

# GALLERY AFERRO

## *Poem Booth: Calling Upon Self*

Curated by John Gavin White



### Calling Upon Self

POEM BOOTH: JOHN GAVIN WHITE

John Gavin White's new book *I, John de Conqueror: A New Spelling Of My Name* is on sale now.

**Jun 16 - Sep 11, 2021**  
**Gallery Aferro Poem Booth**  
**Installation**  
**73 Market Street, Newark**

#### **GALLERY HOURS**

Wednesday - Saturday  
12pm - 6pm  
and by appointment

### *Poem Booth: Calling Upon Self*

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The Poem Booth Project is Gallery Aferro's new permanent installation that features recorded collections of spoken word poetry especially curated by guest authors and lovers of the written word. The ongoing project combines experimental collaboration with the power of language by inviting poets, spoken word artists, and bards of every style and verse to share an audio recording of their written works in our 1960s-era refurbished phone booth located in the Main Gallery at 73 Market Street.

With the ability to hold a near infinite number of works thanks to the countless phone number combinations available, gallery visitors can enjoy listening to each poem by dialing a specific phone number on the keypad. The phone numbers available are shared via a list of poems featured in a printed "phone book" within the booth for each curated collection.

[www.aferro.org](http://www.aferro.org) | [www.aferrostudios.org](http://www.aferrostudios.org)  
73 Market Street, Newark, NJ | 973.353.9533  
Wed - Sat 12-6pm

## Visit

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ  
Wednesday - Saturday 12-6pm  
and by appointment.  
aferro.org  
aferrostudios.org

## Contact

973 353 9533  
info@aferro.org

Gallery Aferro  
Ironbound Station  
PO Box 5668  
Newark, NJ 07105  
USA

## Mission

The mission of Gallery Aferro is to function as a platform for the exchange of ideas in service of advancing human dignity and beauty, with a focus on visual arts as the vehicle, proudly located in Newark, NJ.

## Accessing The Gallery

Gallery hours are listed above, come by for a visit! Gallery Aferro is a street level store front gallery and is wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance, requests, or desire additional information about accessibility, please email our ADA Coordinator, Candace Nicholson, at [cnicholson@aferro.org](mailto:cnicholson@aferro.org). We believe art is absolutely for everyone and are very happy to accommodate anyone's needs but please give us 1 weeks notice for any arrangements that will need to be made at the gallery. If you require large print press materials please let us know 48 hours ahead of time.

## Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders, sponsors and the individual donors who make our programs possible. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and RBH Group.



Step inside the vintage phone booth to enjoy our inaugural exhibition.

The *Calling Upon Self* collection includes:

- *Fictive Ether* by blkcowrie
- *Black His Story* by Albert E. Cook Jr.
- *A Child Who Doesn't Have Its Own* by James C. Ellerbe
- *Things You Wanted To Know About The Bronx But Were Afraid To Ask* by Ngoma Hill
- *For Octavia E. Butler* by B. Sharise Moore
- *Long Live The 'P' Revolution* by Anjuli Nunn
- *A Mother's Plea* by Ameerah Shabazz-Bilal
- *My Son* by Ameerah Shabazz-Bilal
- *All People Are Different* by Kindred Sojourner White
- *My Special Kind of Happy* by Empathy LaRue White
- *Conversations with God Pt. 1* by Shaheed K. Wood

Curated by celebrated author, philosopher and poet John Gavin White, this collection features the voices of 10 spoken word artists, poets and griots called on to call upon themselves as a means for calling out to the greater world in hopes of one day having that call returned.

White's curation is one of several artistic experiences marking the release of his latest collection of poetry and prose: *I, John de Conqueror: A New Spelling Of My Name*. Drawing inspiration from writer Zora Neale Hurston's rendering of the "High John de Conqueror" folktale, the poetry and prose of *I, John de Conqueror: A New Spelling Of My Name* exists at the parlous intersection of the poetic as a lived philosophy and black male self-recovery.

The former is the philosophy that frames any attempt at a unified treatment of emotion, logic, language and thought against the backdrop of oppression... where the fragmented contemplates wholeness. The latter is when such an attempt is undertaken by, primarily, cisgendered, heterosexual black males as a means of interrogating the historical erasure of their vulnerability as human beings, within a context of perpetual dehumanization.

The poetry and prose of *I, John de Conqueror* is part and parcel of the author's self-recovery... ergo the two-part question that centers the entirety of the project: How do I have my life's passage acknowledged, in a culture with virtually no language for articulating black male trauma and healing — a culture with no paradigms for conceptualizing black men as human beings capable of being harmed by something other than a bullet?

*I, John de Conqueror: A New Spelling Of My Name* is available on Amazon.com or by request through your favorite indie bookseller.