

# AUGUST TAUGHT US...

by DS Kinsel on view in the  
Benedum Gallery, 2nd floor

March 6 - April 6, 2025

*August Taught Us...* is a recent body of work by artist DS Kinsel (b. 1984, Pittsburgh, PA) representing his multiyear practice in creating art objects inspired directly by the life and legacy of American playwright August Wilson (1945-2005). In this exhibition, DS Kinsel plays artist and scribe, presenting text-based paintings and sculptures that explore messaging through form, pattern, and shape. This collection of artifacts was directly inspired by Kinsel's research within the August Wilson Archive as a 2023 award recipient of the August Wilson Archive Community Artist Scholar Award. Housed in Hillman Library at the University of Pittsburgh, the August Wilson Archive officially opened to the public in March 2023. Kinsel skillfully deconstructs discoveries from the archive around the life and work of August Wilson—born Frederick August Kittel Jr. in the Hill District community of Pittsburgh—going beyond his public persona, *August Taught Us...* honors the memories, history, and heart of the individuals and communities that shaped and inspired Wilson's prolific work.

The exhibit recasts the eras, items, and cultural confluence that influenced these works—from ideation to production—while offering a view into Wilson's process and its resonance within Black cultural history. *August Taught Us...* not only draws inspiration from the August Wilson Archive, but also the Heinz History Center, The Studio Museum in Harlem's 20/20 exhibition at The Carnegie Museum of Art, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Zine Collection. This series continues to expand upon Kinsel's work around Wilson, exploring themes presented in his previous exhibitions at The Museum of Human Achievement in 2016, and *Alchemical*, which was exhibited at A.I.R. in 2022. This body of work serves as a visual capsule, chronicling a nonlinear narrative of Black genius, personal artistic development, creative research, and the making of Wilson's American Century Cycle. *August Taught Us...* also blends Kinsel's personal archive of text, images, and messaging, with Wilson's historic photographs, regional playbills, production notes, critical reviews, personal sketches, and correspondences.



DS Kinsel is an award-winning creative entrepreneur and cultural agitator who expresses his creativity through various forms, including painting, printmaking, collage, installation, curating, performance, and public art. His work focuses on themes such as space keeping, urban tradition, hip-hop, Informalism, and cultural re-appropriation. DS is a former AmeriCorps Public Ally member and an Awardee of the Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40, Pittsburgh Magazine PUMP 40 under 40, PGH Tech Council Creative of the Year, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's "Top Ten People to Meet in 2016," and the Incline's "Who's Next" for 2018. DS is also the co-founder of BOOM Concepts, a creative hub dedicated to advancing black and brown artists representing marginalized communities. Since its establishment in 2014, BOOM Concepts, based in Pittsburgh, has curated 50 on-site exhibitions, paid over \$500,000 in artists fees, and produced 200+ events across the country. BOOM serves as a space for field building, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and storytelling, continually challenging and uplifting the creative community. In 2021, BOOM Concepts was selected as one of the partners to represent the Greater Pittsburgh Region on the Google Arts & Culture platform and recognized as one of Pittsburgh's Cultural treasures through the Heinz Endowment and The Ford Foundation.





**The Four B's, 2024**

Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Black Power Portal, 2016-24**

Foamcore / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint /Black magic / time / references / oil paint / acrylic paint / oil pastel / Vanta black  
 36 x 36 inches  
 \$500.00  
 Courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Unclassified Files, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 36 x 48 inches  
 \$2,700.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**All Art Is Political 1, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**All Art Is Political 2, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**All Art Is Political 3, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**All Art Is Political 4, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**All Art Is Political 5, 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time / oil paint/ acrylic paint/ oil pastel  
 24 x 32 inches  
 \$900.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 1 (Gem of The Ocean), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 2 (Joe Turner's Come and Gone), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 3 (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 4 (The Piano Lesson), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 5 (Seven Guitars), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 6 (Fences), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 7 (Two Trains Running), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 8 (Jitney), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 9 (King Hedley II), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

**Kittle's Ephemera 10 (Radio Golf), 2024**

Collage on Hahnemühle paper / adhesive(s) / found print media / Kinsel print archive / tempera paint / Black magic / time  
 20 x 24 inches  
 \$750.00  
 August Wilson Archive, ca.1965-2020, SC.2020.05, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System; courtesy the Artist

*Books provided by Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System. Special thanks to August Wilson Archive staff, Doretha Murray, Brenden Peifer, and Ed Galloway for their contributions and support.*