

May 2021 bring harmony, peace and much needed reparation to the world. Here at RU we are honored to serve as a platform kickstarting the New Year with two fantastic public programs led by musicians, a poet and artists.

We have just launched a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for [lead artists to work on the 2021 NYC Health + Hospitals Community Murals Project \(CMP\)](#). This NYC Health + Hospitals Arts in Medicine (AIM) program is supported by The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

Interested artists please apply [here!](#)

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## UPCOMING

### Meet Over Lunch

### Mbira: The Ancestral Resonance



Poster image: Album cover of *Africa: Shona Mbira Music*, featuring mbira ensemble *Mhuri yekwaRwizi*, recorded by *Paul Berliner*.

## Virtual Event

Saturday Jan 9th 2021, 2pm EST (11am PST)

Featuring Erica Azim and Anesu Ndoro

Hosted by Tansy Xiao and Ryan Pratt

Co-produced by RU and [Raincoat Society](#).

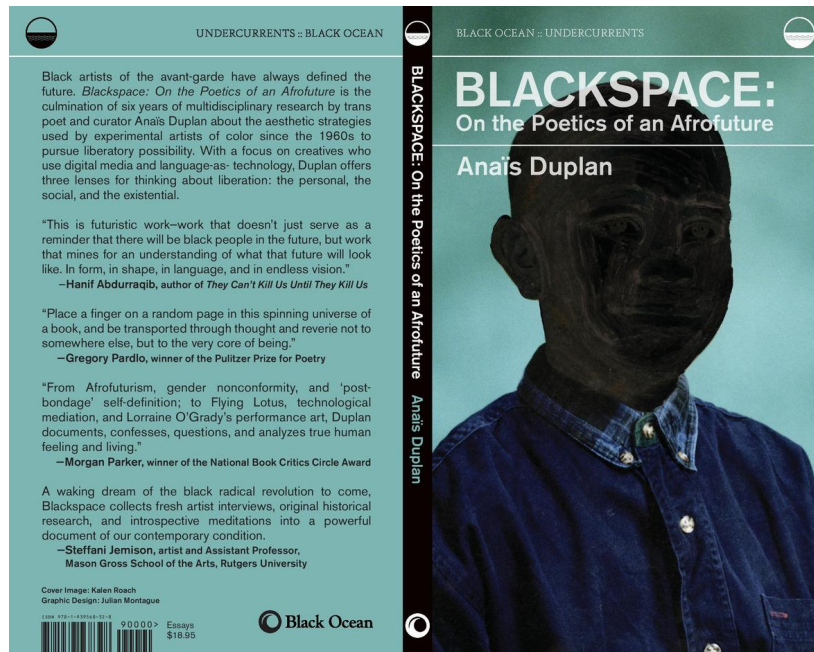
Join the webinar [here](#).

**Mbira: The Ancestral Resonance** is a panel discussion hosted by RU 2021 resident curator Tansy Xiao and Ryan Pratt featuring mbira musicians Erica Azim and Anesu Ndoro. Rooted in the cultural traditions of the Shona people of Zimbabwe, mbira is a lamellophone instrument constructed of simple wooden boards and attached staggered metal tines. As a powerful instrument in its original context, the mbira often functions as the medium to communicate with the ancestors by the Shona people. The panel presents the significance that was deprived when the instrument and the music form were adopted by the Western society; discusses the impacts of colonialism on the Zimbabwean music tradition, questions the authority of Eurocentric definitions in musicology such as “harmony” and “half-tone” and investigates the ultimate dilemma: How do we achieve decolonization with the language of colonizers?

[MORE INFO](#)

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**RU TALK: Blackspace conversation series**



Black Ocean/Black Space cover bleeds

## Virtual Event

Saturday Jan 16th 2021, 4pm EST

Featuring Oneika Russell, Dyani Douze, Abdullah Qureshi

Moderated by: Anaïs Duplan

Conceived and led by RU 2016 curatorial alum [Anaïs Duplan](#), this program invites the RU Alum artists [Oneika Russell](#) and [Abdullan Qureshi](#) as well as the Detroit based artist Dyani Douze into conversation about the role of digital media and performance for contemporary artists of colors in furthering freedom pursuits. In *Blackspace: On the Poetics of an Afrofuture*, Anaïs Duplan offers three frameworks for considering liberation: the individual, the social, and the universal. Inspired by the lineage of artists of color using digital media and performance to work toward these three kinds of freedom, this conversation program invites us to consider the current social movement for Black liberation in the context of the history of artist-activists who have mobilized time-based media to further social justice.

[MORE INFO](#)

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## RU Community News

[Yana Dimitrova \(2013 RU Alum\)](#) has realized a large community mural titled “The spirit of Seaview” at the historic Seaview Hospital in Staten Island. Yana was one of ten finalists in 2020 to realize a mural commissioned by NYC Health and Hospitals’

“[Art in Medicine Program](#)” with the generous support of the Laurie M. Tisch Illuminated Fund. This four part mural begins with a depiction of the Farm Colony in the 1830s followed by the legacy of the Black Angels in the early 1900s, when the Farm Colony was transformed into a tuberculosis sanatorium. The third panel is dedicated to the major advancements of Dr. Robitzek in TB research (TB). The fourth panel incorporates an image of a patient today in the hospital ‘s greenhouse space, featuring original tiles which hung in the entrance of the building. See the artist’s process and images of the mural [here](#).

Listen to [Jakub Szczęsny \(2013 RU Alum\)](#) in a live discussion relating to his upcoming installation on the rooftop of “Liebling Haus” in Tel Aviv, and imagining how new public spaces might work in the contemporary Israeli social and political context. Szczęsny’s starting point was a pergola drafted yet never built by the building’s original architect, Dov Karmi. The pergola will provide shadow and spatial organisation enabling the roof to be used as a place of public interaction. Find more info [here](#).

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## RU Recommends

[Here](#) is an opportunity to share a joke in your native language for Untitled (Sirens), a participative art project by Younes Baba-Ali for BXL Universel II Multipli.city at CENTRALE for Contemporary Art. Scheduled in March 2021, this project will be operated by an ambulant police car that will diffuse jokes from different communities in the public space of the city of Brussels in an effort to bridge tensions and suffuse the city with some much needed humor.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

In January, book a free, 30-minute consultation [here](#) with one of Powerhouse Arts’ talented fabricators to explore projects you’re currently undertaking, confront challenges you may be facing with limited access to studio time, or brainstorm any material needs you may have as you adapt to working from home.

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Thank you!

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