

# HANDS + STARS

## FLAG PROJECT AT UMASS AMHERST

**NEW AFRICA HOUSE**

**FLAGS**

**FLAGS**

**HISTORY**

**GREEN**

**BLACK**

**RED**

**Pan African Flag**

**Ethiopian Flag**

**American Flag**

Action

Protest

Fists in the air

Lack of action

Hands in the air

Hands reaching for one another

White hatred and violence

50 Black Men

70 Black Women

How to represent the original 120 students?

Gilbert Young painting "He Aint Heavy"

I once heard a man say that when you come into this world, your fists are closed grasping at a life. Money, objects, love, power, etc. And when you die, your hands open, returning to all back into the world

Money

Land

Motherland

Place

Do we have a place?

A flag that represents the past present and future.

- A flag that represents our bodies.
- A flag that represents our eternal fight.
- A flag that represents our love.
- A flag that represents our triumph.
- A flag that represents our loss.
- A flag that represents giving.
- A flag that represents taking.

I'm trying to make my life a womanist matriarchy as much as possible.

Roses

Blood

Life

Loss

Lost

Life

Loss

Lost

STARS? STRIPES?

6 point star = Too familiar

8 point star  
AKA Octagrams

Eight lines= four corners of space (south, north, east, and west), and time (two equinoxes and two solstices) are associated with different meanings in different cultures.

8 points = symbol of hope

8 points in ancient Egypt= eight deities

8 points= represents beginnings, salvation, resurrection and super-abundance

I was never that patriotic

We need our own country/planet... But can we escape the patriarchy?.

My people have been asking for basic shit for years

Are institutions ever proactive when it comes to racial violence?

Marcus Garvey

# CARRIS ADAMS

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work explores the signs/signifiers that mark our landscapes. Through the materiality of painting, drawing, and printmaking I embody the sense, shape and experience of discovering these markers. My studio practice is peripatetic and reliant on objects that cross my path during my day-to-day travels. Once in the studio, through the manipulation of formal elements, I work to highlight how the markers are often tied to the various social, cultural, political and economic circumstances under which we labor. My translation of a marker becomes an investigation between manifesting a memory, legibility and illegibility. Therefore the work points to the enduring signifiers of shared space, double meanings/readings, and the residues of class while guiding viewers to recall their personal and collective memories.

## BIO

Carris Adams is an artist currently based in Houston, Texas. Her work explores the signs/signifiers that mark our landscapes. Through the materiality of painting, drawing, and printmaking Adams attempts to embody the sense, shape and experience of these markers. Her work describes the appearance of subjects found during her day-to-day travels, while also reflecting the various social, cultural, political and economic circumstances under which we labor. Adams received her BFA from the University of Texas at Austin (2013) and her MFA from the University of Chicago (2015). Adams's work has been exhibited at The Studio Museum in Harlem ( New York, NY) , The Logan Center Exhibitions at The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL), Produce Model Gallery (Chicago, IL) Tiger Strikes Asteroid Gallery (Chicago,IL) and The Courtyard Gallery at The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX).

Adams is represented by Goldfinch Gallery in Chicago, IL