



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

by  
Marisa Williamson



**November 12, 2019, New York, NY** – **14x48** is pleased to announce the posting of “Kindred” a billboard by multimedia artist Marisa Williamson. The billboard, posted on the corner of 11th Avenue and 46th st, is based on a quote by the author Octavia Butler: “To survive, know the past. Let it touch you. Then, let the past go.”

Williamson’s billboard draws inspiration from Butler’s book *Kindred*, which explores desire, race, gender, and history through metaphoric narratives and time travel to the antebellum south. Williamson’s protagonist, a young black woman, floats across the sky on a 48 foot long billboard that looms above the street in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan. The character is based on Dana, the protagonist of *Kindred*, and the personas Williamson embodies in her work. As the artist describes, “Butler conjures dystopian and utopian worlds in her work, all based in some version of reality... providing insight not only into how history is understood, but how it is felt.”

The artist will be hosting a street-side public reading and book club on **November 24th at 3 pm** beneath the billboard. For more information please visit <http://www.14x48.org/campaigns.html#campaign21>

The billboard will be on view through **December 1st, 2019.**

## About the Artist

Marisa Williamson is a multimedia artist based in Newark, NJ. She has created site-specific works at and in collaboration with SPACES (Cleveland), the University of Virginia (Charlottesville), Monument Lab/Mural Arts (Philadelphia), Monticello (Charlottesville), Storm King Art Center (NY), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She received her B.A. from Harvard University and her M.F.A. from CalArts. She was a participant in the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in 2012, the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program in 2014-2015, and Shandaken: Storm King in 2015. She has taught at the Pratt Institute, the Brooklyn Museum, and Rutgers University. She is currently on the faculty at the University of Hartford.

## About 14x48

14x48 repurposes vacant billboards as public art space in order to create more opportunities in public art for emerging artists, to challenge emerging artists to engage more with public art, and to enliven the vibrancy of our urban environment.

[www.14x48.org](http://www.14x48.org)

Artists for the fall 2019 billboard were nominated to apply by **Shandaken Projects**, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that has offered free services to artists since 2012. Nominated artists were selected from a pool of over 150 alumni of the residencies **Shandaken: Storm King** and **Shandaken: Governors Island**, as well as the postgraduate fellowship program **Paint School**, applications for which are currently open. More at [www.shandakenprojects.org](http://www.shandakenprojects.org).

## Support

Support for 14x48's public art projects has been made possible by individuals and the NY Community Trust, Lamar Outdoor, and Red Rock Outdoor. 14x48 is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by [Lower Manhattan Cultural Council](#). 14x48 is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts service organization.

## Visiting the Installation

The billboard is located on the corner of [11th Avenue and 46th Street in Manhattan](#).

## Media Contact

[info@14x48.org](mailto:info@14x48.org)

[nicholas@shandakenprojects.org](mailto:nicholas@shandakenprojects.org)