks to the 2022 Ground Floor Selection Committee organized by Mariela Acuña and Allison Peters Quinn, chaired by Dawoud Bey: Ross Jordan, Steve Reinke, Daisy Schultz, and Anne Wilson.