



1. Steffani Jemison  
*Lonique, Vaughn, and  
Wyane Sing Larry  
Neal's Black Fire*

2. Andrew Blackley  
*Nuit et Nebula, April,  
golpecito, and untitled*

3. Maria Gaspar  
*Oblation For Another  
Parade*

4. Maria Gaspar  
*Cloud With Rain*

### **Maria Gaspar**

My work encompasses the making of objects that monumentalize a moment washed away or that will themselves wither away. I address the reiteration of both factual histories and historic ambivalences: disputable pasts, the non-authentic, fictions and their non-fiction counterparts. My work takes on the form of large brown sculptures that act as theatrical backdrops for events or candy and dirt installations that take on the characteristics of detritus, garbage swept up after a parade. Concurrently, my performance work incorporates romantic elaborations of historical times, good-bye songs sung in high key with minimal accompaniment. It involves declarations and contentions about American citizenry and Pro-Brown ideas on race and sexuality and address positions of self-preservation, determination and the marking of cultural events. My work seeks to discard itself and possibly be reborn- as if it were as alive as its maker.

Maria Gaspar is an interdisciplinary artist with an MFA in Studio Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received her BFA in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Gaspar's work ranges from performance to installation, photography and sculpture. As a performance artist, she has presented her work at the Athenaeum Theater in Chicago and the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center in San Antonio, TX. She has also participated in *Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art from Mexico City* as a performance artist for Maria Allós at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, as well as a performance piece at the Chicago Cultural Center entitled, "Memorial Gestures" by Ernesto Pujol in 2007. Other performances include Art Chicago and Oakton Community College in 2009. She has exhibited and lectured on her artwork at various galleries and public spaces in Chicago, including Northeastern University, Polvo Gallery, the Hyde Park Art Center, the Durand Art Institute, The National Museum of Mexican Art and the Art Institute of Chicago Museum. She is a Core Artist with the Chicago Public Art Group, an Illinois Arts Council Artist and has led mosaic murals and other permanent work around Chicago, including the Garfield Park Conservatory, Marwen Foundation and Paderewski School.

### **Steffani Jemison**

Marked by a deep sense of ambivalence regarding the political legacies she has inherited, Steffani Jemison uses repetition and reenactment to evoke persistence and futility. Her films and installations have recently been presented at the UCLA Wight Biennial 2008 (Los Angeles), the Institute of Contemporary Art (London), UnionDocs (Brooklyn), the Ohio State University (Marion), and Eel Space (Chicago). She was a 2008 resident at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and will be a CORE Artist-in-Residence at the Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) in 2009-2010. She has curated time-based programs and gallery exhibitions for many venues, including Light Industry (New York), The Museum of Arts and Design (New York), Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York), and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (New York). She received her MFA in Studio from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009 and her BA in Comparative Literature from Columbia University in 2003.

### **Andrew Blackley**

Having become a text-based artist, I am receptive to the forms of publications- as both objects and gestures. With attention given to critical social theory, I explore - and demonstrate- the particularities of projection, perception and adequacy: I work to transform the transparent to opaque.