

The Architect's Newspaper

What to see in 2021

By Aaron Smithson • December 29, 2020

The Porch is the Tree is the Watering Hole

African American Research Library and Cultural Center
2650 Sistrunk Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Through May



The Porch is the Tree is the Watering Hole (Steven Brooke)

In the African American Research Library and Cultural Center, a branch of the Broward County library system, a group of eight visual

artists, designers, and writers from across the United States explore the relationship between Black communities and their built environment. The multidisciplinary show centers on Sistrunk, a historically Black community in Fort Lauderdale originally settled by African American railroad workers at the turn of the 20th century.

The exhibition's contributors (Germane Barnes, Marlene Brunot, Adrienne Chadwick, Darius V. Daughtry, George Gadson, Adler Guerrier, Olalekan Jeyifous, and David I. Muir) investigate Black gathering spaces through a variety of mediums, including photography, mixed-media art, poetry, and furniture design. The work is organized around spaces found in or around a single-family home, with particular attention paid to the front porch and back alley. In addition to celebrating the spaces that define the Black experience in Sistrunk, curator Dominique Denis aims to inform future public art installations in the neighborhood through the cultivation of a deeper understanding of its history and people.