## Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Fall 2019 Speaker Series Street Art, Public Voice, and Democracy

## MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



## L. Lamar Wilson

More Than a Metaphor: The Ethics of Writing Through a Legacy of Racialized Violence

> Tuesday, October 8, 2019 11:00 a.m. Germantown, Globe Hall

Light refreshments will be served.

L. Lamar Wilson teaches creative writing and literature at Wake Forest University and The Mississippi University for Women. His documentary poetics has been featured in two poetry collections, a stage production, and a film: *Sacrilegion* (2013); *Prime* (2014); *The Gospel Truth* (2017); and *The Changing Same* (2019), a documentary co-produced with Rada Film Group.

Over the past year, L. Lamar Wilson's economically depressed hometown, Marianna, Fla., has been the center of national dialogue in stories of resilience in the wake of Hurricane Michael's devastation, meditations on the fallout of a federal government shutdown, a National Book Award-nominated novel by Pulitzer winner Colson Whitehead, and a PBS documentary short film Wilson co-produced with Rada Film Group's Sundance-winning directors. It's become a metaphor for the legacies of racism & white supremacist violence, & yet for him, it's home, one where his roots & love run deep. In addition to screening the film, Wilson will discuss the ethics that undergird his documentary poetics and the ways he hopes the attention on Marianna will make the nation reexamine the tropes it abjects onto rural America.

