

RISD MUSEUM

Steffani Jemison: Maniac Chase, Escaped Lunatic, and Personal
May 15, 2015–November 8, 2015

Steffani Jemison's videos *Maniac Chase* (2008–2009), *Escaped Lunatic* (2010–2011), and *Personal* (2014) use common styles of choreography and film and video production in uncommon ways. The works manipulate chronology, duration, and character psychology to create visual and narrative metaphors for the contemporary Black American experience, and for perceived and actual social progress.

Maniac Chase and *Escaped Lunatic* were created in response to Jemison's study of the chase genre, which originated in the first decade of 20th-century film. Both videos use repetition and subtle differences in action and shooting styles to depict a series of vignettes in which identically dressed individuals chase one another through urban landscapes.

Personal employs similar editorial and stylistic devices—static camera shots, long-duration single shots, and nuanced ambient sounds—subtly and at times obliquely pushing these conventions to disorient the viewer's sense of time, place, and subject.

Steffani Jemison (American, b. 1981) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She uses time-based, photographic, and discursive platforms to examine “progress” and its alternatives.

CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Steffani Jemison
American, b.1981
Maniac Chase, 2008-2009
Single-channel video; color, sound
Courtesy of the artist TL60.2015.1



Steffani Jemison
American, b.1981
Escaped Lunatic, 2010-2011
Single-channel video; color, sound
Courtesy of the artist TL60.2015.2



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Steffani Jemison
American, b.1981
Personal, 2014
Single-channel video; color, sound
Courtesy of the artist TL60.2015.3

