

## Welcome Home

Curated by Jeroen Stevens

May 31 - July 27th, 2024

## Following Left Wall

**André P., /No/ Recording, 2024, Installation, drawings on receipts, 3x4**

The New York Times | <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/08/nyregion/homeless-shelter-officer-suspended-after-hitting-a-resident.html>

### Homeless Shelter Officer Is Suspended After Hitting a Resident

The officer, from the Department of Homeless Services police, was caught on video striking a 21-year-old Venezuelan migrant in the face.

By Andy Newman  
Sept. 8, 2022

A police officer for the New York City Department of Homeless Services was suspended without pay on Wednesday, the city said, after a video circulated showing him hitting a shelter resident in the face.

The resident was a 21-year-old asylum seeker from Venezuela — one of thousands of migrants who arrived from the southern border this summer and who have put the city's shelter system under severe strain. The video shows the migrant, Meiver Martinez, yelling at the officer repeatedly in Spanish, "Don't hit me," and then kicking a locker, at which point the officer strikes him on the cheek. Mr. Martinez said the officer had been harassing him because he was slow to get out of bed.

Moments after the officer hit him, Mr. Martinez said, about eight officers jumped on him, kicked him, punched him and used a stun gun on him three times. He was taken away in an ambulance in handcuffs though he was not charged with any crime, he said, and was treated at a hospital.

The Department of Homeless Services declined to identify the officer or to answer other questions about the incident. It said in a statement, "We do not tolerate any violence or misconduct against our clients," adding that it was

## New York Times Article "Homeless Shelter Officer is Suspended After Hitting a Resident" by Andy Newman



Twitter Video of homeless shelter resident being hit by DHS police officer filmed by another migrant shelter resident.

## NO RECORDING



<p><b>NO RECORDING</b></p> <p>To protect your privacy and the privacy of others, video, audio, and photography are prohibited in the shelter. Any recording devices are subject to confiscation. All persons in the Department of Homeless Services shelters, including shelter staff, are subject to this policy.</p>	<p><b>NO RECORDING</b></p> <p>تحمي خصوصيتك وخصوصية الآخرين من تصوير الفيديو، الصوت، والتصوير في الملاجئ. جميع الأجهزة المسجلة تخضع للمصادرة. جميع الأشخاص في ملاجئ إدارة خدمات المشردين، بما في ذلك الموظفين، يخضعون لهذا السياسة.</p>	<p><b>NO RECORDING</b></p> <p>To protect your privacy and the privacy of others, video, audio, and photography are prohibited in the shelter. Any recording devices are subject to confiscation. All persons in the Department of Homeless Services shelters, including shelter staff, are subject to this policy.</p>
<p><b>PA SIN ANSHUTERMAN</b></p> <p>The presence of video and audio recording devices, including cameras, is prohibited in the shelter. Any recording devices are subject to confiscation. All persons in the Department of Homeless Services shelters, including shelter staff, are subject to this policy.</p>	<p><b>PA SIN ANSHUTERMAN</b></p> <p>ההגנה על פרטיותך ופרטיותם של אחרים אסרה על צילום וידאו, שמע וצילום תמונות במחלקת שירותי המגורים. כל אמצעי תיעוד מותרים יישלחו למאגזין. כל אנשי המגורים במחלקת שירותי המגורים, כולל עובדי המחלקה, יצטוו על כך.</p>	<p><b>PA SIN ANSHUTERMAN</b></p> <p>The presence of video and audio recording devices, including cameras, is prohibited in the shelter. Any recording devices are subject to confiscation. All persons in the Department of Homeless Services shelters, including shelter staff, are subject to this policy.</p>
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"NO RECORDING" poster posted in NYC DHS homeless shelters following the incident where a homeless shelter officer hit a resident.

DHS-PB-2022-015

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Protecting Client Privacy - Prohibition Against Photos / Recording in DHS Facilities and Shelters	<b>APPLICABLE TO:</b> All Staff	<b>ISSUED:</b> November 1, 2022
<b>ADMINISTERED BY:</b> All DHS Programs in Conjunction with the Office of Legal Affairs	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Joselyn Carter, Administrator Department of Social Services/ Department of Homeless Services	

**INTRODUCTION**

This procedure explains the prohibition against taking photos, filming, audio recordings, or live streaming of clients in DHS client facilities and the protocol to be followed in the event of a violation of this prohibition.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Clients have a right to privacy when receiving DHS services. DHS is required to protect client confidentiality and provide services in a way that maximizes client privacy. DHS is obligated to ensure the health and safety of clients and safeguard their information including a client's receipt of temporary housing assistance and that includes ensuring their status as a shelter resident is not publicly disclosed without their consent.

Publicly posting photos and recordings of clients inside of a shelter in common areas, can pose a threat to the security of the client and location. It could be a security risk for clients to record, post or live stream the internal, physical and structural layouts of shelter and in areas where equipment is located.

To protect a client's right to privacy, no photographs of any kind may be taken, and no filming, audio recording, or live streaming to social media may be done in common areas of DHS facilities where clients and/or applicants are present, unless authorized by DHS staff.

This includes recording of any client images by any type of camera or film recording device, such as a stand-alone camera, camcorder, cell phone, etc. The violation of client privacy in this manner can disrupt shelter operations and create a health and safety risk to clients and staff.

All DHS clients acknowledge that they will abide by the Client Code of Conduct (DHS-118, DHS-118a, or DHS-118b), which explicitly states that clients will not take pictures, video, or make audio and/or visual recordings in DHS facilities unless authorized by DHS and contracted staff.

**Policy Implementation/Enforcement**

Signs are posted to advise staff and others of the prohibition against taking photos, video, live streaming or audio recording in areas of DHS facilities where other clients or applicants are present (POST-286 MLF). All persons at DHS locations, whether DHS staff, clients, or other visitors (for example, contractors working in Agency facilities) must ensure they do not violate this policy.

Anyone observed taking photos/filming, audio recording, or live streaming in any area where clients or applicants are present, will be directed to stop immediately. All violations are subject to the provisions listed in the following procedures:

- 18-401 Suspension of Services
- 95-410 Adult Shelter Rights, Rules and Responsibilities
- 04-418 Client Responsibility (Single Adults)
- 04-500 Client Responsibility for Adult Families
- 18-500 Client Responsibility Procedure for Families with Children

All DHS staff should cooperate to ensure that this policy is enforced, and the rights of Agency clients are fully respected.

Effective immediately

## DHS Policy Bulletin "NYC Office of Policy, Procedure +and Training" prohibition against photo, filming, and audio recording for the sake of residents "right to privacy"



Drawing of figure in hoodie with face cradled in arms. Black ink on receipt paper.



Drawing of figure in hooded puffer jacket with legs extended straight under table. Black ink on receipt paper.



Drawing of figure under blanket sleeping with swollen legs in front of lockers with padlocks. Black ink on receipt paper.



Drawing of display case over radiator with sign that reads "wear your mask" and "No recording:" with a camera pointed at the viewer. Black ink on receipt paper.



Drawing of a figure whose head is covered with a towel secretly using a cellphone. Black ink on receipt paper. on receipt paper.

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 29.5 x39 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on board including male figure in striped prison suit , a tree, and white birds.

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 35.5 x 23.5 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on canvas including masks and a male figure in fetal position

**Felix Guzman**, *Poetry Saved My Life*, Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages

**Poetry Saved My Life**

wearing smiles bought at discount  
scarred from the traumas of yesterday  
water for the concrete

tears shed in homage for those who from us did fade

broken but not forgotten,

lost from the light once before but found in grace

with clarity lent by life lessons  
playing before insightful eyes, never be caged  
again will the little boy within be  
by anxieties placed by imposed definitions  
shackled at the waist, wrists, and ankles  
then and now still poverty proves most unforgiving  
refusing to surrender, in no particular order:  
to death, jails, institutions, and personal prisons  
do not tell me what I can't become,  
in my words I'm holding an inheritance of wisdom  
all tomorrows measured never into the indefinite  
without waging war will I die into

free to become my dreams in as much free to suffer,  
can it be that it was all so simple?  
through tears I have written,

of the light within the words that pour forth is evidence  
quarter waters and Now And Later,  
my childhood plays before my eyes in reflection  
poetry saved my life more times than I'd like to have endured,

for that I am grateful  
I will eulogize poets past always  
until I no longer breathe, and on that day so fateful

wherever home was and is,

I will walk carrying crosses of failed expectations

on shoulders narrow,

never wanting to be this strong, I won't be one of the nameless

poetry saved my life

**Gregory Frederick**, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 32 x 39 in.



Abstract painting acrylic on board 4 individuals performing in a drumming circle

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 32 x 16 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on canvas, seven persons pulling one another performing in a dance

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 24 x 32 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on canvas, alluding to family tree with black faces in flowers and anthropomorphic bark with split tongue

**Felix Guzman, *Solitary Confinement (from Poetry Saved My Life)*, Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages**

### **Solitary Confinement**

living into the glory of dreams creates  
a hell almost perpetual

where left to understand the self and to what if...

morale is low where  
there remains neither faith nor hope  
the mind won't return to health  
to expect otherwise is to be a wishful thinker

where heaven is lost  
from being grasped as a concept  
alone becomes a prison of  
madness where pain can't be quantified  
a surrender into apathy  
affords only horror to show itself  
An audience exists in the walls  
deadening echoes of tomorrow

in conviction they who Scream  
so soulfully panged waxing poetically  
they of flesh colored so sunless  
wrapping taut against bones,  
they of eyes tired from sleep or its lack thereof,

they so broken

see such accommodations as home  
a Single Room Occupancy

behind the walls where ego suffers homelessness

claiming self to be unworthy  
perpetuates monsters becoming of such  
whatever jagged instrument  
fabricated on hand colors scars to life  
the blessed preserved by prayer  
walk out in renewed integrity redeemed,  
the mighty so hopeless fall prey  
to the temptations  
of the past potential never realized  
going from Single Room Occupancy  
of solitary confinement into  
the confines of a potter's grave

beautifully.

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 28 x 21.5 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on canvas, including 5 black children's faces partially covered by blue and white foliage.

**Felix Guzman, *Welcome to the Terror Dome (from Poetry Saved My Life)*, Print, half letter  
- 7 poems, 8 pages**

**Welcome to the Terror Dome**  
this city we call ours is being sold right  
from under us, sleepless nights  
had many I can say homelessness  
doesn't make sense, the numbers don't lie  
there is more money in keeping bodies  
cycling in shelter than creating housing  
when sleeping with one eye open

you can't be expected to feel a part of society  
three hots, a cot, toothpaste, a bar of soap,  
toothbrush, towel, and a lock  
welcome to the terror dome  
if no one told you I'll do you the favor,  
there is a reason some call the concrete home  
it's a fight to breathe, to stay sane,  
to not lose your humanity, a moment of silence  
for whom you were is never enough,  
the scars one takes wear in one's eyes even if smiling

many pathways to being without,  
the journey to all blessings is never peaceful  
having survived damn I feel blessed to be alive,  
beautiful is the road going forward, meaningful  
is the work building towards community  
the most vocal being the  
hardest to be silenced  
I am grateful for the bruises on ego,

and scars on heart, they provide the constant reminder

we can do better we can do better  
placing people over profits is the only way to be  
as only when one can call a place home  
can they truly ever feel free  
we can do better

**Gregory Frederick, *Untitled*, 2023-2024, Painting, 16 x 20 in.**



Abstract painting acrylic on canvas with radial splashed of blue yellow and red in a spiral

**Felix Guzman, *DIN Numbers for Names?* (from *Poetry Saved My Life*), Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages**

**DIN Numbers for Names?**

The framework of poverty teaches  
from a young age

there is a pecking order to blood shed  
the meek get eaten haunted by

the emptiness of the  
inner child's grasp of adult concepts  
hell on earth is it attempt to stay sane  
where its dog-eat-dog  
'Pac said it best. God bless the dead.  
In abiding by the most prolific with violence  
become poster boys aka the MOST WANTED  
Daddy ain't coming home because THIS  
could never be a home to want to come back to  
where childhood is set to the sounds of  
intimate partner violence, gunshots, and braggadocio  
is it or it is stupid to think there is more to life  
than the four corners we confine ourselves within?  
DIN Numbers wear painfully within a humbled voice  
of a returning citizen applying for work  
too much pride not enough heart  
so it's back to the same old ignorance,  
money comes first...

Mental illness is something to be ashamed of,  
but we kill the pain as we do not caring how  
the horrors of yesterday are ever present  
in the microaggression of not being able to smile.  
Kindness is weakness to those  
under the control of the beasts within  
dying for the dividends  
lost because of your mans and them,

associates, affiliates, and every other synonym but a friend.

Yeezy's by any means necessary,

playing the block from all angles, this ain't no city of angels

there can never be peace within reach  
if we taught from sun-up, survive we ain't made to.  
Sleep is for those who want to die chasing square dreams,

get it how you live it faded through

sometimes the fame we want ain't worth the headlines,  
it's a miracle if anyone makes it through.

The chains of four hundred plus years ago,  
we wear them blissfully so still

less grey, more shine, same shit... different design,  
the truth is not meant to be feared,  
understand this poem  
is a confession from a dangerous mind.  
Under the threat of darkness  
starved of purpose is the light  
living between the margins of death and life,  
we are more than who we were,  
to thine own self be true,  
your conscience betrays you every time,  
from under dirt and grime



we diamonds in the rough came up  
because we know we are never our crime.

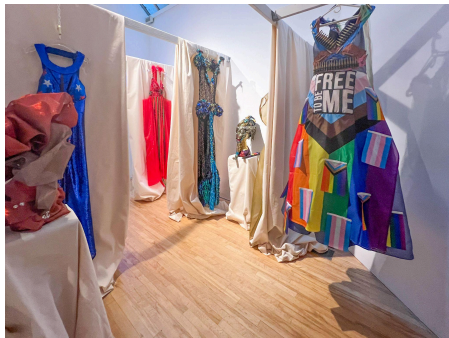
**Bruce Blake**, *Compassion, Made By Love*, 2021, Video, Looping



Artist alternates between being dressed in a white button down shirt and blue tie and a gray hoodie in front of a motif of black prison bars. Bruce Blake's satire deals with the trials and tribulations of post-carceral recidivism and parole restrictions that impede personal and social progress.

*Back Room*

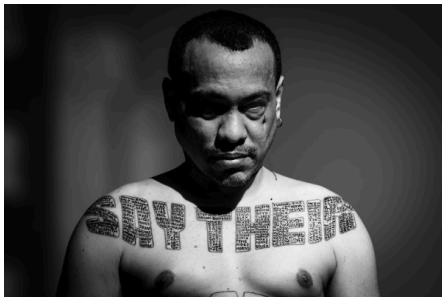
**Iman Le Caire**, *Seven Lives*, 2024, Installation and video, Dimensions variable



"Seven hand-made gowns representing the "seven lives" that the artist passed through in fleeing from Egypt to the U.S. and transitioning into a Black Trans Lives Matter movement leader. Beige fabric cloth is draped from the ceiling. Video projection showing segments of the turbulent life of the artist, with soundtrack in French, English and Arabic."

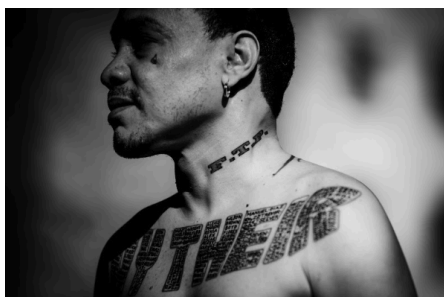
*Following Left Wall*

**Joshua Lopez**, *Say Their Names*, Photograph, 24 x 18 in.



Photograph of the artist showing his face and looking down. Tattoo on his chest saying "SAY THEIR," with letters filled with names of people killed by police.

**Joshua Lopez**, *Say Their Names*, Photograph, 24 x 18 in.



Photograph of the artist showing his face and chest from the side. Neck tattoo saying "FTP," abbreviation for "Fuck The Police" and "Fight The Power".

Joshua Lopez, *Say Their Names*, Photograph, 24 x 18 in.



Photograph of the artist showing his chest and abdomen. Tattoo "SAY THEIR NAMES," partly filled with names of people murdered by police. Raised middle finger with tattoo "LAW."

Joshua Lopez, *Say Their Names*, Photograph, 24 x 18 in.



Photograph of the artist showing his back. Tattoos forming a raised fist, made up from the names of people murdered by police. Centrally is the name John Collado, the artists' uncle, killed by an undercover NYPD offer in 2011. All 4 photographs were taken at the location of Malcolm X's Murder

Felix Guzman, *#closeBELLEVUE* (from *Poetry Saved My Life*), Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages

## #closeBELLEVUE

insensitivity, first they will

medicate you out of your natural mind state

then tell you you are not  
giving peace a chance,  
as if that won't break  
you further nor does it address  
the underlying trauma, the bone breaks,  
the bruising relationship with pain and grief,  
the childhood promises made to fade,  
nor the dehumanizing language attached  
to the mental health ecosystem offering  
no redemption, the touched by such fire  
and brimstone are lost of worth  
collectively alone the prescription gifted  
three hots and a cot, hell on earth  
but those stories don't reach the ears  
of many due to diagnosis, worst  
part about things, in such places people  
do nothing when you scream  
here you need to bend with the narrative  
being written for you, breathe  
is all you can whether shallowly

or resentfully, sometimes the refusal to stop  
breathing is enough to keep living  
they say all is fair in love and war

but to haunt

another person's heart and excuse it  
as treatment is blasphemy,  
woe is me indeed and then some,  
one would have to be

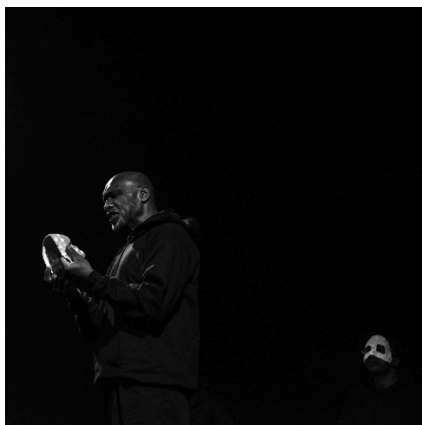
mentally ill to think this is complementary  
to community, a prison for the mind  
where pills are swallowed to again be free  
if I told you what I've been through,  
would you apologize or empathize with me  
#closeBellevue #itsokaynottookay

**Alex Anderson (and the Reentry Theater of Harlem) featuring Felix Guzman, *Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021**



Black and white image of the artist on a white background. Their shirt reads "Normalize KINDNESS"

**Alex Anderson (and the Reentry Theater of Harlem), *Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021**



Black and white image of two figures performing in masks. The figure in the left hand corner holds a mask in his hands. The figure in the lower right hand corner is wearing a mask.

**Felix Guzman**, *When Breathing is An Act of Resistance (from Poetry Saved My Life)*, Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages

## **When Breathing is An Act of Resistance**

breathing is an act of resistance  
the life-giver to revolutions coming and gone  
the breath coursing through lungs promised not to another  
the undertaker of nightmares and conduit for all achievements  
when all seems still, understand while we breathe  
we move gliding through the vacuum of space  
whether ten toes planted firm or taking flight in dreams  
when distance grows between truths being lived aloud  
progress is made as such let us prepare  
let us prepare to fail allow our fires to be reduced from  
overwhelming, to diminishing, to entirely overcome

we are gatekeepers  
we are the love others seek for them  
we are shipwrecks but still discoverable  
we are poets with fortunes in our eyes  
more than ever fathomable  
we are our truths lived aloud  
we are the communities we want built  
for those to pitter-patter after us

we are the legacies we write to hold space for us in our absence  
when all seems lost and gasping between cries,  
look for correction in the words of poets past and present

to remind you

how to breathe when you want to give up  
refuse to see yourself as nothing

at times to weather the storm all to do is live so live

with the understanding that  
when all seems too dark to endure

breathing is...  
an act of resistance

**Alex Anderson (and the Reentry Theater of Harlem) featuring Gregory Frederick**,  
*Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021



Black and white photograph of figure in glasses covering his mouth with his hands.

**Rev. Khalil G. James and the Reentry Theater of Harlem (Directed by Alex Anderson),** *Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021



Black and white image of two figures performing in masks and a drum is between them.

**Felix Guzman,** *A Eulogy for Myself (from Poetry Saved My Life)*, Print, half letter - 7 poems, 8 pages

### **A Eulogy for Myself**

marginalized outside of social constructs.  
labeled by default a throwaway  
boxed in by my each and  
every breath my lungs are choked out of,  
pray always before I speak to refuse hell home  
within heart I do, never be caged  
will I be again, a eulogy for myself  
are all tears within eyes while wide awake.  
this life seeming a nightmare without end,  
ash and dust all becoming  
upon the death of what life  
exists within body, needing and wanting  
not synonymous, being told I'd never  
amount to much I refuse ever stopping  
until making reality the dream,  
I am no more at all haunted.  
prisoner of poverty

a lone cross I carry on shoulder narrow  
the horrors of what I've experienced,  
when one is lost to the light  
no good is expected escape from lips.  
warehoused in jails, prisons, hospitals,  
and shelters I never lost me.  
I strive always overcome grief to become  
the best version of me there is to possibly be  
giving life to the scars I wear as  
armor providing reminders of peace.  
standing with head to the clouds  
find me when suffering hell defiantly  
tragedies I'll keep as both  
precedence and relevant point of reference  
while seeing being humble as preferred  
before going off breathless into the indefinite.

**Alex Anderson (and the Reentry Theater of Harlem) featuring Bruce Blake, *Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021**



Black and white image of 3 figures. The left and right figures are in the lowest part of the frame, only their heads are visible looking up at the center figure. The center figure is most prominent. His upper torso is visible. He looks off camera and emotes smiling and arms and hands open.

**Joshua Lopez, *Untitled*, Collage, 24 x 18 in.**



Collage of newspaper cutouts on red board. Titles include "Time To End Injustice," "Bronx Man`s Rape Conviction Tossed By Judge 35 years later" and an image of prison cell : "what if you were innocent and stuck here?"

**Joshua Lopez, *Untitled*, Collage, 24 x 18 in.**



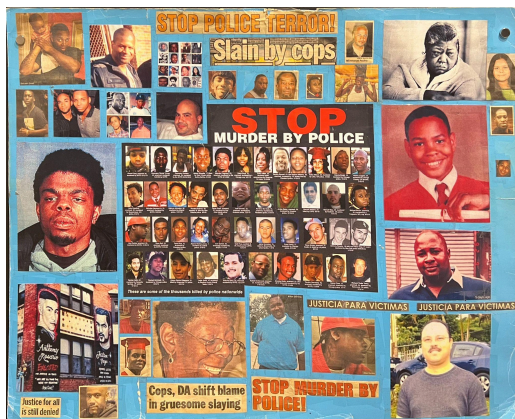
Collage of newspaper cutouts on blue board titles include: "Racist cops & modern lynchings" and "I can't breather"

Joshua Lopez, *Untitled*, Collage, 24 x 18 in.



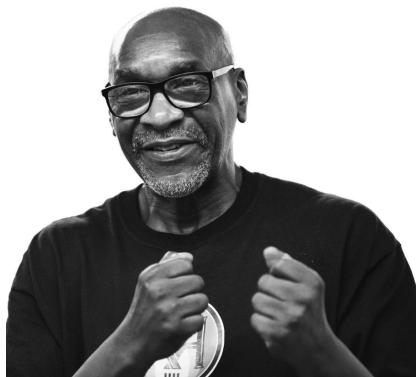
Collage of newspaper cutout on yellow board include: figures of the american flag adorning all sides titles include: "Police Kill again" "Justice for Daunte: Another unarmed black man killed by police" , and "kkkops Kill Again"

Joshua Lopez, *Untitled*, Collage, 24 x 18 in.



Collage of newspaper cutouts on blue board. Titles include: "Stop police terror," "Slain by cops," "Stop murder by police: These are some of thousands killed by police nationwide" Showing 44 faces and names of police violence victims.

Alex Anderson (and the Reentry Theater of Harlem), *Ritual for Return*, Photograph, 18 x 18 in., 2021



Black and white picture of a smiling man in glasses holding his hands up in fists.