

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



NIKKI PRESSLEY

ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM

When you awaken an observation, a certainty, a hope, they are already struggling somewhere, elsewhere, in another form. -Edouard Glissant, Poetics of Relation

In *Poetics of Relation*, Martinican writer Edouard Glissant speaks of the idea of errantry. It is this idea of relative and intentional wandering for a beginning and a conception of identity that has inspired this body of work. In his writings, Glissant views this wandering as rhizomatic, creating relationships between object/body, place and idea that cross multiple boundaries, while leaving a space for reflection and projection. This work is concerned with generation of meaning and narrative through objects and space, particularly objects that point to routine domestic life while addressing the desire for a transformative personal and collective existence.

Narrative plays a subliminal role in the works, as it is an element courses through every part of daily life - personal, spiritual, physical, geographical, imaginative. All of it is connected to a story line that we are actively creating and dismantling. The works explore the application of this interest in narrative directly to objects and spaces, particularly those related to an idea of home. Narrative and formal connections are created between images, objects, cultural lineage and the basic routine of life. Certain objects from the drawings are transformed in the space to create new meaning and function.

The drawings in show are landscape studies that use domestic space as focal point, subtly pointing to the struggle to place oneself within a narrative and pondering how context can be lost and projected through that journey. The sculptural objects replicate the objects found in the drawings, yet are transformed to create slightly different and new manifestations. These new manifestations become further studies in a dialogue between both form and function.

The investigation of continuous, connected narratives expands in the rear gallery with works addressing a specific historical subject - Othar 'Otha' Turner, a farmer in Northern Mississippi whose Labor Day 'farm parties' featured the playing of the fife, a small flute fashioned out of locally harvested rivercane. Turner's story serves to show how personal narratives born of domestic occupation and routine become larger expressions of community, identity, and history.

Nikki Pressley was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1982. She received her BA from Furman University and her MFA California Institute of the Arts in 2008. Pressley has had solo exhibitions at Furman University and Las Cienegas Projects. Nikki was included in the fourth installment of the emerging artist exhibition at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Fore, and was also included in the 2010 California Biennial. She has participated in group exhibitions at the New Museum in New York, California African American Museum, UC Irvine, FOCA, Charlie James Gallery, Torrance Art Museum, Coma Art Space in Los Angeles and others. She is also a contributor/Art Director for the Liberator Magazine. Nikki currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Coffee Table Crawl, 2013
Wood, paneling, found wood, bamboo, string
Table - 61.5 x 21 x 18 inches

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Porch, 2013
Graphite on paper
40 x 32 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Dining Room, 2013
Graphite on paper
40 x 32 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Bedroom, 2013
Graphite on paper
40 x 32 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Abacus/seat, 2013
Wood, found wood, string, nails, cushion, fava beans
Plinth - 35.5 x 48 x 5 inches
Chair/Abacus - 32 x 20 x 40 inches

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



In the beginning... (king james), 2013
Graphite, embossing on paper
32 x 40 inches
Framed

Once in a before time (anase), 2013
Graphite, embossing on paper
32 x 40 inches
Framed

Once upon a time...(Perrault), 2013
Graphite, embossing on paper
32 x 40 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Drawers, 2013
Wood, brass and metal knobs, paint
Installation - 27 x 25 x 32 inches

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Cover, Furrow, Seed, 2013
Triptych
Graphite on paper on stained wood panels
10 x 10 inches/each

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Run, 2013
Wood, string, soil, fava beans, green beans, plastic, paint
2 feet x 8 feet x 43.5 inches

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



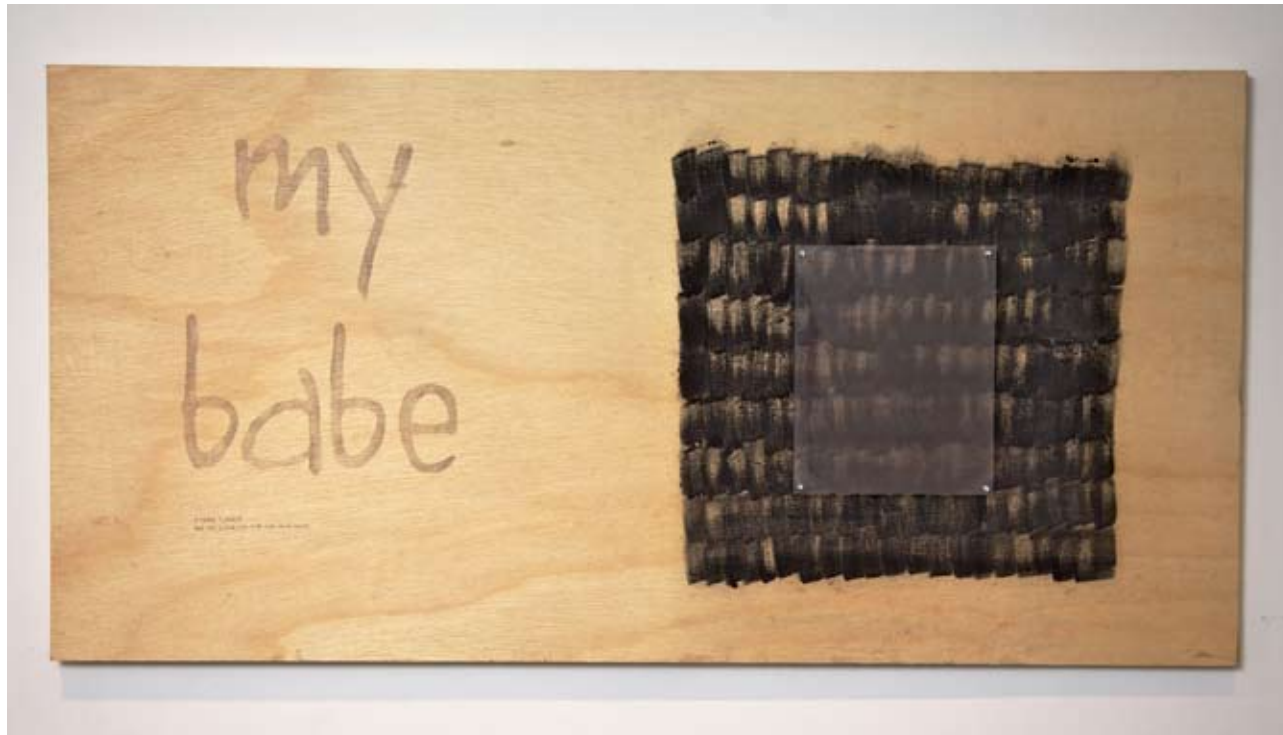
Nothin Make a Fail But a Try, 2013
Triptych
Graphite on stained wood panel
6 x 6 inches/each

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



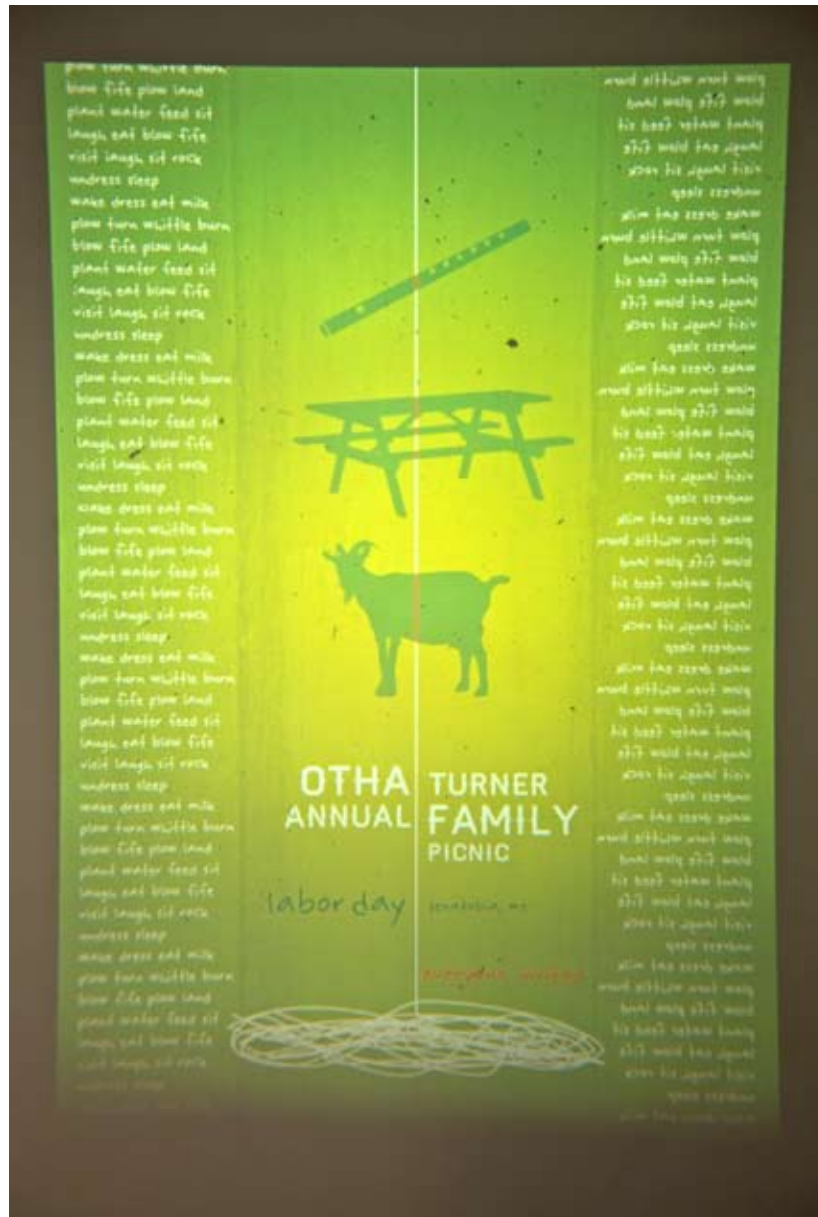
Fife, fife, fife..., 2013
Bamboo reeds
12 feet x 1 inch diameter

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



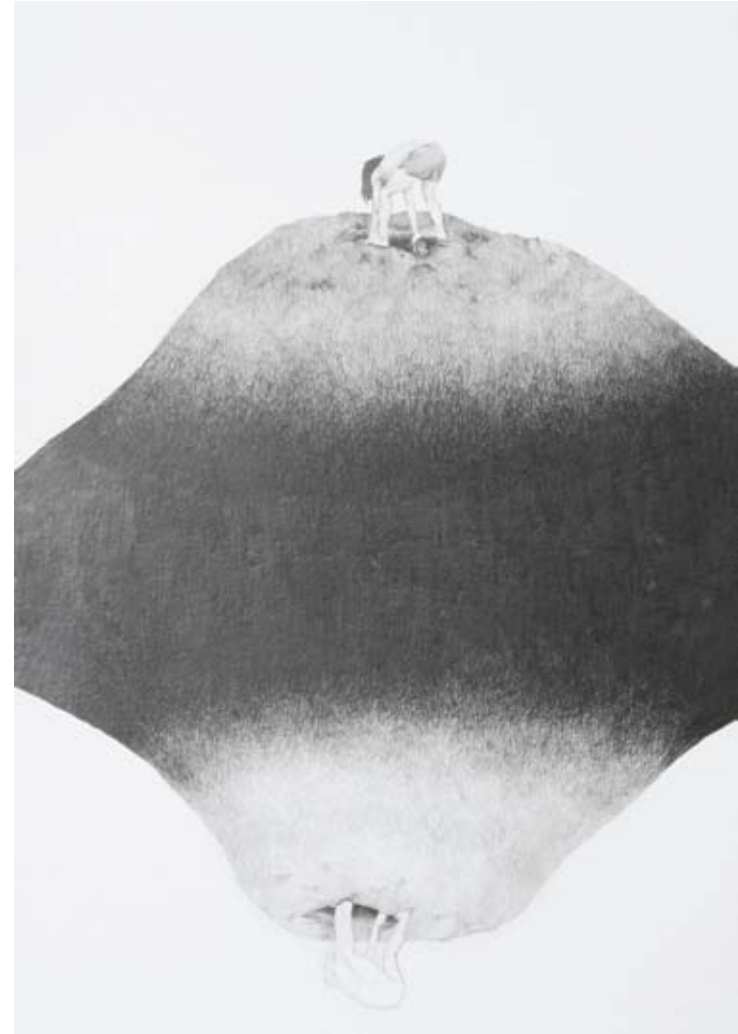
My Babe, 2013
Graphite, plexi on wood, sound recording
24 x 48 inches

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Family Picnic, 2013
Single slide projection

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Requiem, 2010
Graphite on paper
47 x 32.5 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY
ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM



Living Room, 2013
Graphite on paper
40 x 32 inches
Framed

NIKKI PRESSLEY

ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM

Nikki Pressley

Born in Greenville, South Carolina.
Lives and works in Los Angeles

2008 MFA, California Institute of the Arts,
Valencia, CA
2004 BA (Art/Design), Furman University,
Greenville, SC

Solo Exhibitions

2013 Elsewhere, in Another Form, Charlie James
Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2011 (September) Forth and Back: New Works
Furman University
2009 Actions and Contemplations Las Cienegas
Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2008 the charleston project: proposals for the
escape velocity of time Mint Gallery,
California Institute of the Arts,
Valencia, CA
2007 Room To Grow Main Gallery, California
Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

Group Exhibitions

2011 Go Tell It On the Mountain Curated by Nery
Lemus Charlie James Gallery, Chinatown,
Los Angeles
Chiasmus: Zones of Political and Aesthetic
Imagination UC Irvine
Black Is The Color of True Curated by Jay
Lizo Art Platform/Monte Vista projects,
Los Angeles, CA

Grant v. Lee Curated by Sophie T.
Lvoff Good Children Gallery, New Orleans,
LA

2010-2011 2010 California Biennial Curated by
Sarah C. Bancroft Orange County
Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA

2010 12 Guage Series Torrance Art Museum,
Torrance CA

2008 Conventions and Attitudes Trade and Row
Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Domestic Utensils Coma Art, Los Angeles,
CA
We Want A New Object, CalArts MFA Graduate
Group Show Curated by Christine Y. Kim &
Malik Gaines Chinatown Galleries, Los
Angeles, CA
Changing Ties: Reconsidering Identity
Through Cross-Cultural
Interventions 2008 Avenue 50, Los Angeles,
CA

2007 Group Show Eveningside Drive , Val Verde,
CA
The Pyramid Show Monte Vista Projects, Los
Angeles, CA

2006 Fresh Meat Furman University, Greenville,
SC

2004 Red Hot Embers, Life and Debt: AIDS and

NIKKI PRESSLEY

ELSEWHERE, IN ANOTHER FORM

Debt in Africa
Depaul University, Chicago, IL
Red Hot Embers, Life and Debt: AIDS and
Debt in Africa
Depaul University, Greencastle, IN

Other

2011 Teacher, Art Workshop Collaborative
(collaboration with CalArts and California
African American Museum
2007-present Contributor, Liberator Magazine/
Blog
2009 Guest Lecturer, Art, Furman
University
2009, Guest Lecturer, 2D Design, University of
Minnesota-Duluth
2007, Afterschool Arts Instructor, 52nd Street
Middle School, Los Angeles, CA
2006-2006, Student Teaching Assistant, Community
Arts Partnership (CAP)

Awards & Recognition

CalArts Interdisciplinary Grant
CalArts Alumni Grant
Ahmanson Foundation Scholarship
Donn B. Tatum Scholarship

Publications

California Biennial 2010: Orange County Museum
of Art, Sarah C. Bancroft
Furman University Magazine, Winter 2011
Roven Art Magazine, Issue No. 1, April 2009
Catalogue, We Want A New Object

Collections

Orange County Museum of Art
Newport Beach, CA