

This book was written across three US presidencies—or, perhaps more precisely, the ideas that have culminated in this book began during the latter part of Barack Obama’s second term in office, and I wrote and revised, revised and wrote, across the two presidencies that followed his. I share this information to allude to the timeline for incubating and producing a second book as an associate professor who changed institutional affiliations. I share this also to indicate the significance of political occurrence for framing and altering black cultural practice as well as the transformations in critical discourses evolved in commensurate study of it. Most relevant to my disclosure is the challenge of adequately accounting for and acknowledging all of those people, events, institutional sites, communitarian structures that allowed this book—written in and through such profound change and such profound staying-the-same—to be completed, to end up here as study, as meditation, as offering, as promise (from me to you).

I owe profound gratitude to Phillip Brian Harper, whose graduate course Problems in Representations of Blackness and whose book *Abstractionist Aesthetics: Artistic Form and Social Critique in African American Culture* first alerted me to the political undercurrents of experimental black expressive practice. Instead of viewing black abstractionist cultural production as a flight from social concern and political engagement, Harper brilliantly shifted the focus of black cultural studies to form and to black aesthetic experiments as sites of political imagination and potential sociopolitical remediation. His courageous, visionary scholarship inspires this study. My other primary teacher, whose classroom I have never entered but whose thought is the ongoing occasion and condition of possibility for my own, is Hortense

Spillers. To her I owe deep gratitude for touchstone moments in my career when a simple, if metaphorical, nod from her was permission to continue in a chosen direction. Guiding my paths of inquiry and indelibly marking them throughout this book is her field-defining scholarship on black genders, black cultures, black literatures.

For being my long-standing models of academic rigor, professional poise, interminable grace, I am indebted always to Elizabeth McHenry and Joycelyn Moody. For genuine friendship and the smartest conversations, I thank long-term besties and favorites Asha Tall, Megan Finch, beluvid ola-jendai, C. Riley Snorton, Rich Blint. The analyses developed throughout this book have benefited from astute, dedicated interlocuters, who have doubled as colleagues and friends at Brandeis University and Brown University: Faith Smith, Chad Williams, David Sherman, Ulka Anjaria, Tom King, Jasmine Johnson, Carina Ray, Paul Morrison, John Burt, John Plotz, Salah Hassan, Kevin Quashie, Matt Guterl, Leticia Alvarado, Patrick Sylvain, Timothy Bewes, Elena Shih, Kiri Miller, Wendy Lee, Alexander Weheliye, Yannis Hamilakis, Tricia Rose, Vazira Zamindar, Rolland Murray, Daniel Kim, Richard Rambuss, Ralph Rodriguez, Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, Emily Owens, Leela Gandhi, Amanda Anderson, Dixa Ramirez-D'Oleo, Olukunle George. Deep thinking and cherished conversations with scholars and friends across institutions and disciplines have refined my thought and strengthened this book immeasurably. For this, I thank Shoniqua Roach, Riché Richardson, Sandy Alexandre, Kimberly Juanita Brown, La Marr Jurelle Bruce, Samantha Pinto, Simone Browne, Jasper Verlinden, Shanté Paradigm Smalls, Ramzi Fawaz, Peter Lurie, Gershun Avilez, Dagmawi Woubshet, Yogita Goyal, LaMonda Stallings, Amber Musser, Florian Seidlmeier. It was my great fortune to work with three amazing research assistants in the English Department at Brown, whose meticulous research and care with the manuscript enabled it to emerge: Devon Clifton, Juan Gallardo, Tara Holman, thank you so very much!

Ken Wissoker saw what this book could be and believed in it before I did, and he patiently awaited its completion through the unpredictability and difficulty of pandemic times. I am convinced that Ken is the simply the best editor ever, a brilliant visionary who has both supported the careers of (variously minoritized) scholars and helped to shape fields of inquiry. I offer additional heartfelt thanks to the staff at Duke University Press for bringing this book into the world. The anonymous readers of the manuscript helped it to become what it needed to be. I am forever indebted to them. I am deeply grateful to all of the folks who invited me, joined, with me, and facilitated my

participation in lectures, conferences, and symposia over the years in which work from this book was shared and from which it has been developed.

My family is my most profound treasure. I offer profound gratitude to my thirteen siblings, my beloved cothinkers and cotravelers in life. How we love and shield and hold one another each day has taught me what it is to be in community, what it is to be people truly together. I miss my father, Mujahid, desperately still. My mother, my Umi, Inshirah, is my first and truest model of what it is to be human, to be Muslim, to be woman, to be person. Words inevitably fail to convey the love and awe and deep humility and hope she inspires in me. Finally, to Isa and Kamilah, my ones, around whom daily life is organized and to whom this book is dedicated: I thank you for arriving and for defining my life purpose at the vastly different times of your arrivals. Your very beingness—and the mind-blowing beauty at the heart of it—is what compels me to imagine and to seek constantly conditions of inhabitability in and of this world you have inherited.

For anyone who was there whom I have failed to mention here, please forgive me. And please know that you, too, have my sincerest gratitude.

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