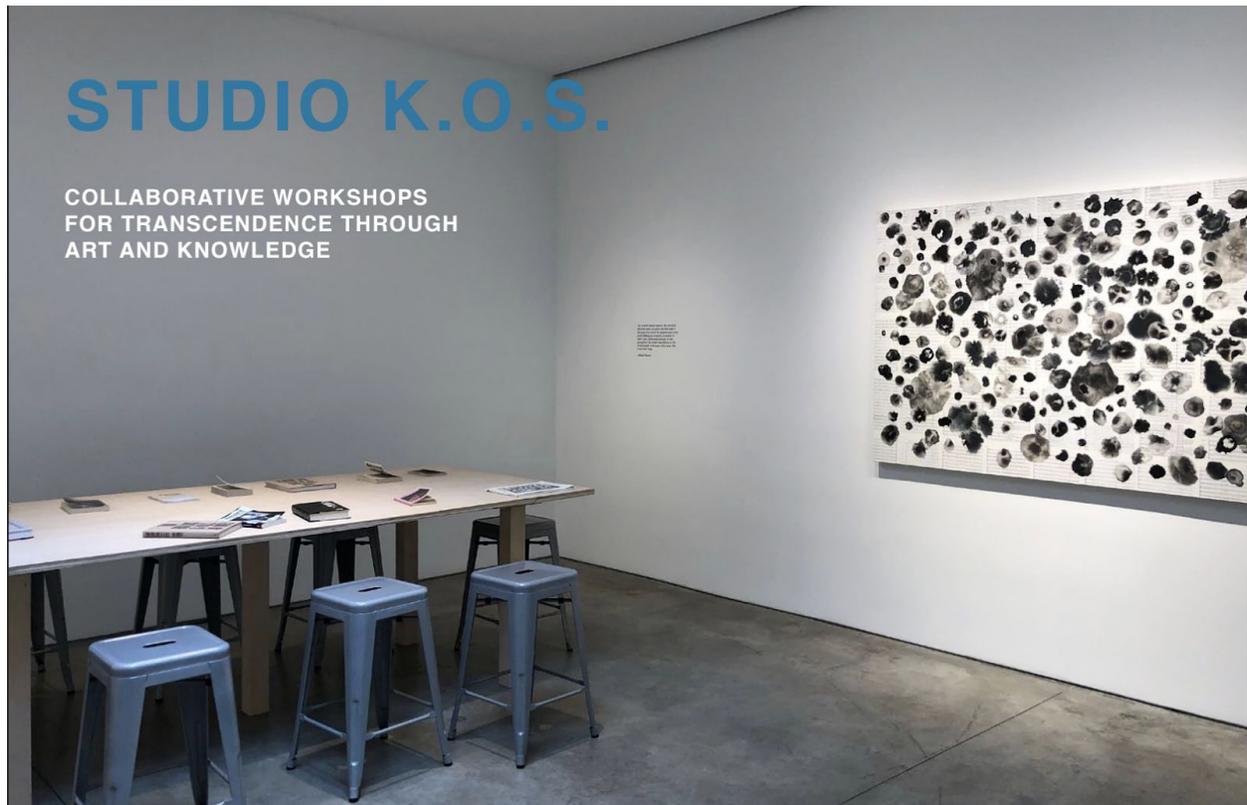


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Collaborative Workshops for Transcendence through Art and Knowledge

Organized by Studio K.O.S. and Wexler Gallery

for students from the University Community Collaborative

July, 2020

Collaborative Workshops for Transcendence through Art and Knowledge is an educational and participatory art program run by Studio K.O.S. Over several sessions, participants from the University Community Collaborative will be exposed to selections of influential text, engage in critical discussion of that literature, and create original art in reaction. The sessions are guided by members of Studio K.O.S., and the contribution of the participants is highly valued and steers the outcome of the program.

Studio K.O.S. is a collective of artists who are continuing the legacy of Tim Rollins and the Kids of Survival (K.O.S.), whose collaborative approach to making art began in the Bronx in the 1980's. What was manifested from their collaborations became a powerful body of work that can be seen today in over 120 museums and public collections worldwide including MoMA, The Tate Modern and The Art Institute of Chicago. Studio K.O.S. consists of original members of that collaborative group, and the workshops continue the mission of empowering young people through exposure to art and literature.

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About the Workshops:

The idea of community has never been more important. This series of workshops revolves around using education as a medium for making art. Following Ralph Waldo Emerson's notion that books are to be used not just read, participants will make individual elements that will be brought together as one work. The book that will be used is Franz Kafka's unfinished novel *Amerika*. This particular translation to English by Edwin Muir in 1947 includes a chapter called "The Nature of Oklahoma" which will be the cornerstone of how the artwork will manifest. Each student will make at least one work directly on the text of the book. This will promote a profound and transformative experience in which we will not only collaborate with each other, but engage with Franz Kafka and his text in a new and powerful way.

Structure of the workshops:

4 Sessions, 1-1/2 hours each

20 participants - from University Community Collaborative (UCC)

Each session incorporates the following elements:

- Intro of text - Studio K.O.S. will lead a round table style synopsis of the text. Often supplemented by video and music clips.
- Reading and Discussion - Both artists and participants take turns reading selected passages, alternately listening and speaking. Followed by a discussion about how the text relates to the present - this can touch on anything from current affairs, personal journeys, challenges /obstacles, hope, faith, the future.
- Art Making - each participant creates a piece of artwork, unique to them using the actual text. How each participant manipulates the pages with paint, ink, scissors, glue, etc. is entirely up to them. Freedom of expression in literature is manifested in the freedom of creating art from these pages. Art-making is freedom, it is a visual form of expression, and there is power in that.
- At the end of the workshop, each participant's individual pieces will be kept by Studio K.O.S. unless other arrangements are made. These pieces collectively form one overall artwork, in keeping with Tim Rollins and K.O.S. legacy and future. The artwork is a testament of the opening up of young minds to the power of human connection and the ability to transcend.

Notes about Social Distancing:

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop will take place live through a digital platform such as Zoom. The materials will be distributed to, and collected from, participants via contactless delivery.

To request more information, please contact Mat Tomezsko at Wexler Gallery:

mat@wexlergallery.com 215-923-7030

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TIM ROLLINS AND K.O.S.

A HISTORY

In 1982, artist and teacher Tim Rollins created an after-school program in the South Bronx for his most dedicated students. The Art and Knowledge workshop soon morphed into Tim Rollins and the Kids of Survival (K.O.S.). Together, Rollins and K.O.S. developed a collaborative strategy that combined lessons in reading and writing with the production of impactful works of art. In a process they called “jamming,” Rollins or a member of the collective would read selected texts aloud while other members drew, cut, ripped, painted onto pages of the text, relating the stories to their own experiences. What was manifested from their collaborations became a powerful body of work that can be seen today in over 120 museums and public collections worldwide including MoMA, The Tate Modern and The Art Institute of Chicago.



(Left) Tim Rollins and K.O.S. circa 1993. Left to right: Rick Savinon, Jorge Abreu, Tim Rollins, Carlos Rivera, Robert Branch, Victor Llanos, Angel Abreu

“To dare to make history when you are young, when you are a minority; when you are working, or nonworking class, when you are voiceless in society, takes courage. Where we came from, just surviving is ‘making history.’ So many others, in the same situations, have not survived, physically; psychologically; spiritually; or socially. We were making our own history. We weren’t going to accept history as something given to us.”

Tim Rollins



(Above) Tim Rollins and K.O.S. summer 2016. Left to right: Logan Swedick, Rick Savinon, Robert Branch, Tim Rollins, Angel Abreu, Jorge Abreu
(Courtesy Lehmann Maupin Gallery)

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STUDIO K.O.S.: THE PRESENT

Continuing the legacy of Tim Rollins, Studio K.O.S. will continue arts education and youth mentorship led by Tim Rollins' studio manager and original KOS member Angel Abreu with the support of foundational members including Jorge Abreu, Robert Branch and Rick Savinon.



June 2019 - First workshop and masterclass after Rollins's passing using James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time" as the text. Conducted at Lehmann Maupin Gallery with graduate students from the School of Visual Arts in NYC



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About the University Community Collaborative:

Based in the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University, the Collaborative serves young people in the surrounding community.

Mission Statement

The Collaborative prepares and supports youth and young adults to become confident, effective leaders and creates cultures that value and integrate the contributions of youth, thereby building stronger communities.

Vision

Our long term vision is to shift the approach to working with older youth from one that focuses on short term interventions to one that embraces a long term view, providing youth with opportunities to grow into leadership positions and supporting them once they are there. Our training of young leaders, our continuum model, our capacity building assistance to other organizations and subsequent seeding of leadership initiatives within those organizations, and the work of our former participants who are now in the nonprofit, public and educational sectors are all steps towards achieving this long term vision.

Activities

Our activities are concentrated in three areas:

- Building young leaders through our programming continuum
- Building organizational and community capacity through Training and Technical Assistance
- Building collective knowledge through research

For more, visit: <https://uccollab.org/>