

PRESS RELEASE

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Artspace Announces New Creative Team

RALEIGH, N.C. -Artspace is excited to announce Jonh Blanco as the new Creative Director and Alexandra Jane as the new Artist Programs Manager. Both will begin their roles at the end of September.

Jonh Blanco is a Filipinx-American artist and arts leader known for their authentic practices. They most recently served as Museum Manager at 21c Museum Hotels Durham, and Analyst at Pullen Arts Center, where they led curatorial projects and community programming. He is also a member of BASEMENT, an NC artist-run curatorial project supporting experimental practices by Southern artists. Blanco earned a BFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2005 and an MFA in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2019.

Alexandra Jane is a curator, writer, and cultural arts strategist rooted in North Carolina. She creates ethical opportunities for women, queer, Black, and artists of color, with a practice grounded in community and cultural dialogue. Her experience includes gallery administration for Latin American Contemporary Art (LACA) in Charlotte, NC, and curating exhibitions such as *MÔR: A Collective Exhibition of Black Lesbian Thought* (2022) and *And Sew It Seams* (2024). In addition to her curatorial work, she has written for *Essence*, *EBONY*, and *21Ninety*, and deepened her practice through art writing programs with Sotheby's Institute and the Black Embodiments Studio. Jane earned a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

The Creative Director, a senior leadership role and long-standing cornerstone of Artspace, will continue to set the curatorial vision and artistic direction of the organization, while the newly created full-time Artist Programs Manager position will oversee Artspace's artist residencies, professional development initiatives, and studio artist community. **This redefined Creative Team structure expands the organization's capacity to serve artists and the community.**

"Throughout this process, we had the opportunity to meet an exceptional group of candidates whose expertise and vision inspired us to reimagine how our Creative Team could best serve Artspace's mission," said Carly Jones, President and CEO. "By pairing the Creative Director with a new Artist Programs Manager, we are strengthening the foundation of our work. I could



not be more excited about the wealth of knowledge, expertise, and artist-centered leadership this team brings. Their commitment to community building and supporting artists will be a tremendous asset to Artspace and the region.”

Artspace is known for its artist residencies and wide range of exhibiting opportunities, serving as both a launchpad and a long-term resource for artists. With new support this year from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Artspace is poised to expand its artist-centered programming and deepen its impact. The strengthened Creative Team structure ensures the organization is ready to meet this moment with vision, care, and capacity.

About Artspace:

Artspace is a non-profit visual arts center located in Downtown Raleigh. Visit Artspace to explore exhibitions featuring national and community artists, engage with more than 35 artists working in their studios, and enjoy art classes and community events for all ages and abilities. To learn more about Artspace, visit artspacenc.org

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