

***Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning***  
***presents***  
***Process → Project:***  
***What Comes Out of Our Sketchbooks***

***An exhibition organized by the Southeast Queens Artist Alliance***

 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



**PROCESS → PROJECT: WHAT  
COMES OUT OF OUR  
SKETCHBOOKS**

An exhibition organized by the Southeast  
Queens Artist Alliance in partnership with  
Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning

Feb. 4-March 20, 2021

[jcal.org/process-project](http://jcal.org/process-project)

Photo by Lisa Wade

***On view: February 4 - March 20, 2021***  
**By appointment at JCAL's Miller Gallery**  
**161-04 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11432**  
**And online at [JCAL.org/process-project](http://JCAL.org/process-project)**

**January 22, 2021 (New York)** -- Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL) is excited to partner with the Southeast Queens Artist Alliance (SEQAA) to present ***Process → Project: What Comes Out of Our***



**For Immediate Release**

Press Contact: Tyrel Hunt

Email: [tyrelh@jcal.org](mailto:tyrelh@jcal.org)

Cell: 347-515-3652

***Sketchbooks***, curated by Rejin Leys and Damali Abrams. This collaboration is one of several events comprising JCAL's lineup of programs and events for Black History Month.

In this exhibition, the curators invited members of SEQAA and guest artists from outside Southeast Queens to show pages from their sketchbooks and other works that show different aspects of the

creative process. At a time when many people ask "How did we get here?" with regard to the current cultural moment, there is a general desire to analyze and retrace one's steps. Though at the intimate scale of individual art-making, Leys and Abrams provide a platform for artists to reveal the building blocks and sometimes nonlinear routes that are travelled as they arrive at their final works.

The exhibition begins with a press opening on Thurs., Feb. 4, 12 to 4pm, with members of the press invited to make appointments to see the work in the gallery and to speak with the curators. Appointments can be made by contacting JCAL Marketing Manager Tyrel Hunt (347-515-3652 or [tyrelh@jcal.org](mailto:tyrelh@jcal.org)). The exhibition is open to the public, by appointment only, from Thurs., Feb. 4 to Sat., March 20, 2021, on weekdays and select Saturdays as of Feb. 6. More information can be found at [JCAL.org/visit-the-gallery](http://JCAL.org/visit-the-gallery). The exhibition is also on view online at [JCAL.org/process-project](http://JCAL.org/process-project).

Public programs to accompany the exhibition include "Make Your Own Sketchbook," a one-hour live virtual workshop conducted by Leys, set for Sat., Feb. 6, 4pm, on [JCAL's YouTube Channel](#). Participants can learn how to make their own sketchbook and try a few exercises to spark ideas and develop drawing and observational skills. Activity kits (helpful but not required) will be available at JCAL as of Feb. 4. On Thurs., March 18, 6pm, there will also be an in-person, socially distanced Artist Talk featuring short presentations as well as a Q&A with the curators. The event will also be streamed live on the [JCAL's YouTube Channel](#).

"Sketchbooks provide a behind the scenes look at the artistic process," noted Leys and Abrams in a joint curatorial statement. "In their sketches, artists test out ideas, record observations, practice skills, and plan future projects. This exhibition will present sketches, both loose and bound, by working artists with diverse practices: writing, painting, drawing, photography, collage, assemblage, sculpture, and paper-making. The shared act of sketching unites them.

Opening an artist's sketchbook can become a journey inside the artist's mind. Often representing intimate encounters with their thinking process, this invitation to experience such uninhibited experimentation is usually limited to those close to the artist, if at all. Public access to sketchbooks often become available only after the artist has died.

An exhibition of living artists' sketchbooks provides perhaps more than a studio visit since multiple approaches to ideas are recorded that introduces the artist's practice and highlights the conscious work executed behind the scenes."



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“JCAL is honored to welcome the expansive vision of SEQAA once more to our gallery – and now online,” added Interim Executive Director Leonard Jacobs and Interim Artistic Director Courtney Ffrench in a joint statement. “The depth and scope of the work is a tribute to the inventiveness and creativity of the curators and all of SEQAA’s artists -- something made even more dynamic and illuminating by the inclusion of artists from outside our Southeast Queens community.”

*Process → Project: What Comes Out of Our Sketchbooks* is made possible with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with additional support from Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, the Queens Delegation of the New York City Council, the JCAL Board of Directors, and individual donors to JCAL.

### **About SEQAA**

“The **Southeast Queens Artists Alliance** is comprised of visual, literary, and multidisciplinary artists. Our mission is to nurture local talent and to support quality cultural programming by artists who want to share their work with people in the community and beyond. At the same time, we want to participate in the ongoing discussions in the neighborhood around development and gentrification, and the role of art and culture in our community.”

### **About JCAL**

**Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL)**, founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL’s offices and arts spaces are open in strict accordance with state and local COVID-19 guidelines. Operating hours by appointment: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, and galleries on Saturdays; closed major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit [www.JCAL.org](http://www.JCAL.org).

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