
THE SHED **Press Release**

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING
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New York, NY 10001

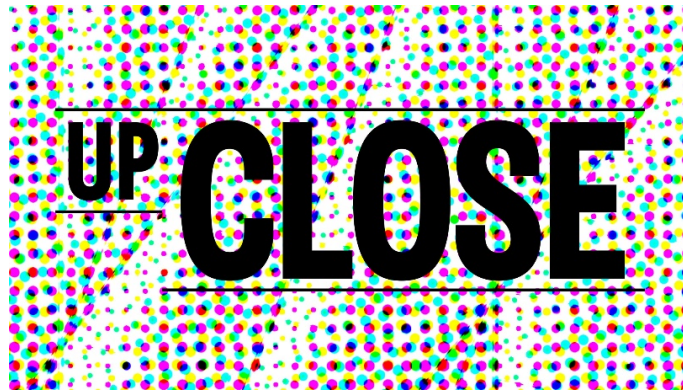
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Tony Cokes's New Video Series, *Of Lies and Liars Studies 01 – 05*, Set as the Ninth Installment of The Shed's Digital Artwork Series *Up Close*

A New Video in the Five-Part Series Premieres Every Sunday at 6 PM EST from August 9 to September



New York, NY, August 3, 2020— Artist **Tony Cokes** premieres his new five-part video series *Of Lies and Liars Studies 01 – 05* as the ninth installment of The Shed's *Up Close* online series. A new video from the series will publish each Sunday starting August 9 through September 6 at 6 PM on The Shed's [YouTube Channel](#), [Instagram account \(@theshedny\)](#), and [website \(theshed.org\)](#).

In this series, Cokes presents studies for a new body of work titled *Of Lies and Liars* featuring alternate blue and red slides with quotations from journalist David Frum's *Atlantic* article "This Is Trump's Fault." Cokes sets Frum's words, which indict the current administration's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, to music by artists from the Postal Service to Lali Puna.

The vignette-style videos are a return to Cokes's ongoing exploration of evil in Western philosophical thought and its role in the structuring of society, this time in the context of the denials of scientific fact related to the pandemic. Each of Cokes's studies is an experiment in duration and style and exists as a methodology for the artist to sharpen ideas for a new, larger media work.

In the summer of 2019, a selection of Cokes's work, including the new commission *Before and After the Studio* (2019), was presented in the exhibition *Collision/Coalition* at The Shed. The videos in this exhibition arranged appropriated materials including pop music and news articles in a confrontational collage to explore the relationship between the artist, the artist's studio, and gentrification.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tony Cokes lives and works in Providence, Rhode Island, where he serves as a professor in the Department of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Cokes's analytical strategy is one of reframing and repositioning. His critiques are informed by contemporary cultural studies, poststructuralist theory, and popular texts; he quotes from sources ranging from Louis Althusser, David Bowie, Malcolm X, and Catherine Clément to Public Enemy and William Burroughs. His works are often assemblages of archival footage, images from Hollywood films, text commentary, voiceover, and popular music.

Cokes's video artwork uses quotes sourced from writings and scholarly texts by philosophers, musicians, politicians, and cultural figures. Placing these words on brightly colored, presentation-style backgrounds, Cokes then sets them to soundtracks of popular music from Drake to Morrissey. Through these juxtapositions, Cokes's work invites the viewer to engage with political ideas and the reality of shared social conditions, from the power of the media to celebrity culture.

ABOUT UP CLOSE

The Shed is committed to expanding the scope of how a cultural institution can serve its communities, a mission that is even more critical while distanced from one another. To creatively engage artists and audiences in this moment of great uncertainty and upheaval, every other Sunday at 6 pm, *Up Close* presents intimate performances, spoken word, dance parties, multimedia experimentations, conversations, and other forms of original content that explore what it means to make art right now.

New works have included a socially distanced vocal performance by the **HawtPlates**, dynamic street dancing within the confines of home by **Reggie ‘Regg Roc’ Gray** and the **D.R.E.A.M. Ring**, and a collaborative music-ritual created by **Troy Anthony** and **Jerome Ellis**. **Nova Cypress Black**, **Tasha Dougé**, and **Gabriel Ramirez**, teaching artists from The Shed’s *DIS OBEY* program for young writers and activists, premiered *What Connects?*, a collection of poems and artwork. **DJ April Hunt** and **Rashaad Newsome** with **Legendary Monster Mon_Teese** and **Precious** celebrated Black queer sonic, visual, and performative traditions with *Go Off! Joy in Defiance*, and **Justin Allen**, **Yulan Grant**, and **S*an D. Henry-Smith** improvised live on the Zoom video conferencing platform in *Call*. In early July, artist **Kiyan Williams** shared their video, *Notes on Digging*, that explores ideas of engaging with soil/earth as a form of recovery from racialized and gendered violence. Artist **Tomás Saraceno** convened *Conversations on Environmental Justice* with science journalist **Harriet A. Washington** and a panel discussion moderated by Bronx-based urban designer and researcher **Oscar Oliver-Didier** and including New York City activists **Mychal Johnson**, a co-founding member from South Bronx Unite, and **Leslie Velasquez**, an environmental justice coordinator for El Puente.

Up Close’s ninth installment features new work by artist **Tony Cokes** premiering on Sundays August 9 through September 6. Archives of all *Up Close* commissions are available to view at theshed.org.

Up Close is organized by Solana Chehtman, Director of Civic Programs, with Adeze Wilford and Alessandra Gómez, Curatorial Assistants; Justin Wong, Civic Programs Coordinator; and Lily Wan, Digital Content Producer. The Shed’s multidisciplinary commissioning program is developed by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots with the senior program team, including Emma Enderby, Chief Curator; Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer; Madani Younis, Chief Executive Producer; and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Senior Program Advisor.

ABOUT THE SHED

Located on Manhattan’s west side, The Shed commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences.

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From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The building—a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect—physically transforms to support artists’ most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed, led by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots, is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.