



MEDIA ADVISORY

Writer and curator Kimberly Drew and *New York Times Magazine* staff writer Jenna Wortham celebrate the launch of their new book, *Black Futures*, in a special evening of discussion on Dec 7 at 7pm

With activist Raquel Willis and artist Naima Green, the creatives probe the question: “What does it mean to be Black and alive right now?”

Presented as part of Unbound, a literary series co-presented by Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and Greenlight Bookstore



Kimberly Drew Photograph by Tyler Mitchell and
Jenna Wortham Photograph by Naima Green

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Black Futures

With Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham
In conversation with Raquel Willis and Naima Green
Showcasing the work of Naima Green
Co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore as part of Unbound

Livestream via Zoom Webinar
Dec 7 at 7pm
Tickets: \$50 (shipped book); \$45 (in-store book pickup); \$15 (event only)

On **Monday, December 7 at 7pm**, **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)** and **Greenlight Bookstore** welcome writer, curator, and activist **Kimberly Drew** and *New York Times Magazine* culture writer **Jenna Wortham** in a livestream conversation on their new book collaboration ***Black Futures***, a visual anthology of Black creativity, identity, and culture. To celebrate the launch of their new work the co-editors are joined by award-winning writer and activist **Raquel Willis** and *Black Futures* contributor Brooklyn artist **Naima Green** to probe the question: “What does it mean to be Black and alive right now?” *Black Futures* is a collection of work—featuring images, photos, essays, memes, dialogues, recipes, tweets, poetry, and more—that tells the story of the radical, imaginative, provocative, and gorgeous world that Black creators are bringing forth today.

The evening will also include a showcase of Green's visual work in addition to the discussion about the new archive of collective memory and exuberant testimony, a luminous map to navigate an opaque and disorienting present, and an infinite geography of possible futures. BAM and Greenlight Bookstore will virtually present the highly anticipated discussion as a part of their popular Unbound literary series focusing on book launches and new releases of renowned authors, artists, and public figures.

This livestream event will be ASL interpreted and include Closed Captioning. Tickets are on sale now. For more information visit bam.org. A portion of ticket revenue from this event will go to The Campaign Against Hunger.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Kimberly Drew is a writer, curator, and activist. Drew received her B.A. from Smith College in art history and African American studies. During her time at Smith, she launched the Tumblr blog Black Contemporary Art, which has featured artwork by nearly 5,000 Black artists. Drew's writing has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Elle UK*, and *Glamour*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York (just a few blocks away from Jenna Wortham). Twitter: @museummammy Instagram: @museummammy

Jenna Wortham is a staff writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. She is also co-host of the podcast *Still Processing*, as well as a sound healer, reiki practitioner, and herbalist, all of which she lovingly practices on Kimberly Drew. She is currently working on a book about the body and dissociation. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Jennydeluxe.com Instagram: @jennydeluxe.com

Raquel Willis is a Black transgender activist, writer, and media strategist dedicated to elevating the dignity of marginalized people, particularly Black transgender people. She was recently announced as the new Director of Communications for The Ms. Foundation. She is the former executive editor of *Out Magazine* and a former national organizer for Transgender Law Center (TLC). In 2018, she founded Black Trans Circles, a project of TLC, focused on developing the leadership of Black trans women in the South and Midwest by creating healing justice spaces to work through oppression-based trauma and incubating community organizing efforts to address anti-trans murder and violence. During her time at Out, she published the GLAAD Media Award-winning "Trans Obituaries Project" to highlight the epidemic of violence against trans women of color and developed a community-sourced 13-point framework to end the epidemic. Willis is a thought leader on gender, race, and intersectionality. She's experienced in online publications, organizing marginalized communities for social change, non-profit media strategy, and public speaking while using digital activism as a major tool of resistance and liberation. She will be releasing *The Risk It Took to Bloom*, her debut essay collection about her coming of identity and activism with St. Martin's Press in 2021. Follow Raquel on Twitter @RaquelWillis_ and Instagram @raquel_willis

Naima Green is an artist and educator born in Philadelphia and raised in New York. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at Fotografiska, Smart Museum of Art, MASS MoCA, International Center of Photography, Houston Center for Photography, Bronx Museum, BRIC, ltd los angeles, Gallery 102, Gracie Mansion Conservancy, Shoot the Lobster, Studio Museum in Harlem, and Arsenal Gallery. Her works are in the collections of MoMA Library, International Center of Photography Library, Decker Library at MICA, National Gallery of Art, Leslie-Lohman Museum, Teachers College, and Barnard College Library. She holds an MFA in Photography from ICP-Bard, an MA from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a BA from Barnard College.

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 and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts. BAM Film features new, independent film releases and 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 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. Visit BAM.org.

Founded in October 2009, **Greenlight Bookstore** is a general independent bookstore with two store locations in Brooklyn. 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. For more information visit greenlightbookstore.com. Visit bam.org for more information.

BAM and Greenlight Bookstore have partnered to present **Unbound**, a literary series focusing on book launches and new releases of renowned authors, artists, and public figures. From fiction to memoir, poetry to photography, the series has created dynamic spaces for audiences to engage with critical questions facing society today and celebrate a wide range of narratives and literary forms. Past Unbound authors include Alicia Garza, Saeed Jones, Malala Yousafzai, Roxane Gay, Dapper Dan, Staceyann Chin, Ina Garten, Elvis Costello, Darnell L. Moore, Gloria Steinem, Neil Gaiman, Arundhati Roy, Kim Gordon, Morgan Parker, Masha Gessen, Rebecca Solnit, and others.

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