

RITUALS OF COMMEMORATION

MIAMI ART WEEK -December 2021

A physical space of remembrance

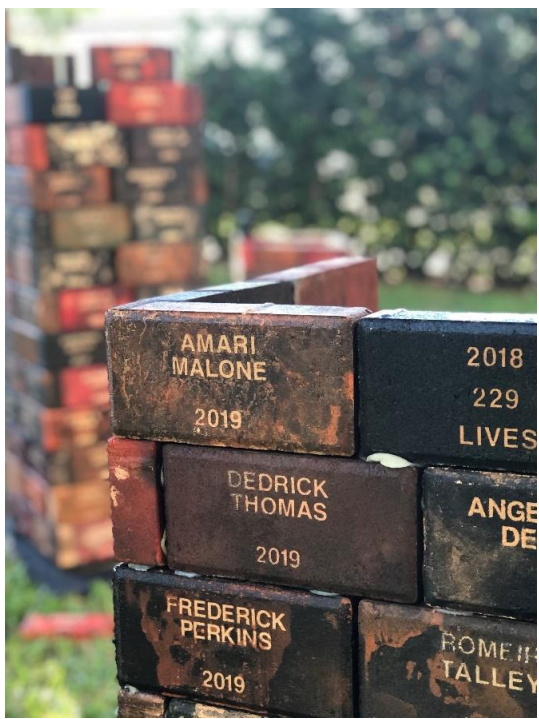
Breaking down the silos between peoples and cultures and expanding opportunities to engage with authentic, real-world issues, *Rituals of Commemoration* opened to the public culminating seven years of work.

What began as a gesture of anger and disbelief at the police murder of Michael Brown in 2014 developed into focused research, examination, and inquiry.

The *Washington Post* and other non-governmental databases such as *Fatal Encounters*, *Mapping Police Violence* and *The Counted* record every fatal shooting in the United States by a police officer in the line of duty. Since January 2015, police have shot and killed 6,732 (to date) people in the United States. Although half of these people are white, Black Americans are killed by police at more than twice the rate of White Americans. Latinos, Native and Indigenous people are also killed by police at a disproportionate rate.

How to visualize such injustice?







TERRY HUDSON 2019	ARIANE MCCREE 2019
ANTONIO NICHOLS 2019	ELRAY BARBER 2019
CHRISTOPHER WHITFIELD 2019	LEO CRAIG 2019
EMANTIC BRADFORD 2018	ALLEN FANNING 2018
JOSHUA BOYD 2018	REHYEN BOST-MCMURRAY 2017
DENNIS PLOWDEN 2017	DANNY WASHINGTON 2018
AQUONES CATHERY 2017	JESSE SCARSBROOK 2017
JURIC J. USSERY 2014	BERNNARD MOORE 2015

BERNARD BARRIS
2019

TYRONE BARRIS
2019

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL
2018

TASJON T. OSBOURNE
2019

ALYSE CLAYTON
2018



RONNIE D.
CARTER

2015

CHAN LEITH

2015

MARQUISHA
MCMULLEN

2015

RYAN QUINN
MARTIN

2015

DARIUS
SMITH

2015

KEITH CHILDRESS

2015

FREDDY
BAEZ JR.

2015

BOBBY
DANIELS

2015

MIGUEL

This installation focuses on documenting Black lives lost to police murders from 1979 to December 2021, a sadly ongoing work. The sculpture installation serves as a space holder, a memory legacy. It seeks to ensure that the names and lives of Black men, women and youth killed by police will not be forgotten. It insists on the dignity of these lost lives. It demands respect by creating a physical space of remembrance, a symbolic acknowledgement of a hard past and painful present.

As one comes upon the physical space of remembrance, there are five columns. These are made up of 600 painted and inscribed bricks, 1,555 lives of Black men, women and youth lost up to this point. As one gets closer, some of names and dates begin to spark curiosity and an uneasy familiarity.

This is not intended as only an aesthetic, passive object. It is a starting place for asking questions about our assumptions regarding police violence, history, culture, and the consequences of systems of oppression, educational systems, and social justice. The artist challenges audiences of all ages, abilities, orientations, and cultural backgrounds to engage in brave and expansive conversations of issues relevant to their lives.





DECARLOS
MOORE
2010

RAYMOND
HERISSE
2011

KENDRA
JAMES
2003

DERRICK
JONES
2010

TARIKA
WILSON
2008

MICHAEL
ELLERBE
2003

AARON
CAMPELL
2005

JAMES
ERISSETTE
2005

TIMOTHY
THOMAS
2001

TIM
RICHARDS
2002

RODNEY KING
1992

MALICE
GREEN
1992

EULA
LOVE
1979

FON
SETTLES
1981

2002

WOLSHAW
MURPHY

While differing views may sometimes raise discomfort and dissent, this work wants to be a conduit for open sharing and learning. It hopes to inspire partnerships within cultural, educational, and learning institutions that will result in civic action and encourage citizen participation and activism locally, nationally, and internationally.

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Photos curtesy of the artist

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