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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 23, 2020

GODINE FAMILY GALLERY | 621 Huntington Ave (MassArt) | Boston, MA 02115

## **THEFT OF THIS CASE IS PUNISHABLE BY LAW**

**Shaka Dendy & Noriyoshi Needle – *PUNISHABLE BY LAW***

February 3 – 14, 2020

Opening Reception: Saturday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm

For February 2020, Godine Family Gallery is pleased to host a dual exhibition entitled *PUNISHABLE BY LAW*, featuring artists **Shaka Dendy** and **Noriyoshi Needle**.

Working across installation, sculpture, video, digital and printed media, Dendy and Needle confront the criminalization of marginalized communities and the collective generation of possibility. Probing the historical and contemporary significance of plastic crates, raw cotton stalks, police batons, traffic cones, and other objects via their recontextualization, the work addresses toxic biases towards race, class, and age spearheaded by hegemonic powers. Dendy and Needle wield their dual positions as interdisciplinary artists and community organizers to speculate futures through unforgettable art experiences. Additionally, the exhibition extends into room N181 featuring a series of works by Needle.



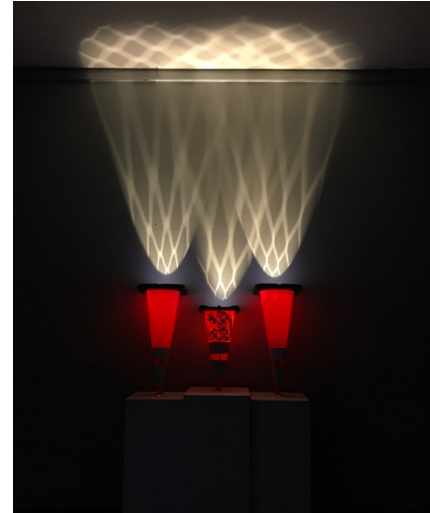
*PUNISHABLE BY LAW* is on view from February 3<sup>rd</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> at Godine Family Gallery, with an opening reception on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

*Punishable by law. An insidious reminder. A half-empty threat. Insurance. A reason to f\*ck with you, if we feel like it. We is the state. The manufacturer. The dollar. A badge. A machine designed to marginalize you, then punish you for it. Because to be marginal is to be criminal. And to be criminal is punishable by law.*

– Shaka Dendy

*When people everywhere take utility into their own hands and reject a preconceived corporate purpose; When people everywhere build alternative resources and infrastructure based on need; With manipulations of labor into play and objects into universes, authority and private property must perpetually legitimize themselves. They respond with violence. How do we respond?*

– Noriyoshi Needle



More about the artists:

### **SHAKA DENDY**

Shaka Dendy is a conceptual artist working to explore and complicate Blackness by recontextualizing Black experiences and aesthetics in an art-historical framework. His interdisciplinary practice includes sculpture, performance, installation, video, and music, and makes use of conceptual art, minimalism, arte povera, and the avant-garde in order to critique and confront norms—all with unmistakable humor and wit.

Dendy is a founding member of the Boston-based industrial rap band *Camp Blood* and received his MFA from Emerson College. He lives and works in Boston.

### **NORIYOSHI NEEDLE**

Noriyoshi Needle is an interdisciplinary artist and community organizer working across sculpture, video, installation, publication, and digital multimedia to articulate the intersections of play, direct action, education, and youth liberation. They are a current student in the Studio for Interrelated Media program at MassArt.

About Godine Family Gallery:

Godine Family Gallery is a student-run, multi-purpose, and experimental art space within the Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM) program at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) in Boston, MA. We showcase both student and local artist's work through public exhibitions, performances, events, and gatherings that serve the broader Boston community.

The gallery's 2019-20 managers are Gina Lindner, Gaby Schaab, and Keagan Marcella.