

GET IT ON THE RECORD



Shani Peters, *Service is the price...*, 2009, from the series Intergenerational Correspondence

Curated by Yulia Tikhonova

GET IT ON THE RECORD brings together the work of four emerging women artists whose subject is the collective history of Black America. There is an urgency on their part to record this history in response to revisionist narratives, which have emerged during our current unstable political and economics conditions. Elvira Clayton, Aisha Cousin, Sonya Louise Davis, and Shani Peters respond to Amiri Baraka's pressing call to.... "get it on the record"...to protect a rich history that remains at risk of being obscured by a dominant white culture. All of the artists chronicle testimonials of the previous generations, in an attempt to understand a present that embraces America's first Black president and a Tea Party movement that refuses to acknowledge the changed times and history we share. In their collecting and recording this history, the artists take different approaches, including a close look into personal family history, a broader methodology of oral history, or by tracing the signs of Black history on the streets of Harlem. They are also concerned with the socio-economic changes taking place within their communities: the generation gap and sociological shifts that are integral to current perceptions in the black community. **GET IT ON THE RECORD** is a vigilant reminder of a cultural history, that must be protected, celebrated and passed on.

Aisha Cousins's performance art scores have been performed publicly in the US and abroad, as well as inside institutions such as the MOCADA, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and most recently in the Kitchen. She was awarded a grant from the NYDCA for her performance score "Diva Dutch." Her work has been featured on television and in print, including coverage in *The New York Times* and *The Studio Museum in Harlem's Magazine*. <http://aishacousins.com/>

Elvira Clayton's work incorporates the use of various media, including sculpture, photography, sound installation and both written and performance narratives that make statements about identity and its relationship to social and cultural history. Clayton has recently been awarded a 2011 Jerome Foundation Fellowship, and a 2011 Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, all in support of her on going art project, *Telling Herstory*. <http://www.elviraclayton.com/>

**Brooklyn
Public
Library**

Exhibition

**November 08
through
November 28, 2011**

**Opening reception
Tuesday November 8,
6-8pm**

**Caribbean
Cultural and
Literacy Center**

Flatbush Library
22 Linden Blvd, Brooklyn,
NY

Shani Peters works in video, collage, printmaking, and social practice public projects. Peters received her M.F.A. at The City College of New York. She has exhibited and screened throughout New York, including group shows at Rush Arts Gallery, the International Print Center New York, and the Schomburg Center for Black Culture and Research. She has completed residencies at The Center for Book Arts, LMCC's Swing Space, and the Lower East Side Printshop, and is currently participating in the Bronx Museum's 2010-11 Artist in the Marketplace program.
<http://www.shanipeters.com/>

Sonia Louise Davis holds a BA in African American Studies with a concentration in Visual Art and Music. Her work explores memory and family history, mining the public and private archive to make use of what has been left behind. Most recently, Sonia participated in the Laundromat Project's Create Change Professional Development Fellowship.
<http://www.sonialouisedavis.blogspot.com/>

All Ages – www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Brooklyn House of Culture – www.BrooklynHouseofKulture.org