



TAMEKA NORRIS

[Born](#) Agana, Guam. [Lives](#) in New Orleans.

In the video installation *Licker*, 2010, Norris, in a bikini and fur coat, raps, “I’m that black Cindy Sherman and that little Kara Walker.” In photographs, videos, and performances, she explores how identity is constructed by media and pop culture, with a particular interest in “the body as a social, physical, and spiritual structure.” While this is usually done through the lens of gender or race, Norris readily deconstructs her identity as an artist as well, specifically in a 2012 video series that tracks her progression through the Yale School of Art. (It’s a savvy update on Alex Bag’s classic *Untitled Fall ’95*.) Norris was long-listed as a rising talent in our 2011 “Artists to

Watch” issue, and her prolific practice has earned her a spot in this year’s edition. Her work can currently be seen in “Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art” at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. She’s also gearing up for inclusion in the Prospect 3 biennial in New Orleans and planning for an upcoming solo exhibition scheduled for 2014 in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art, which Norris will transform into her living, studio, and exhibition space for six months. “My hope,” she explains, “is that this live-in residency will demystify the idea of the artist to an audience that is rarely exposed to art, let alone the maker of the art.”