



***Unbound*, a book launch series co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore, returns this spring with Morgan Parker in conversation with Jenna Wortham—Feb 15**

***Unbound*: Morgan Parker**

In conversation with Jenna Wortham

Moderated by Rujeko Hockley

Launch of *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*

Feb 15 at 7:30 pm

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl

\$25 (ticket only); \$35 (includes book)

January 10, 2017 / Brooklyn, NY—*Unbound: A Book Launch Series with BAM and Greenlight Bookstore* returns this spring with nationally acclaimed poet Morgan Parker for the release of *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*. On February 15, Parker will discuss the book with writer and journalist Jenna Wortham, moderated by Rujeko Hockley, assistant curator of contemporary art at the Brooklyn Museum.

Morgan Parker uses political and pop-cultural references as a framework to explore 21st-century black American womanhood. Equally confessional and performative, her poems and essays mine the complexities of depression, sexuality, and race to create an archive of experiences and representations. Writer Jenna Wortham also explores black femininity and imagery, focusing on technology, wellness, and community. Her work investigates methods of collective healing and sharply challenges stereotypes. With moderator Rujeko Hockley, Parker and Wortham will discuss Parker's new collection of poems, using visual art, media, and American history as lenses for understanding the multiplicity of black womanhood. The event will include a reading from *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*, a discussion, an audience Q&A, and a book signing with Morgan Parker.

About the Artists

Morgan Parker is the author of *Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up At Night* (Switchback Books 2015) and *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé* (Tin House 2017). Her work has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, and *Buzzfeed*. Her poetry has been anthologized in *Why I Am Not A Painter*, *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, and *Best American Poetry 2016*. Parker is the recipient of a 2017 National Endowment of the Arts Literature Fellowship, winner of a 2016 Pushcart Prize, and a Cave Canem graduate fellow. With Tommy Pico, she co-curates the "Poets With Attitude" (PWA) reading series, and with poet Angel Nafis, she is "The Other Black Girl Collective." She lives with her dog Braeburn in Brooklyn, NY. morgan-parker.com

Jenna Wortham is a staff writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. She is currently working on a visual book project with Kimberley Drew called *The Black Futures Project*. She runs a newsletter called *Fermentation and Formation*, and is co-host of the podcast *Still Processing* with Wesley Morris. She lives in Brooklyn. jennydeluxe.com

Rujeko Hockley is assistant curator of contemporary art at the Brooklyn Museum, a post she has held since 2012. She has worked on a variety of exhibitions including *LaToya Ruby Frazier: A Haunted Capital* (2013), *The Bruce High Quality Foundation: Ode to Joy, 2001-2013* (2013), *Unfolding Tales: Selections from the Collection* (2013, 2014) (co-curator), *Crossing*

Brooklyn: Art from Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, and Beyond (2014) (co-curator), *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic* (2015), *I See Myself in You: Selections from the Collection* (2015) (co-curator), *Kara Walker: African Boy Attendant Curio (Bananas)* (2015) (curator), *Tom Sachs: Boombox Retrospective, 1999-2016* (2016), and the forthcoming *We Wanted A Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* (2017) (co-curator). She serves on the board of Art Matters, as well as the advisory board of Recess. She received her BA from Columbia University in art history and is a PhD candidate in art history, theory, and criticism in the visual arts department at the University of California, San Diego.

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, opera, and film. Its mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Winter/Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world's most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Rose Cinemas features new, independent film releases and BAMcinématek-a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added the Richard B. Fisher Building to its campus, providing an intimate and flexible 250-seat performance venue-the Fishman Space-as well as the Hillman Studio, a rehearsal and performance space. BAM serves New York City's diverse population through a weekend concert series in BAMcafé, community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational and family programs. BAM, America's oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 750,000 people each year. The institution is led by President Katy Clark and Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo. Visit BAM.org.

Founded in October 2009, **Greenlight Bookstore** is a general independent bookstore with two store locations in Brooklyn, as well as kiosks at BAM theaters. Through knowledgeable staff, curated book selection, community partnerships, and a robust e-commerce website as well as beautiful bookstore spaces on Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue, Greenlight combines the best traditions of the neighborhood bookstore with a forward-looking sensibility. Greenlight has garnered local, national, and international press coverage for its innovative startup model and its continuing success. In addition to partnering with BAM on the *Unbound* series, Greenlight hosts literary events in its stores several nights a week. More information and details can be found at greenlightbookstore.com.

For press information on *Unbound: A Book Launch Series with BAM and Greenlight Bookstore* contact Christina Norris, cnorris@bam.org, 718.636.4129 x8

Credits

Programming in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House is supported and endowed by The Howard Gilman Foundation. Programming in the BAM Lepercq Space is supported by The Lepercq Charitable Foundation. BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose, and have been generously supported by The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, and the Estate of Richard B. Fisher.

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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