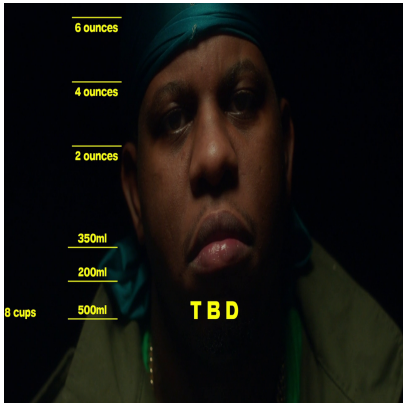




“Triple Beam Dream”: from crack pipes to glass art, Ghetto Gastro’s Jon Gray tells a story of race, class and inclusion

Description



â??Triple Beam Dreamâ?• shares its name with **Rick Ross** and **Nas**â?? 2012 coke balladâ?? a song recounting Americaâ??s racial and societal inequalities and the **history of drugs** according to prejudice.

â??Triple Beam Dreamâ?•, a film by **NOWNESS** directed by **Elisha Smith-Leverock (Lief)**, tells the story of **Jon Gray** who co-founded the Bronx based culinary collective [Ghetto Gastro](#), and whose exciting new glassware collection takes inspiration from the **history of crack**. Grayâ??s kitchenware

collaboration with world-class artisans in Venice pays homage to **Pyrex glass** which was frequently used to produce crack during the 80s and 90s drug epidemic. It creates a particular kind of art which Gray names **“Social Sculpture”**.

By subverting the use of **Pyrex**, Gray draws on his personal experience to challenge ideas of **luxury** and **creativity**.

*“Just like Ghetto Gastro and Jon himself, Triple Beam Dream challenges peoples’ perceptions,” says Smith-Leverock. “It’s a Trojan Horse. A meticulously hand-crafted, hyper-luxurious, carefully designed re-imagination of glassware that Jon used to cook crack with.”*

Beauty can be found on the streets, and precious objects can be forged from pain. Through their appropriation of **Pyrex glass**, Gray and his collective have the agency to **tell their story own on their own terms**. As Smith-Leverock points out *“it’s not uncommon for luxury items to be appropriated from things that come from the streets, but it’s far more rare that you see these ideas pushing into the luxury space created by people who have actually lived this reality. Jon and Ghetto Gastro are challenging ideas about who gets to tell these stories.”*

This film rewrites the history of crack, deconstructs toxic narratives and simultaneously encourages people of colour to use their art to tell their own stories.

With a German mother and an African-American father, Smith-Leverock platforms **diversity** in her work on and off-screen—directing a short documentary on **Miss Black Germany** as well as serving as the ambassador for **Free The Bid in Germany**.

Tracks & Fields’ Executive Music Producer **Ben Esser** edited and designed the film’s gripping soundtrack securing a contribution from **Solange**. As a distinguished and high-profile black American musician, **Solange** has captured **black cultural and social history** in her truthful and poignant lyricism. Her 2016 album **A Seat At The Table** documents her struggle as a Black woman and grieves over a history of racial injustice. By providing the soundtrack to **“Triple Beam Dream”** she bolsters **Gray’s and Ghetto Gastro’s philosophy**: creativity can challenge destructive narratives and champion black voices and histories.

Watch the video in full below:

<https://vimeo.com/384525937>