

## “We Don't Dream Under the Same Sky”

New art and writing by David Armstrong Jones, Donald Malone-El, Dyson X Slater, Fred Williams, James D. Fuson, James D. Thomas, Julian Johnson, Major Shepherd-El, Maurice Sanders, Raymond Hall, Rolando Hernandez, Steve Hibbler, Tony Tard, Timothy Sanders, and Yusef Qualls-El

April 15- April 29, 2017

**Opening Reception: 6-9pm, Saturday April 15 2017**

Panel Discussion: 2-3:30pm, Sunday April 16, 2017.

Poetry Reading and Closing Reception: 6-7:30pm, Saturday April 29

### Background

This exhibition presents new art and writing from the [Writer's Block](#), a growing collective and movement which, animated by creativity, supports personal and political transformations inside Michigan prisons. The focus, inevitably, is on the human tragedy and social injustice that is the prison industrial complex. The artists are almost all serving very long prison sentences, and many are Juvenile Lifers – juveniles sentenced as adults and incarcerated for life without chance of parole. The visions presented recall a history of silencing, discrimination, isolation and death, and they tell of limitations that continue to suffocate a fuller range of human expression.

The artists in the show are not just providing the content of the show, but have been actively involved in creating its meaning. Their message is that mass incarceration in America affects everyone in one way or another, and their intention is to allow the public to see and hear from real people inside the fences, and behind the walls, – to “humanize the numbers.”