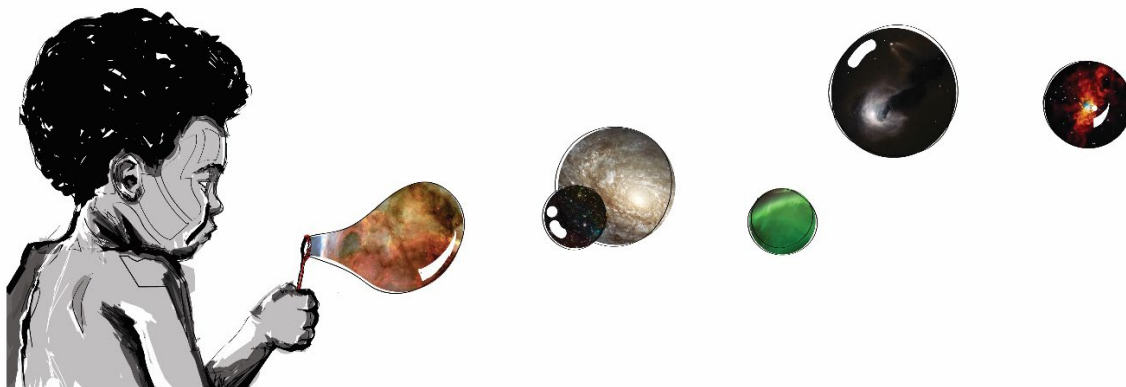


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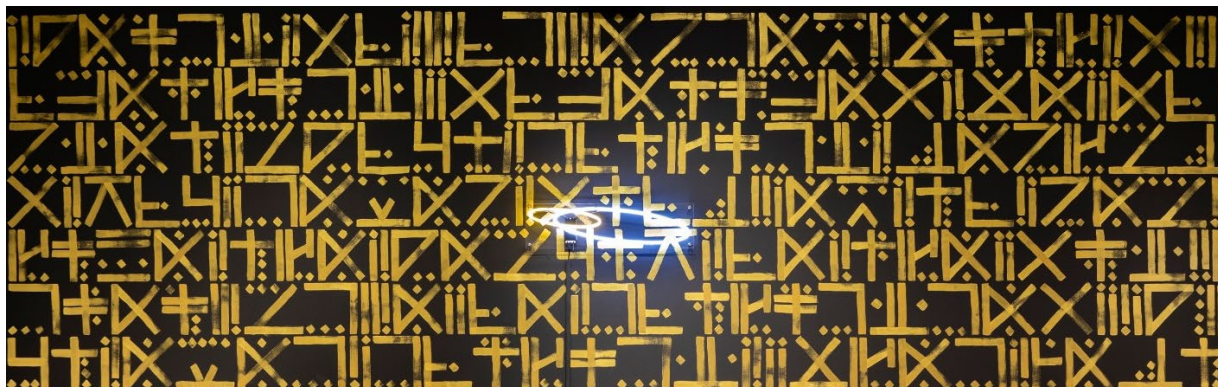


The Ackland Art Museum Presents Three-Day Virtual Afrofuturist Arts Festival, INTERGALACTIC SOULSTICE, Featuring Artists Jeghetto, Quentin Talley and the Soul Providers, and Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry of Intergalactic Soul

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Chapel Hill, N.C. — June 5, 2020) -- The Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presents its first-ever virtual Afrofuturist arts festival, **Intergalactic Soulstice**, June 19-21 on [ackland.org](https://www.ackland.org). All events are free of charge; some require registration.

Intergalactic Soulstice was inspired by an Afrofuturist work commissioned by the Ackland Art Museum in August 2019. [Project LHAXX](#) — a mural of imagined Afrofuturist hieroglyphics and neon symbols containing a secret cosmic message, along with spaceship schematics inspired by ceremonial masks from the Dogon culture of West Africa — was created by artists Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry as part of their ongoing body of work known as **Intergalactic Soul**. Their work presents contemporary conversations about Black experiences, using popular science fiction and comics to chronicle the adventures of their fictional heroes, Astro and Pluto. The artists of Intergalactic Soul, who employ artmaking as a form of activism, frankly acknowledge the oppression of Black people in this country while looking with hope to the future. Intergalactic Soulstice celebrates the visionary nature of Afrofuturism and honors Black humanity.



Puppeteer and Missy Elliott collaborator **Jeghetto** (Tarish Pipkins) was a natural choice to open the festival; he will perform a special live online version of his Afrofuturist Hip-Hopera **5P1N0K10 (Spinokio)**, with an all-new Intergalactic Soul-inspired storyline about an android who wants to be a B-Boy, new puppets, and featuring a score by hip-hop producer Hir-O, **Friday, June 19 at 3:30 p.m. EDT**, at ackland.org. The half-hour puppet show, suitable for audiences 10 and up, is free but requires registration at ackland.org. It will be followed by a live Q&A with Pipkins.

Quentin Talley and the Soul Providers are longtime collaborators of artists Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry; they return to the Ackland virtually to premiere an hour-long set, inflected with jazz, funk, and soul, on **Saturday, June 20 at 8 p.m. EDT**, with live Q&A with Talley. Speaking about his music in the light of recent protests across the United States, Quentin Talley said, "Music for me, and throughout history, especially Black history and American history, has always been a catalyst for change. In the vein of Nina Simone, it's the artist's duty to talk about what's going on at the time." Free on the [Ackland's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...); no registration required.

Artists Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry, creators of young black comic book heroes Astro and Pluto, lead an hour-long **comic drawing workshop** on **Sunday, June 21 at 11 a.m.** Artist Marcus Kiser said the aim of the workshop is "Building people's self-esteem where they view themselves as heroes to society, and helping understand what their superpowers are as real individuals. We're helping people look within themselves, and find who they want to be or who they aspire to be. Then we add these simple drawing steps of them creating alternate egos for themselves for the better." Free; registration required at ackland.org.

Intergalactic Soulstice wraps up on **Sunday, June 21 from 2-5 p.m.** with a virtual **Family and Friends Sunday**. Explore the world of *Project LHAXX* with a story time, crafts, and a closer look at the work on display at the Ackland. Each month, the Ackland hosts a free program for families, kids, and the young at heart featuring hands-on art activities, live performances, tours, and more. Although the Museum's doors are closed for our community's safety, you can still explore the art virtually! A mix of live and DIY interactive activities awaits you, all inspired by *Project LHAXX*. Free at ackland.org.

Intergalactic Soulstice is funded in part by a grant from Arts Everywhere and supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



North
Carolina
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EVENT DETAILS:

Puppeteer Jeghetto Performs 5P1N0K10 (Spinokio), a Hip-Hopera, LIVE

Friday, June 19 at 3:30 p.m. EDT

Followed by a live Q&A with the artist.

Live virtual performance on Zoom, free registration required. [Connect here.](#)

Quentin Talley and the Soul Providers Play Extended Set of Jazz/Funk/Soul

Saturday, June 20 at 8 p.m. EDT

Accompanied by a live Q&A with the artists.

Youtube Premiere on the Ackland Art Museum's Channel. [Connect here.](#)

Comic Book Drawing Workshop with Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry of Intergalactic Soul
Sunday, June 21 at 11 a.m. EDT

Live virtual workshop on Zoom, free registration required. [Connect here.](#)

Virtual Family & Friends Sunday: Project LHAXX

Sunday, June 21 from 2-5 p.m. EDT

Live story time at 2:30 p.m. and downloadable DIY art activities inspired by the Afrofuturist installation Project LHAXX all afternoon. [Connect here.](#)



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About the Ackland Art Museum: Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum on UNC-Chapel Hill's historic campus is a local museum with a global outlook that bridges campus and community. Admission to the Ackland is free and accessible to all. The Ackland's holdings include more than 19,000 works of art. The collection spans cultures and time periods, showcasing the breadth of human creativity. A vital teaching resource, the Museum's mission is the art of understanding. Visitors can connect with the complexity and beauty of the wider world by getting close to art – the familiar, the unexpected, the challenging. The Ackland Art Museum's building is currently closed due to COVID-19, but we hope to welcome in-person visitors to 101 South Columbia St. on the UNC Chapel Hill campus as soon as it is safe to do so. More information and an array of digital resources for all ages are available at ackland.org.

Image credits: Pluto graphic courtesy of Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry. Photo of *Project LHAXX* by Alex Maness Photography. Promotional image by Joel P. Johnson with Astro and Pluto graphic courtesy of Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry.