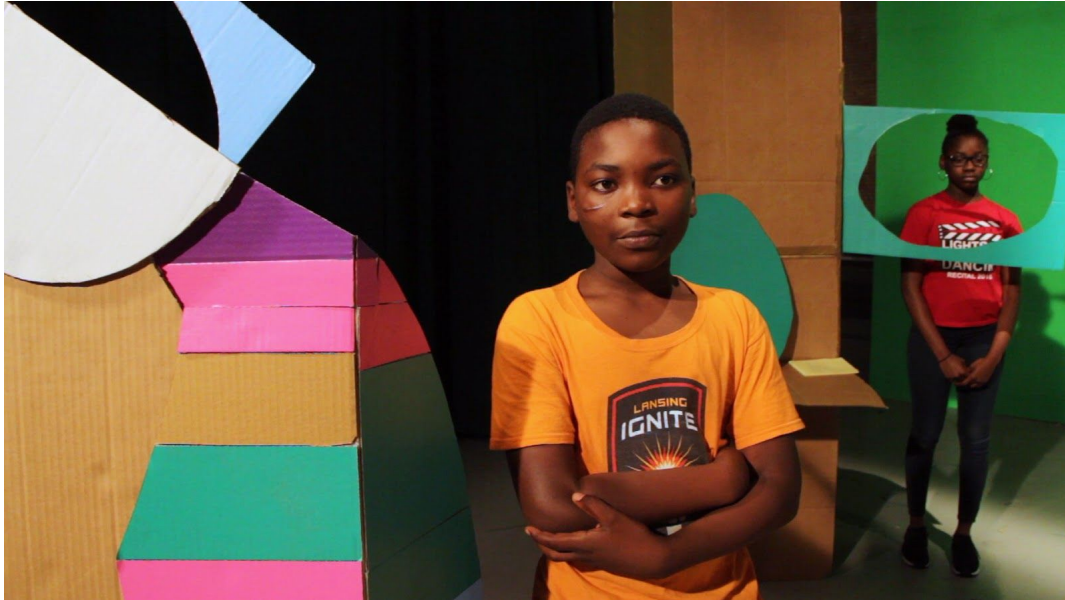


MSU BROAD

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Artist Kirsten Leenaars Engages Lansing-Area Youth in Collaborative Exhibition About Representation and the Media at the MSU Broad Art Lab

East Lansing, MI – The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad) presents *The Broadcast*, an exhibition considering truth and distortion in the media, on view at the MSU Broad Art Lab Nov. 10, 2019–Apr. 4, 2020. Visitors are invited to experience a preview of the exhibition on Friday, Nov. 8 from 6–8pm before it opens to the public.

In this era of hypermedia production and consumption, whose stories are considered newsworthy? Whose voices are represented? And who do these stories belong to? To answer these questions, Chicago-based artist Kirsten Leenaars embarked on a community-based project with a group of middle and high school youth from the greater Lansing area. The result of their collective exploration unfolds as a multimedia exhibition through playful yet detailed scenography, planned and impromptu actions, and the production of their own media content.

With *The Broadcast* Leenaars continues her ongoing examination of storytelling, performativity, and documentary in contemporary video. Made in close collaboration with the youth participants, who relied on their own lived experiences and imaginations, the resulting exhibition aims to represent the views of their generation more broadly—views that are largely absent from stories spun by the mainstream media.

The presentation of *The Broadcast* in the Art Lab represents a new chapter in the life of the space, reflecting an interest in local engagement and experimentation in the development of exhibitions for the gallery—values which are central to Art Lab’s commitment to the community.

The Broadcast is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University and curated by Steven L. Bridges, Associate Curator, with the guidance and support of the museum’s education team, in particular Meghan Zanskas and Ellie Anderson. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Elizabeth Halsted endowment fund. Special thanks to the 12 youth participants, Lansing Public School District and the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University, especially Karl Gude, Brian Kusch, Andrew Acciaioli, and Brooke Striker, for their assistance with the project.

Kirsten Leenaars is an interdisciplinary video artist based in Chicago. Various forms of performance, theater, and documentary strategies make up the threads that run through her work. She engages with individuals and communities to create participatory video and performance work. Her work oscillates between fiction and documentation, reinterprets personal stories and reimagines everyday realities through shared authorship, staging and improvisation. Leenaars examines through her work how we relate to others and explores how through the production of the work itself new forms of relating can be created. Recent projects include *Present Tense* (2019), a multichannel video work, commissioned by Illinois Humanities, in which young men and women reflect on their lived effects of the current justice system and prison-industrial complex and *(Re)Housing the American Dream* (2015-ongoing), a multi-year performative documentary project with American born and refugee youth commissioned by the Haggerty Museum of Art in Milwaukee.

Steven L. Bridges is Associate Curator at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University. Most recently, Bridges co-curated the major exhibitions *Katrín Sigurðardóttir* and *Oscar Tuazon: Water School*. Other exhibitions include solo presentations by artists Matthew Angelo Harrison, Michael E. Smith, Kathryn Andrews, and Daniel Baird; the collection shows *Scholar’s Garden*, *Andy Warhol: A Day in the Life*, and *The Transported Collection*; and *Beyond Streaming: A Sound Mural for Flint*, a residency project for which artist Jan Tichy was invited to respond to the Flint water crisis. Previously, Bridges was the Curatorial Assistant at the MCA Chicago, where he curated solo exhibitions of the work of artists Faheem Majeed and Jason Lazarus. He also assisted the major retrospective exhibition of the work of Doris Salcedo, which traveled to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Pérez Art Museum Miami. From 2011–15, Bridges also co-curated the annual Rapid Pulse International Performance Art Festival in Chicago. His essays and articles have been published in numerous journals, exhibition catalogues, and other online and print media. In 2017 he was named a curatorial fellow at the FACE Foundation.

The MSU Broad Art Lab is a collaborative space where our diverse community of makers, innovators, and lifelong learners can connect with opportunities to create and experiment with art. Opened across the street from the museum last May with a \$1 million gift from MSU Federal Credit Union, it is an expression of the MSU Broad's commitment to creating engaging arts and cultural experiences for a diverse audience, connecting people to art beyond museum walls. Focused on engagement and collaboration, creative inquiry and process are at the core of the Art Lab's exhibitions and programming.

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: Production still from *The Broadcast* (2019). Courtesy the artist, Ellie Hall, and Orlando Pinder.

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