

I propose to screen my video titled - **THE TRIAL** (approx. 35 minutes), create an installation for **The Gramsci Room** titled – **THE BOX WITHIN ME** and to facilitate create discussion sessions & collaborations.

This project will create an open call to other NYC to join in collaborations to extend the scope of **THE TRIAL**. The discussion sessions will investigate white privilege and be used to collaborate on a future project **THE TRIAL – Phase 2**. (...further video/animation/theatrical production development, or other...)

I believe artists will find this history of Harlem and its modern-day relevance compelling. The themes presented in **THE TRIAL** and **THE BOX WITHIN ME** include aspects of white privilege, systemic racism, patriarchy, party politics and the justice system. I want to challenge artists to investigate these themes using their own multidisciplinary practices.

Visual arts, performance art, social engagement, dance, poetry, spoken word, music...every form of expression would be welcomed in this call. These artists would own their own approaches and forms of work but I hope that they would agree to share those works in a collaborative archive. With these approaches and all the audiences that these artists reach we can amplify our message of anti-racism.

I would love to see theatre artists create a stage performance and have choirs (a modern Finnish choir, a Baptist choir and an Islamic choral group) arrange works on these themes. Ideally, I would love to see choirs acting as Greek choruses during a stage production of **THE TRIAL**.

### What can I deliver to WhiteBox?

#### 1. Video – THE TRIAL

I will present a video THE TRAIL (approximately 35 minutes)

#### 2. The Gramsci Room installation – THE BOX WITHIN ME

The 4 walls of the Gramsci Room will be covered in primed canvas.

Each wall has a central text in large **BOLD BLOCK LETTERING** with large spaces to the left and right of the following texts.

**HOW WHITE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?**

**HOW WHITE DO YOU THINK?**

**SETTLER CONVERSION THERAPY**

**DECOLONIZING ONE SETTLER AT A TIME**

Broad-tipped permanent markers are available to viewers to records their reactions (comments, sketches, doodle...) directly on the canvases. **See attached document for a layout of these walls.**

#### 3. Discussions & Collaborations & Grant writing

Participation in discussion sessions hosted by WhiteBox. This could involve ZOOM links to distant participants. I can invite participants and audience members from my circles.

I will work with WhiteBox to formulate an open call for the next step of THE TRIAL, to seek other artists/groups to riff on the themes of THE TRIAL. I will work collaboratively with WhiteBox under its curatorial direction and advice – I will listen and learn. I will work to learn more about myself as a white man, and about the Alphabet City and Harlem communities through this project.

(I can also exhibit a series of paintings (18" x 24" oil on gallery canvas hung in obscure locations) that directly relate to 1930's Harlem and this historic trial.)

I will work on grant funding opportunities available to me in Canada.

This proposal is the first step in building collaborative projects (e.g. **THE TRIAL – Phase 2**) and perhaps the development of a **digital collaborative network** (for artists investigating issues of social justice). There is Canadian funding for such a project and this could be the first step in building a case for that future funding.

These dreams are big, much bigger than me, and they will depend on other artists being interested.

**Wish me luck...Rob Snikkar**