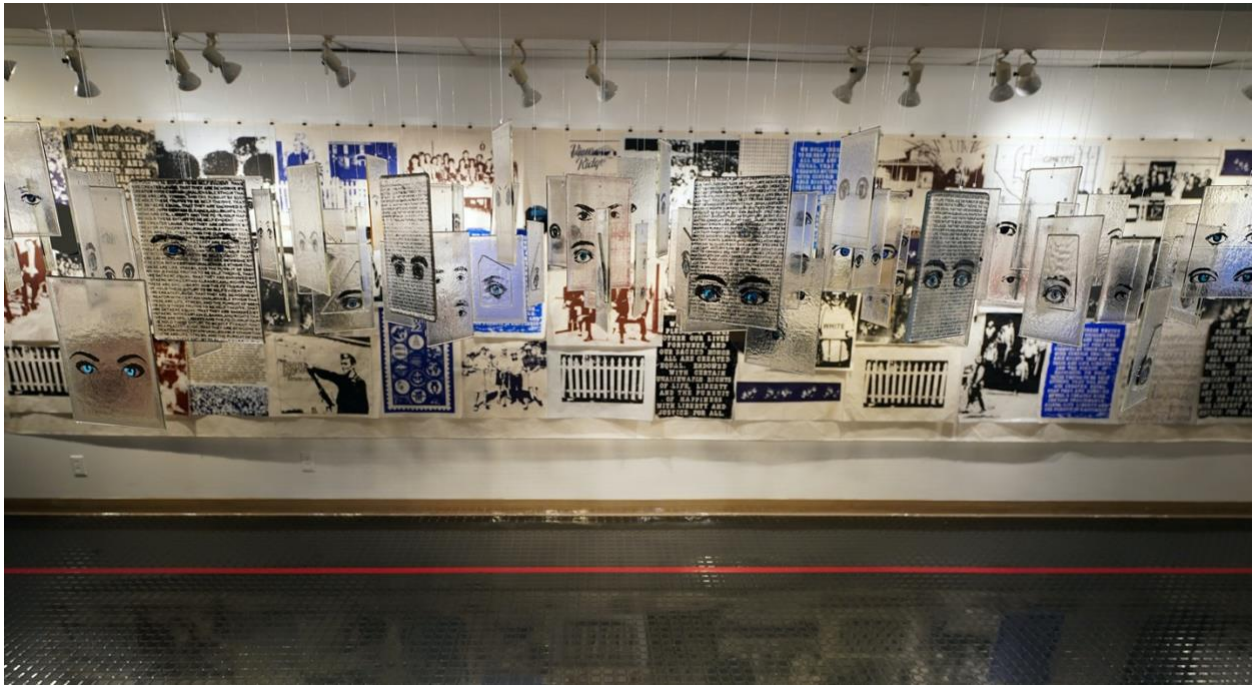


## ***Reckoning: Reflect, Regard, Repair***

### **Project Description**

***Christina Reed's exhibition 'Reckoning', confronts us with our own whiteness and oblivious racism head on and with ingenuity. Susan Noyes Platt, Arts & Politics Now***



***Reckoning***, a print-based and community engagement installation, illustrates the historical, structural, and behavioral construct of White culture; a culture designed to create, protect, and maintain the power of the few over the lives of the many.

The work aims to make visible conditioned assumptions and behavior that keep our country's race construct of inequity and injustice in place, and engage the viewer in social justice reflection, conversation, and action that creates sustainable pathways to racial equity.

The site-specific installation was exhibited at Seattle Central College's M. Rosetta Hunter Gallery in February-March 2022.

## ***Reckoning's Three Components***

### ***Reflect***

- Large mural of screen-printed, collaged images of historical documents and examples of norms and activities of White culture engagement, illustrating where White power is held.

### ***Regard: White Gaze***

- Individual screen-printed glass pieces arranged to highlight the barriers that White culture builds/maintains to silence and exclude voices-of-color.

### ***Repair***

- Community engagement piece aimed to generate conversation and Action Steps that disrupt and dismantle racism's systemic power.

## ***Reflect***

***Here's a mirror, literally and figuratively, being held up to what often is the invisibility of whiteness to white people. Meghan Trainor/Ronnie Estoque, South Seattle Emerald***



**Reflect** addresses the construct of race and Whiteness and the history, laws, systems, and behaviors that keep this construct in place.

Imagery consists of historical and legal documents, and my own and archived photographs of white people engaged in work, activities, and environments representing systems of power and privilege.





## ***Regard***

***When You're Accustomed to Privilege, Equality Feels Like Oppression***, attribution unknown.



***Regard: White Gaze*** brings into focus the power and prevalence of unspoken norms and notions dictating what is acceptable to White culture. Whiteness, is the presumed default.

Images of blue eyes screen-printed and painted on individual glass pieces, are arranged to highlight the barriers that White culture builds/maintains to silence and exclude voices-of-color.



## ***Repair***

***When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression, we'll find our opportunities to make real change. Ijeoma Oluo, So you want to talk about race.***

### ***Repair - Community Engagement***

***Reckoning's*** third component is a community engagement piece that focuses on action steps to disrupt and dismantle racism's systemic power.

Community activists were invited to assist in activities to encourage conversation on race and Whiteness, and on ways to create sustainable pathways to racial justice.

Two components were developed/created – “Ask Me” and a brochure of Action Steps.



## *Repair* **Community Engagement – “Ask Me”**

Through community outreach, a group of artist activists was convened to research historical and cultural facts to use in an exercise aimed at generating conversation around Whiteness and race. Ideas were brainstormed to address the question, “What can I do to disrupt/dismantle racism?”

“Ask Me”, an interactive activity to take place during gallery hours was created. Volunteers acted as “Ask Me Ambassadors”. Each wore a placard with a unique “oblique” phrase (Red Line, 12 out of 18, Mac & Cheese, 202-224-3441, etc.), aimed to pique the viewer’s interest, written on one side of the placard; the phrase’s reference was written on the reverse side.

### Activity:

- Ambassador wears an Ask Me placard with a unique phrase written on it.
- Viewers ask, “What’s That?”
- Ambassadors engage with the viewer in conversation on the phrase’s context, meaning and action step.

### Example 1:

- Placard says “Both/And”
- Viewer asks, What’s That?
- Ambassador answers, “Both/And thinking counteracts the binary of Either/Or, Right/Wrong, Good/Bad. Either/Or thinking/acting is a closed system that shuts out complexity and reinforces power. Both/And opens creativity, opportunity, and connection.
- Action Step: Practice and use Both/And thinking, to interrupt the Either/Or binary. Both/And reasoning connects us to expanded ways of thinking, new ideas, and connection to community.

### Example 2:

- Placard says “911 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Viewer asks, “What’s That?”
- Ambassador answers, “It’s the address of Wa Na Wari, a Black owned non-profit organization in Seattle’s Central District that creates space for Black ownership, expression and connection”.



- Action Step: Support and Show Up for BIPOC organizations.

Other prompts include references to learn our country's history; talk in affinity groups about history and impacts of racism; listen to the voices of people of color; use one's voice to vote and support anti-racist candidates and issues; support communities of color with funding, shop at BIPOC businesses; show up for people of color – attend events.





## ***Repair***

### **Community Engagement – Action Steps Brochure**

A community engagement piece that focuses on action steps to interrupt racism and eradicate harm.

A group of community activists were invited to research and develop a working document of individual actions to disrupt and dismantle racism's systemic power. Most of the document's actions were Seattle-centric and can be modified to address specific communities.

**“When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else’s oppression, we’ll find our opportunities to make real change.”**

**Ijeoma Oluo, *So you want to talk about race***

#### **Reckoning Community Engagement Action Steps**



*White Gaze, Christina Reed*

## Action steps for advancing racial equity:

- Seek knowledge and understanding of White history and characteristics through reading US history and analysis of the construct of race.
- Develop self-awareness through affinity group, undoing racism training, analyzing language and behavior.
- Discover and support BIPOC community organizations, businesses, and arts.
- Contact elected officials to express your opinion on anti-racist issues. VOTE.
- Ensure diverse representation in hiring, decision-making bodies, Boards, panels, committees, participants, exhibitions.
- Support and address disparities in public schools, criminal justice initiatives, youth employment, housing, medicine, immigration.



## Installation Specifics

**Reflect:** A 35 feet x 5.5 feet mural of layered prints collaged on paper.

**Regard: White Gaze:** Individual glass pieces vary between 4"x6" to 7"x9", and hang at eye-level, from an overhead mesh grid. Arrangement varies according to the specific installation site. This iteration was 12 feet (length) x 4 feet (width), and consisted of 85 glass pieces.

**Installation Requirements - Repair:** A diverse group of community activists to research and develop a working document of actions to disrupt and dismantle racism's systemic power, applicable to the installation's geographic area.

### Site/Project Requirements

- A wall 45 feet in length, and space that can accommodate a large group of people.
- Ceiling structure/hardware to hang a 12' x 4' grid from the ceiling.
- Costs: Shipping, Installation, PR

### Attachments:

### Press

*South Seattle Emerald*, "Reckoning" Exhibit at SCC Examines Racism and White Complicity:

<https://southseattleemerald.com/2022/03/07/reckoning-exhibit-at-seattle-central-college-examines-racism-and-white-complicity/>

*Art & Politics Now*, Confronting Whiteness and Its Exclusions:

<https://www.artandpoliticsnow.com/2022/01/christina-reed-confronting-whiteness-and-its-exclusions/>

*Leschi Community News*, Reckoning with Racism and White Supremacism:

<https://www.leschicommunitycouncil.org/single-post/reckoning-with-racism-and-white-supremacism>



**Video -  
Reckoning:  
Reflect,  
Regard, Repair**

**All Photo/Video Credits:** Susan Fried (<http://susan-fried.squarespace.com>)



**Artist Website:**

<https://christinacarlylereed.com/home.html>

**Artist Resume:**

<https://img-cache.oppcdn.com/fixed/32705/assets/pe7fTM5OfPk9P3Hy.pdf>

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