



Biking in the City

It's National Bike Month! Which means Wheelhouse Detroit is gearing up, offering a variety of tours, bike services and rentals like kids bikes (including BMX), tag-alongs and trailers to get you rolling, plus special tours. For long-haul sorts, try "Cycle Into Spring" May 10—a 20-mile ride beginning at 9 a.m. It's \$35 and includes lunch. Other options include public art (May 11), Belle Isle (May 17), music (May 24) and auto heritage (May 25). Recommended for adults/teens. Or get some wheels on loan and bike the scenic RiverWalk. Rentals are \$10-\$28 for two hours. Tours run \$25-\$45 (higher costs include rentals).

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—A.W.

LOST & FOUND (EMOTIONS)

Renowned New York-based artist Nari Ward cut a familiar form with Detroiters in *White Flight Tea Bar* (pictured below)—his 2006 installation referencing the 1967 Motor City riots and subsequent White flight. At a free talk at 2 p.m. on May 18 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the artist will break down his process of revealing emotion in found objects.

What inspiration did you find in Detroit?

"This is kind of heaven. (Detroit) has all this material of memory and history. A friend gave me a tour of this empty factory, and I was salivating. Every floor, there was just so much stuff. I was totally enthralled with the materiality of the things. It was kind of a



Photo by Catherine Mason

dream experience, but I had to come back to reality."

Which was?

"It's totally selfish. I did not want to feel like I was taking advantage of a situation I was not going to help change."

Explain found items in your artwork.

"I think the found objects are a catalyst for ideas and some kind of meaning I am trying to develop for the viewer to participate in. Representing the found object to be a bridge to a dialogue is important."

White Flight Tea Bar cites artist Jack Ward's monument to the 1967 Detroit riots. How does your work interpret it?

"Basically, it was a tea lounge. I recreated (Ward's) piece out of ceiling tiles, which dealt with this idea of homogeneity and sterility. It was very much about bringing everybody into one space and having this experience of togetherness."

—E.D.A.



Photo by Greg Holmes