

**Rashaad Newsome's *Build or Destroy*
January 15 – February 26, 2022**



Rashaad Newsome, *Build or Destroy*, 2021 (Still). Video with sound, 5:27 minutes. Image courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman.

**Opening Artist Reception:
January 15, 4-6pm**

December 07, 2021, San Francisco, CA – Minnesota Street Project Foundation (MSP Foundation) is pleased to announce the public debut of *Build or Destroy*, by multimedia artist Rashaad Newsome, opening January 15, 2022. *Build or Destroy*, is the fourth exhibition by the inaugural grantees of the MSP Foundation's [California Black Voices Project](#), which launched in 2020. The final exhibition featuring grantee Indira Allegra will open in March 2022.

Newsome is a multimedia artist whose work takes inspiration from Black and Queer culture. Collage is both a technique and conceptual framework for the artist whose wide-ranging practice includes sculpture, film, photography, music, computer programming, software engineering, community organizing, and performance. Repurposing imagery from art and cultural history, advertising, and the internet, he creates aggregate and inclusive forms of media such as the self-possessed, non-binary chatbot *Being 1.0* (2019), which is trained on data sets of texts by cultural theorists bell hooks and Michel Foucault, as well as the baroquely adorned female figure in *1st Place* (2016), a major large-scale collage comprised of cut-up images of glossy lips, diamond bracelets, fishnet stockings, and fiery explosions.

In his new single-channel video, *Build or Destroy* (2021), featured on the main floor at Minnesota Street Project in Gallery 106, Newsome brings to life the female composition in *1st Place*. Animating the

bedazzled and blazing body against an original soundtrack, the artist explores ideas around identity construction—particularly Black trans femme identity—and how performance might offer space for its creation and detonation.

Build or Destroy is written, produced, directed, and edited by Rashaad Newsome, featuring Honey Balenciaga, Legendary Divo Ebony, Kevin JZ Prodigy, and Kyron El. The dancers who contributed movement to this work are Honey Balenciaga and Divo Ebony. *Build or Destroy* premiered at the San José Museum of Art's 2021 Gala + Auction broadcast and was exhibited online through October 31, 2021. The California Black Voices Project grantee exhibition at Minnesota Street Project is the first opportunity to view Newsome's newest work in-person.

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Opening Artist Reception: January 15, 2022, from 4-6pm.

The exhibition is free and open to the public at 1275 Minnesota Street Project and online. For information on the Project's social distancing requirements and hours of operation visit: <http://minnesotastreetproject.com>

Build or Destroy opens on January 15, 2022 and runs through February 26, 2022 at Minnesota Street Project. To further experience the work of California Black Voices Project inaugural grantee Rashaad Newsome, visit [Jessica Silverman](#). *Build or Destroy* was made possible by the support of the Minnesota Street Project Foundation and the San José Museum of Art.

About Rashaad Newsome

Newsome (b. 1979, New Orleans) lives and works between Brooklyn New York City and Oakland California. He has exhibited and performed in galleries, museums, institutions, and festivals throughout the world including The Studio Museum in Harlem (NYC), The National Museum of African American History and Culture (DC), The Whitney Museum (NYC), Brooklyn Museum (NYC), MoMAPS1 (NYC), SFMOMA (CA), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture (Moscow), and MUSA (Vienna). Newsome's work is in numerous public collections including the Studio Museum in Harlem, Whitney Museum of American Art (NYC), The Brooklyn Museum of Art (NYC), SFMOMA (CA), Los Angeles County Museum of Art, McNay Art Museum (TX), The Chazen Museum of Art (WI), National Museum of African American History and Culture (DC) and The New Britain Museum of American Art (CT). In 2010 he participated in the Whitney Biennial (NYC), and in 2011 Greater New York at MoMAPS1 (NYC). Newsome is represented by Jessica Silverman, San Francisco.

About California Black Voices Project

[California Black Voices Project](#) is a grant-making program of the Minnesota Street Project Foundation for Black artists and curators working in California. Five grantees were selected through a jury composed of four prominent art world professionals. Each grantee receives \$10,000, and an exhibition presented at Minnesota Street Project, as well as virtually on MSP Adjacent. Upcoming 2021–2022 exhibitions are currently in development with California Black Voices Project inaugural grantees Indira Allegra and

Rashaad Newsome. For information visit: <https://minnesotastreetproject.org/california-black-voices-project>

About Minnesota Street Project Foundation

Established in 2019, [Minnesota Street Project Foundation](#) embarks on initiatives to further develop the diversity and vibrancy of arts-related culture within and beyond the Minnesota Street Project's model. The MSP Foundation is dedicated to the realization of a thriving, sustainable arts community in the Bay Area.

Through collaboration, the MSP Foundation advances educational and civic programming and provides direct financial support to artist and arts organizations. The MSP Foundation commits to fostering relationships with local, national, and international businesses, individuals, and institutions to support the evolving landscape of art practice and patronage. For more information on supporting expanded programming, please visit [Minnesota Street Project Foundation](#).

Minnesota Street Project Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.