

BIRTH PAPERS

A CARIBBEAN
DESIGN SHOW

PRESENTED BY

LEHWE

WITH
SUPPORT
FROM



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

PUERTO RICO

MAY 7 – JUN 5 2026



ST. THOMAS, USVI

OPENING JULY 11 2026

MULTI-SITE, EXTENDED RUN



JAMAICA

DECEMBER 2026



ABOUT LEHWE

LEHWE is an independent curatorial platform dedicated to championing Caribbean design.

Through exhibitions and programming, **LEHWE** aims to explore how layered regional and global histories shape the spaces, objects, and material practices of Caribbean life, foregrounding design vocabularies that are distinct yet interconnected by the region's creatives.

LEHWE was founded in 2025 by curator and researcher **Azi Jones**.

BIRTH PAPERS

DOUBLES. DOCUMENTATION. TRACEABILITY. VALUE.

The concept for our inaugural show ***BIRTH PAPERS*** plays on two meanings:

1. **Certificates of authenticity** and provenance used in design to establish and affirm the value, context, ownership, and authorship of an object.

and..

2. Colonial and contemporary **identification documents**, specifically birth certificates, which are more colloquially referred to in **Anglophone islands** as **"birth papers"**—and held as proof of one's legitimacy and/or belonging to a people or nation.

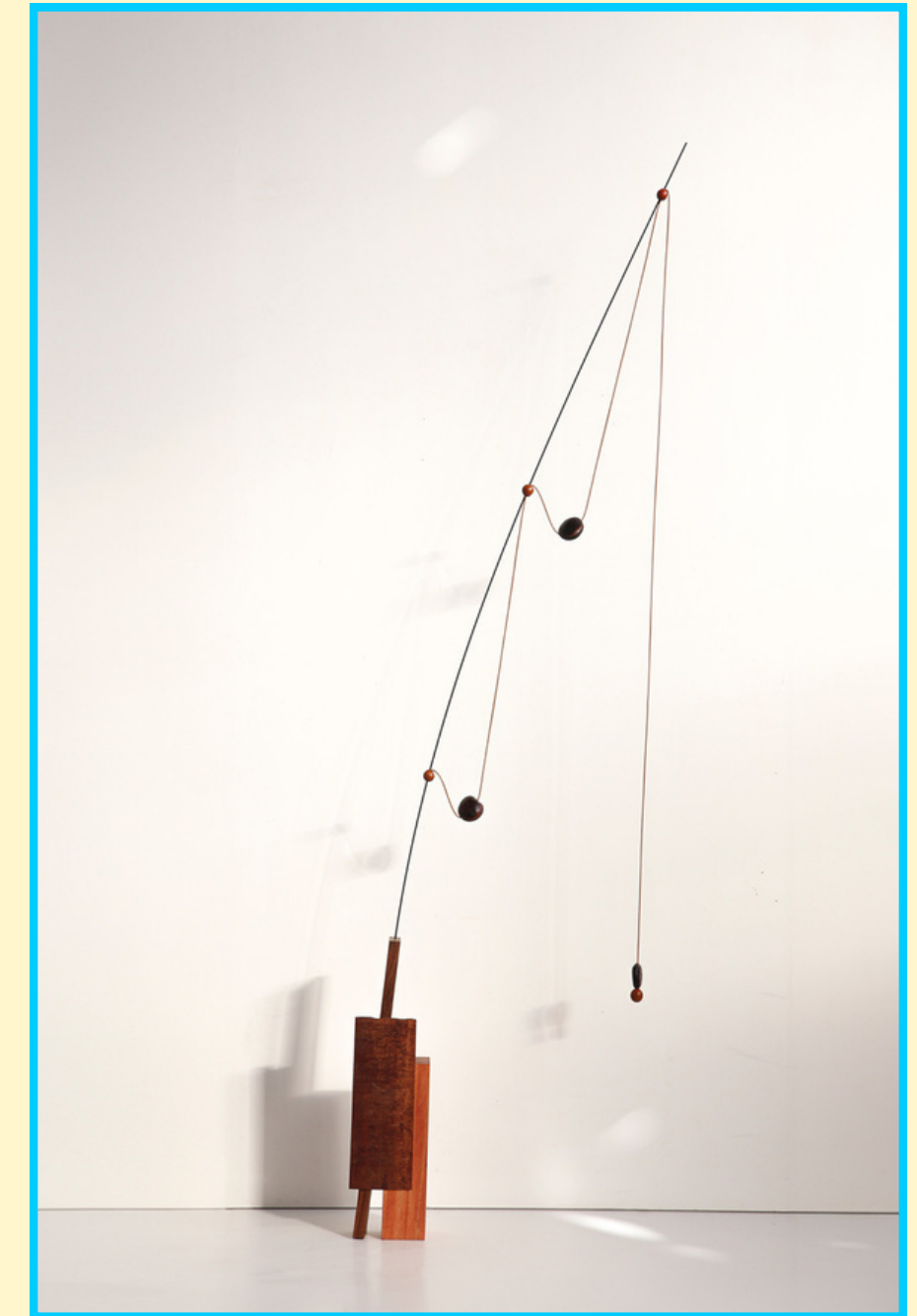
The artists in ***BIRTH PAPERS*** resist the **demands for singularity and traceability** embedded in formal documents like birth certificates and certificates of authenticity. Historically, such “papers” have acted as barriers, limiting access, legitimacy, and recognition for those whose identities and practices resist narrow categorization.

Working with **found, collected, or naturally sourced materials**, and through narratives that are at once **personal, collective**, and **regionally recognizable**, their works refuse to be tethered to a single origin or linear story.

Instead, they embody a Caribbean creativity that is inherently communal: born of necessity, environmental attunement, and cultural multiplicity.

These works not only raise new questions of value but also operate as counter documents—origin stories that name what remains obscured, reshaping how we understand the artists and the peculiarities of the world they inhabit locally and across the diaspora.

In this sense, each piece functions as a new birth paper: layered, adaptive, and transformative.



Caribbean Beauties #16 by French-Caribbean design duo dach&zephir.

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION

***BIRTH PAPERS* will unfold
through the end of 2026.**

The presentation will include related programming, including panels and workshops that activate the exhibition through scholarly conversation, hands-on immersive experiences, and the shared study and enjoyment of engaging with history, culture, and design.

Our stops:

Santurce, Puerto Rico

5 week show | May 7th - June 5th 2026

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

5 month show | Opening July 11th 2026

Pop-Up

Kingston, Jamaica

Opening in alignment with the Kingston
Biennial in December 2026.

GALLERY PARTNERS

At each stop, ***BIRTH PAPERS*** is hosted by local arts organizations. These collaborative partnerships expand audiences, deepen outreach and extend the exhibition's impact.

We are proud to partner with:



EL KILÓMETRO

Santurce, San Juan,
Puerto Rico



81C

St. Thomas, Charlotte
Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands

FEATURED VENUE EXPANSION IN ST. THOMAS:

THE CAMILLE PISSARRO HOUSE X 81C^{ARTS}

The presentation of *BIRTH PAPERS* at the Camille Pissarro House situates the project within a site of both **local and international significance** as the birthplace of Camille Pissarro—a foundational figure of Impressionism whose practice began in the Caribbean, shaped by the light, labor, and everyday life of St. Thomas.

In partnership with **81C Arts**, the exhibition expands the House's existing programming—**integrating with its summer education initiatives** while extending engagement with contemporary Caribbean design and the region's art histories.



Exterior of the *Camille Pissarro House* in St. Thomas, home of **81C Arts' Creative Education Center**.

This collaboration positions the House not only as a site of preservation, but as an **active space of encounter**—expanding access, deepening regional dialogue, and connecting past and present through the material and cultural conditions that continue to shape the Caribbean.

This collaboration brings together:

1. **Historic preservation**
2. **Contemporary Caribbean design**
3. **Public access and education**

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Our roster of artists hail from across the Caribbean and its diaspora in an attempt to break regional, geographic, and linguistic barriers and present a **Caribbean** design show that speaks to the breadth and wealth of experiences present in our archipelago.

Featured artists:

Clayton Rhule

dach&zephir

Emily Braswell & Jenna Rees

Jasmine Thomas-Girvan

Kamala Davis

Kara Springer

Karlo Andrei-Ibarra

Leonie Edmead

Marlon Darbeau

Sebastián Meltz-Collazo

Shani Strand

Simon Tatum

Suzanna Missenberger

Yiyo Tirado-Rivera

Zoé Pheron

FEATURED WORKS



Clayton Rhule



Marlon Darbeau



Simon Tatum



Shani Strand



Sebastián Meltz-Collazo



Zoé Pheron



Leonie Edmead



Yiyo Tirado-Rivera



Suzanna Missenberger

FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT

This exhibition would not be possible without the **Martin A. Dale '53 Fellowship** from **Princeton University**, which provides seed funding for projects centered on social impact, innovation, and creativity.

Awarded to LEHWE founder **Azi Jones**, the fund was the first investor in LEHWE's inaugural project, ***BIRTH PAPERS***.



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

THANK YOU

**WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
TIME, CREATIVITY, AND TRUST.**

BIRTH PAPERS is only possible through your
belief in this shared vision. We're excited to
see what we can create together.

*Please reach out to us with any inquiries
regarding artists, partnerships, or general
information.*

Azi Jones

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