

Street **Matter** — Decay & Forever / **Golden Age**, Art Papers, Winter 2018, print. pg. 38–40.



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Project
Kahlil Robert Irving

STREET *Matter* — **DECAY & FOREVER /**

**GOLDEN
AGE**

Internet Data Collage (*Focused eye*), presented on the two preceding pages as a complex work unto itself, is made from a series of screenshots taken from artist Kahlil Robert Irving's laptop and cell phone, as well as found and scanned images and objects. These images were then altered and arranged to use in decals (image transfers) on his ceramic sculpture, part of an ongoing body of work related to Irving's exhibition *Street Matter — Decay & Forever / Golden Age*, at Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery (Sept. 26 – Dec. 9, 2018). The exhibition included Irving's sculpture, works on paper, digital jacquard weavings, and found objects alongside two of his curatorial projects: *This Country*, an exhibition (Oct. 26 – Nov. 18, 2018) of artworks that use the American flag as a motif, referenced issues and conditions affecting what it means to live in the United States. *Mapping Energies* (Oct. 26 – Nov. 15, 2018) was a video project including works by invited artists, played in a specific sequence to form a collage-like narrative.

Irving is interested in the matter found when walking along the street. The litter and refuse overlooked by people in cars and trucks, riding bikes, and soon aboard hovercrafts accumulates from many aspects of people's lives. Irving sees what is beneath us, on the ground, reflected in the sky—like constellations that impart narratives, give directions, and offer a space for dreams and wishes. In his work, things are not necessarily what they seem. Irving's work calls attention to terror, historical and contemporary violence, and perceptions of the built environment. It asks the viewer to consider, as society struggles to evolve beyond colonialism, how we can dismantle the imperial orders that we live under and within.

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