

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

William Pope.L

Colored Waiting Room

September 12 – October 26, 2013



Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present *Colored Waiting Room*, the third solo exhibition of **Pope.L** at the gallery and his second in the Chelsea space. This show's incorporation of drawing, painting, sculpture, and projections display the artist's versatility and use of various media in his practice.

The show's title, *Colored Waiting Room*, interpolates an excess, an aberration of intentional language which seeks to qualify division by defining identity. The show's title evokes a very particular historical moment, specifically American racial segregation against blacks in the late 19th to mid 20th centuries. However, a literal examination of the phrase opens the space to 'nosier', more flexible readings of color, words and proximity in the context of art, science and culture.

In this exhibition, Pope.L addresses a lack within language with a playfulness which is both enigmatic and astute. As evident in his *Skin Set* drawings, Pope.L collaborates with society's use of color terminology to characterize notions such as ontology, gender, race and social value. The current exhibition includes a large group of *Skin Set* works as well as two new, large-scale diptychs with a 'cousin' focus. In addition, through sound and olfactory pieces, the viewer is invited to contemplate the exhibition through an almost synesthetic dialogue with color.

By creating an exhibition space that is both structurally and ideologically a puzzle, Pope.L seeks to reconstruct the viewer via his or her own boundaries.

William Pope.L was born in 1955 in New Jersey. He currently lives and works in Chicago, IL, where he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Chicago. He has had solo exhibitions at institutions including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Carpenter Center at Harvard University, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, and the Kunsthalle Wien. The MIT Press published a monograph to accompany *The Friendliest Black Artist in America*, his 2002-2004 traveling survey exhibition. His work has been exhibited and performed at Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Whitney Museum in New York, Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, The New Museum in New York and the Renaissance Society in Chicago. Recent exhibitions and performances include *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Texas; *Flux This! With Pope.L and Special Guests* at Museum of Modern Art in New York, NY; and *The Long White Cloud*, Te Tuhi Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand.

Listings Information:

Mitchell-Innes & Nash Chelsea is located at 534 West 26th Street.

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Gallery Hours Tues. – Sat. 10 am – 6 pm

Opening Reception: September 12, 6-8 pm