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**CORCORAN AND WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS
ANNOUNCE *TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE* PERFORMANCE
*Sherman Fleming, The Straight Line, Cross, and Point***



WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Saturday, November 16, The **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, along with the **Washington Projects for the Arts** will present a FREE endurance performance by Philadelphia-based artist Sherman Fleming called *Sherman Fleming, The Straight Line, Cross, and Point*. This performance is brought to the Corcoran as part of *Take It to the Bridge*, a series of exhibitions, performances, installations, and interventions in the Performance Bridge inside the Corcoran's glass entryway on 17th Street, NW.

The Straight Line, Cross, and Point is an interactive performance that connects the private to the public, the past to the present. Through the installation of a dot matrix printer and a constant engagement with Twitter, Fleming creates an endurance piece that combines vintage and contemporary social media in order to address a real-world issue. On the day of his performance, close friends and contacts will send Tweets directly to the printer including names and stories of those who have suffered civil injustice at the hands of police force. As the paper from the printer spills out in a constant flow—in essence creating a never-ending stream of memorials and remembrances—Fleming will transcribe the information for display on the Corcoran's glass walls. In this way, Fleming's performance honors those fallen and incarcerated as a result of this new Civil War.

Those who wish to participate in the performance by sharing their stories of witnessed harassment may do so by tweeting to Fleming at @shermanperforms, using the hashtag #STLIXPT. The harassment may include stop-and-frisk, DWB (driving while black), police bullying for no apparent reason, wrongful incarceration, and other types of brutality by the police, FBI, sheriffs, etc.

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Take it to the Bridge: Sherman Fleming, The Straight Line, Cross, and Point

Saturday, November 16; 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

FREE;

ABOUT SHERMAN FLEMING

Sherman Fleming earned a MFA from Hartford Art School and a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and in 2012 – 2013, received a Franklin Furnace Fund award. He has had solo exhibitions at VIAP Galerie, the Netherlands; International Visions Gallery in Washington DC; Nexus Gallery in Atlanta; and Louise Jones Brown Gallery at Duke University. The group exhibitions he participated in include Contemporary Art Museum of Houston, Texas; *Arti et Amicitiae*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa; Opera Gallery, Cairo, Egypt; and MOCA in Los Angeles. His performance work has been featured at Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Project Row Houses, Houston, Texas, Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis, Franklin Furnace in New York, and George Mason University in Virginia. Sherman Fleming has been a visiting critic at the University of Pennsylvania, and an artist-in-residence at the Virginia Commonwealth University. From 2003-2011, he served as program manager, City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program.

ABOUT TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE

The Performance Bridge was first presented at the Corcoran Gallery of Art as the stage for Washington-based artist Holly Bass's performance *Moneymaker*, a seven-hour endurance work that took place on February 11, 2012 on the final weekend of the landmark exhibition *30 Americans*. Created by Bass and architectural designer Kashuo Bennett, the Performance Bridge transformed the Corcoran's glass entryway into an exhibition space for the first time. Not only could the public see the performance from across the street near the White House Ellipse, but visitors literally had to walk under the artist to enter the museum. Looking up, viewers saw the performance through the transparent Plexiglas floor. Depending on the lighting at any given time of day and the viewer's vantage point, they may have witnessed a full-color spectacle or a shadowed silhouette in motion.

The Performance Bridge is a site-specific, modular construction of wood and Plexiglas, with no joinery. The minimalist design—three-fourths of one inch resting on 2-inch hollow steel rods—creates a nearly invisible structure. The word "Bridge" in its title references the fact that it bridges interior and exterior space. It bridges intentional museumgoers and casual passerby. The Bridge asks us to look up and out, to see in entirely new ways. As a performance space it embodies explicit conceptual themes such as exposure, transparency, entrapment, anthropological display, and the diorama. It is capable of supporting sculpture or installation, live performers, as well as more ethereal works that use sound and light as material.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

Washington Project for the Arts (WPA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide the essential resources to support the creative spirit and success of regional artists. WPA presents contemporary art through imaginative and provocative programs, and connects artists with the community in both traditional and unexpected ways. Since its founding in 1975 by Alice Denney, WPA has showcased the works of thousands of artists and has reached hundreds of

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thousands of visitors and viewers with its programs and projects. Today WPA stands as the oldest and largest 501(c)(3) artist membership organization in the region and the premier source for excellence in contemporary art. For more information about WPA and its programming, visit www.wpadc.org.

WPA is supported by its members, Board of Directors, invaluable volunteers, and by generous contributions from numerous individuals in the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, William C. Paley Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Susan and Dixon Butler, Abramson Family Foundation, Ray Garcia, Carol Brown Goldberg and Henry H. Goldberg, Haleh Design, Hickok Cole Architects, Giselle and Benjamin Huberman, Betsy Karel, Russell and Randy Katz, Yvette Kraft, Marshfield Associates, Richard Seaton and John Berger, MD, TTR Sotheby's International Realty, UBS Financial Services Inc., Sarah Valente, Vivo Design, Alexia and Roderick von Lipsey, and The Washington Post Company.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Image: Courtesy of the artist

