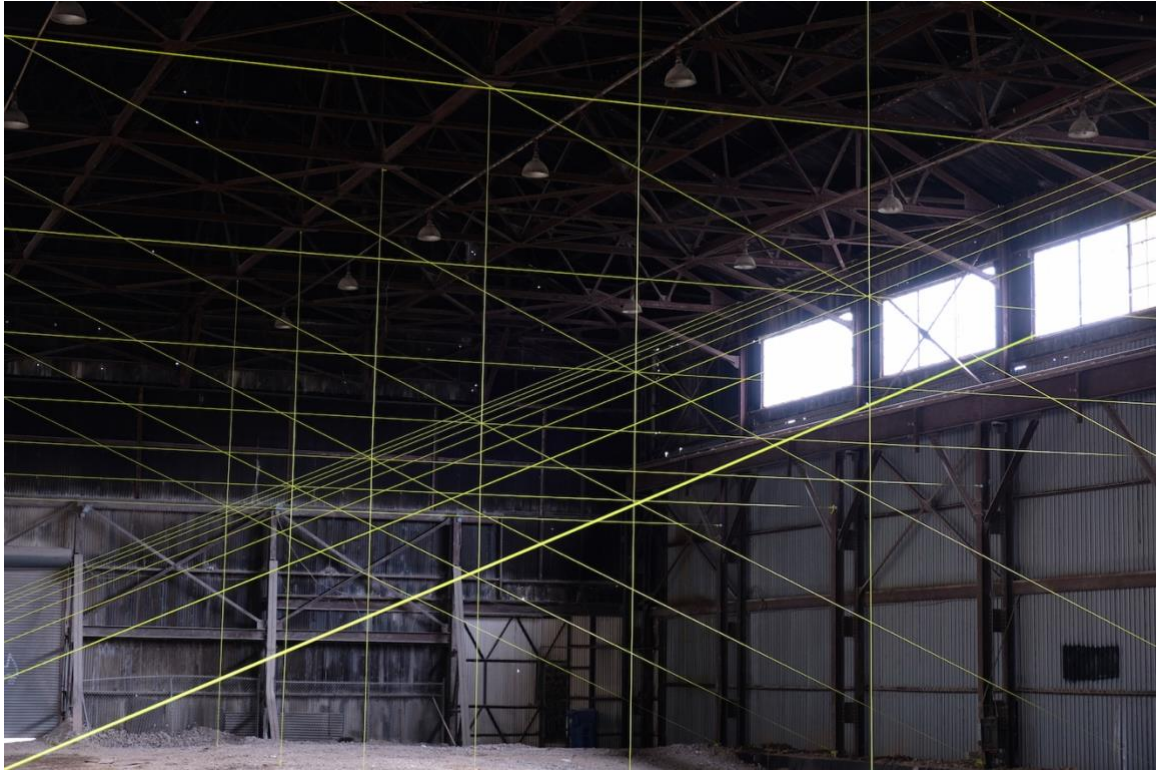


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## Jeff Williams: 17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of Shade

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 6PM  
EXHIBITION DATES: September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
HOURS: Saturday and Sunday from 1-6PM and by appointment  
LOCATION: RAIR, 7333 Milnor Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136  
<http://rairphilly.org/>

Philadelphia, August 29, 2018 – RAIR is pleased to present *17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of Shade*, a site-based project by **Jeff Williams**. Located within Revolution Recovery – a construction waste recycling facility– Williams’ **large scale installation** will be the first artwork exhibited in the **Metal Bank Superfund site**. The artist has included a statement for the project:

The one thing you can’t do is dig. Currently, the Metal Bank Superfund site is between phases, a potential new building for Revolution Recovery and RAIR. But it is in waiting, 17,000 square feet of shade.

The facility is made up of I-beams and angle iron, bolted together in large twenty-foot asterisk formations that repeat along the walls and above, gridding out the ceiling. In written text, an asterisk is a symbol that can stand-in for omitted matter. Within the confines of this facility, it is difficult to avoid thinking about what will eventually be excluded. The ground has received its first phase of remediation and is ready for new concrete, sealing the past in a sepulchral slab.

The asterisk also resembles lines of excavation used in architecture and archeology to frame a site for digging. Thin chromatic lines layout the footprint of a project. Actual lines of excavation will never be drawn at the Metal Bank but through flipping the lines vertically at a ninety-degree angle, strung through the void of open air, the lines of excavation give scale to a space that is difficult to comprehend due to its size – 205 x 84 x 60 feet. Repeated down the length of the facility, the new lines map a volume. The diagonal lineation is suspended in tension and stretches far above the ground. The overlapping acute and obtuse angles optically connect with the ceiling, visually merging rusted steel with neon yellow rope. The lines both delineate and confuse, they are in motion, through their multiple viewpoints in space, marking intersecting and distinct moments in time.

The staff at RAIR has been eagerly awaiting access to the Metal Bank to host temporary work running concurrent with the residency program. The building is housed within a larger material recycling facility and we are working outside of their operating hours. ***17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of Shade will be open 1-6 Sat and Sun for two-weekends Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 6-7 or by appointment.***

**About RAIR:** RAIR's mission is to challenge the perception of waste culture by providing a unique platform for artists at the intersection of art and industry. Situated inside a construction and demolition waste recycling company in northeast Philadelphia, RAIR offers artist's studio space and access to more than 450 tons of materials per day. Since its inception in 2010, RAIR's flagship Residency Program has established itself as a unique opportunity for emerging, mid-career, and established artists. By facilitating artists' direct engagement with the waste stream, RAIR encourages residents to consider their studio practice through the lens of sustainability and to thoughtfully re-assess their processes of material sourcing and waste disposal. Collaborating with community groups, art institutions and waste industry partners, RAIR has also extended its reach far beyond its resident artists through Projects including recycling facility tours, class presentations, public events and exhibitions that illuminate the connections between art, industry and sustainability. RAIR offers assistance with the material sourcing, planning, design, and fabrication involved in a range of cross-disciplinary projects, and works with collaborators to maximize the creative potential of waste materials.

**About the Artist:** Jeff Williams splits his time between Austin, TX and Brooklyn, NY. Williams has exhibited across America and internationally, and in 2012 he received the Texas Prize from Arthouse in Austin, TX. Williams has received numerous accolades and residencies, most recently from Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California, Artpace in San Antonio, Galería Perdida, in Michoacán, Mexico and the Core Program through the Museum of Fine Art Houston, Texas. The artist received fellowships from the Socrates Sculpture Park in New York and the American Academy in Rome through The Leonore Annenberg Foundation. Recent reviews, interviews and articles on his work include the New York Times, Art in America, Blouin Modern Painters, Coronagraph, Austin Chronicle, Hyperallergic, Miami Rail, Artpapers, and Might Be Good.

<http://jeff-williams.net/>

<http://www.jackhanley.com/artists/jeff-williams>