Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center
934 Brannan Street  | San Francisco, CA

Gallery Hours
Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org/infinitearchives

THE BLACK WOMAN IS GOD

ON VIEW
AUGUST 30 – OCTOBER 2

ASSEMBLY OF GODS

#TBWIG

#SOMARTS

August 30–October 2, 2018
Curated by Karen Seneferu and Melorra Green
The Black Woman is God: Assembly of Gods

Opening Reception
Thursday, August 30, 2018, 6–10pm

Join us for the opening visual reception of The Black Woman is God co-curated by Melorra Green and Karen Seneferu

Closing Reception
Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6–9pm

Learn more at somarts.org

CURATORIAL STATEMENT
The Black Woman is God is a multi-media visual and spiritual exhibition for audiences to recognize an alternative to Western cultural narratives that, challenging Eurocentric notions of God. Through an examination of cosmology, womanhood, feminism, politics and psychology, The Black Woman is God challenges gaps and fragments in art history that position Black art as only ancient or contemporary, failing to honor the space in between. Founded by Karen Seneferu, and co-curated by Karen Seneferu and Melorra Green, The Black Woman is God is a movement-building platform that celebrates and highlights the contributions of Black women as artists, healers and social change-makers throughout history.

In 2016, The Black Woman is God: Reprogramming That God Code focused on remembering ancient ideas of the Black woman as God like deities represented in African mythology. The exhibit was a way of casting off shadows of God being only white and male. The exhibit wasn’t so much to challenge the binary of white and black, male and female but a way of reclaiming and rebuilding narratives of the African past.

In this second inception of the exhibit, The Black Woman Is God: Divine Revolution questions what it means to not only rewrite but create new narratives, new myths. How do these new myths shape the artists and participants, and how does that transformation become a spiritual and revolutionary act? The exhibit will track Black womanhood from its inception, looking at divinity through trauma and how that trauma shapes DNA. It is also about family history that is rooted in creativity that has been suppressed but a drive to change the root called by the ancestors. It is about Black women taking back their time, their rest, their dreams, and their creativity as a divine critical act, revealing how prayer and the convergences of women’s lives become transcendent through love.

Ultimately, the exhibit is about Black women artists working together on a reciprocal relationship. As artists, they move away from supremacy, the attempt to determine who or what is better. The Black Woman Is God: Divine Revolution shifts the space from subordinate to subatomic reclaiming of the Black cosmic universe of Black Matter reflected in the archetypes of Black women.
EXHIBITING ARTISTS

AJUAN MANCE
Ajuan Mance is a Professor of African American literature at Mills College and a lifelong artist and writer. Her paintings, drawings, zines, and comics use humor, history, and bright and audacious color to explore the relationship between race, gender, and representation. Her comics, illustrations, paintings, and zines have been featured in a variety of media sources, including, most recently, The San Francisco Chronicle, NPR.org, The New York Times, Buzzfeed, and KPIX.

ARTIST STATEMENT
My work for BWIG 2018 is part of an emerging series of drawings created under the umbrella title, "The Ancestors' Juneteenth." This series imagines the Black artists, writers, and innovators of the past dropping in on our neighborhoods, homes, and haunts to see how today's people of African descent are using our freedoms. These works imagine our ancestors as part our world, just out of plain sight of the living, but no less present in the communities we call home.

ARTWORK
A Portrait of the Artist as the Hero with a Thousand Faces
Ink and Digital Collage on Canvas
18” x 24”
2018
$175

The Flying African/All God’s Chillen Have Wings
Ink and Digital Collage on Paper
18” x 24”
2018
$175

ALISE EASTGATE
Alise Eastgate is a visual artist who’s work is layered in her overlapping identities and her aspirations to create a more just and beautiful world. The subject matter she paints is inspired by her experiences and activism rooted in the belief that all living beings deserve the right to live, love and be free. Alise has exhibited her work in Oakland and San Francisco, and has live painted at events and festivals throughout California and the Fiji Islands.

ARTIST STATEMENT
This piece is dedicated to Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Latasha Harlins, Eric Garner, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, and Charleena Lyles. The image features representations of them in a market setting with baskets of oversized calla lilies, flowers, fruits and candy.
ARTWORK
Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Latasha Harlins, Eric Garner, Aijana Stanley-Jones and Charleena Lyles
Acrylic on canvas
48"x60"
2018
NFS

THE ISIS EFFECT
The Isis Effect is a multi-sensory experience that highlights challenges we face as black girls & women. An anthology of art & journal entries that encourages our ability to heal ourselves & others and to engage in fresh conversations around mental wellness. Inspired by Isis, the Goddess of healing. The Isis Effect collective is founded by artists Alexandria Jones and Aneesah Dryver, with exhibit consultant Kayla D. Harriel.

ARTIST STATEMENT
The Isis Effect is an homage to the healing spaces black girl's create in their own rooms where experiencing vulnerability, grief, healing, and discovering our own light often exists in one place. A black girl living in her truth, confronting her darkness, and realizing her own power is a radical act. This experience invites viewers into a space of despair, hope, and rebirth. The Isis Effect occurs when we assemble all the light and dark elements of ourselves & recognize our own inner Goddess.

ARTWORK
Manifest Mirror
Mixed media installation
5 x 5'
2018
$150-500

ANGELA HENNESSY
Angela Hennessy is an Oakland-based interdisciplinary artist and Associate Professor at California College of the Arts where she teaches courses on visual and cultural narratives of death. Through writing, studio work, and performance she examines mythologies of blackness embedded in linguistic metaphors of color and cloth. Last fall her work was featured in a solo exhibition "When and where I enter" at Southern Exposure and in the recent publication Fray: Textile Art and Politics.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Through writing, studio work, and performance I examine mythologies of blackness embedded in metaphors of color and cloth. I use black as an indication of mourning, erotic potential, and racialized bodies. My practice is a constellation of labors including crocheting, braiding, weaving, and knotting. Velvet, velcro, hair, athletic tape, and wire are chosen for their implications of captivity, liberation, and adornment.
These processes and materials engage in a kind of slippage that arouses the desire to touch, to understand not by logic but by tactile experience from one body to another.

**ARTWORK**  
*Mourning Weaves*  
synthetic and human hair, artist’s hair, hair rollers and foundations, athletic tape, twist ties  
18” x 40”  
2018  
$2200

**AVE-AMEENAH LONG**  
An Oakland native, African culture has a rich influence in Avé’s hometown. This is what inspired the photographic journey in search for where Avé’s ancestors have landed in the African Diaspora, in the project she calls Keep it Diasporic, Avé’s uses both film and digital photography as a way to inspire black people around to the world to creatively explore their African ancestral roots and preserve our unique identity.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**  
New photo project named Orisa Futuristas. An Afro-Futurist inspired Orisha portraits, which will include Yemaya, Oshun and Oye. A play on Sankfa, to go back and get it, Orisa Futuristas is to convey a blend of folkloric supreme divinity, with a reimagined diasporic aesthetic.

**ARTWORK**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orisa Futurista:</th>
<th>Orisa Futurista:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oshun</td>
<td>Yemaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20” x 24”</td>
<td>20” x 24”</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>$600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**AYANA AVERY**  
Ayana Dionne Ivery is a Graphic Designer and has been creating multi-media art since 2003, professionally since 2005. Born March 23, 1981 in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, she knew from an early age that she was very tactile and enjoyed creating with her hands.  
Her art is a mixture of modern textiles and mixed media, spiritualism and religion with guidance from her ancestors resulting in works that embody heavy ethnic sophistication.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**  
Emerging from the deepest part of the universe, our Ancestors come to remind us that the infinite wisdom, knowledge and magic is already within us, in the matter of melanin, it’s in the matter of our blackness.

We are the light in the stars.
ARTWORK
*The Assembly*
Digital print on canvas, gold mica flakes
40" x 60"
2018
$1250

BUSHMAMA AFRICA
Bushmama Africa is an Oakland Native and 5th generation artist in her family. She comes from a line of people who were seamstess, singers, dancers, hotsteppers and bonafied hustlers. She has taken her place in line as a creative with visual arts, digital arts, and mixed media art. Her mission in art is to create positive images of black people. Her passion and participation in African Spirituality has governed her commitment to her charge as a creatrix in this matrix.

ARTIST STATEMENT
"Ceremonial Gods" is a 3 piece body of work presenting black women as Gods in ceremony. This mixed media trilogy will encompass adornments, ceremonial garb and reverence for three Major female dieties. These orisha are part of the Ifa tradition which comes from Ile Ife Nigeria and is practiced throughout the diaspora. This work serves and an offering to these deities for how they have provided protection, healing and abundance to the creator of this work.

ARTWORK
*Goddess Adorned*
Mixed media painting
20" x 24"
2018
$1554

CAMILLE BROWN
Camille Brown is artist & traveler, greatly influenced by living & working in abroad in support of displaced communities, education, & advocacy for women, families & children. She currently resides in Baltimore City & has exhibited in Thailand, South Korea, Panama & the U.S.. Her work is contemplative, meticulous & centers on witnessing the nobility of marginalized & disregarded individuals, their. She accesses art as a pathway for communicating beyond the limitations of language.

ARTIST STATEMENT
This work observes the nobility of the marginalized & disregarded. Particularly with regard to humanizing girls & women, the aim is for the inherent value & nobility of the subject & her experiences to be expressed as unaltered stories, uncluttered by diminishing archetypes & paradigms. The artist aims to do this without patronizing or commoditizing the experiences, culture or suffering of the subjects, but to clear a pathway for the viewer to engage untethered by indifference or preconception.
ARTWORK

*Noble Daughter*
Mixed media on canvas
30" x 40"
2017
$3100

**CHIAMAKA ONYEMELUKWE**

She is an aspiring artist from Alameda, California with a background in Art history and visual design. Her medium of choice ranges from traditional pencil and paper to digital drawing. She currently is working on a black female superhero comic book. Her drive is to showcase a black female superhero who tackles self-esteem issues stemming from race and beauty to other political issues for young black girls.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

Chiamaka’s art practice starts with a pencil sketch on her drawing pad. She uses television shows, movies, and even spending time with her family and friends as inspiration for her work. Research is a key factor in her artwork because it gives her the creativity push to express herself. Once she is done with her inspiration phase she uses a wacom tablet to draw over the rough sketch of her pencil drawing, follow by a color scheme of her choice to paint over the digital drawing.

ARTWORK

*The answers in this book is a lie, Beware!*
Digital painting installation
18" x 24"
2018
NFS

**EBONY IMAN DALLAS**

Through art, Ebony Iman Dallas combines rich and fiery hues with whimsical forms to bring the spirit and energy of her subjects to life. Her artwork primarily addresses social, political and cultural issues. With a focus on authenticity and progress, her artwork takes form organically where each line determines the shape and direction of the next.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

“Love Sets Free” features the Goddess of Love, Oshun, exhibiting love in its purest form. She releases two butterflies to fly freely and blesses them with love as a choice, not an obligation. This painting utilizes traditional religious iconography to highlight the sacred Goddess that she is. Love is freedom.
ARTWORK

Love Sets Free
Mixed media
24" x 30"
2018
$1250

ELIZABETH D. FOGGIE
Elizabeth D. Foggie is a visual artist, filmmaker and writer who explores human identity and personal narrative from the perspective "we are nature, we are creators". Born in Europe and raised in the Southern United States, Elizabeth describes her aesthetic as Afro-Euro with earthy, indigenous roots. Elizabeth runs her own film company, The People's Studio LLC and is currently developing her first feature film "Heim", and her first documentary film, "Portrait of An Artist".

ARTIST STATEMENT
"Real Talks with God, Herself" is a oracular reflection of the artist in communication with herself as god - that is, she who is responsible and capable of creating her own reality. Representational image and words combine to tap into, challenge and dialogue with the observer’s unconscious about the future selves they are creating with their present perceptions and self-conceptions right now.

ARTWORK

Real Talks with God Herself: Eyes Wide Open
Acrylic on wood
60"x 36" x 2"
2018
$3000

IDRIS HASSAN
Photographer and Visual Artist Idris Hassan is dedicated to uplifting cultural life moments through her creative work. In her evolution as a documentarian she has traveled across the county and abroad capturing the visual essence of various communities, revealing the worlds of artists, musicians, and families. Ms. Hassan's work has been featured in the "Black Artists on Art" Legacy Exhibit at Oakstop Gallery and the Annual “Art of Living Black” Exhibition at the Richmond Art Center.

ARTIST STATEMENT
"The Procession of the Gods" documents Seneferu leading the procession of women at the opening of TBWIG exhibition. This procession is an honoring by the Black Women involved in the project of the countless lives lost in the Black community to ongoing violence. The women, wearing all white, celebrate and elevate the joy of Black Women. This image is part of a series which captures moments of joy, of mourning, and of an intergenerational gathering of Black Women dedicated to healing community.
ARTWORK
Procession of the Gods
Black and White Photography
40” x 50”
NFS

JAZZ HUDSON AKINTUNDE AND OLAFEMI AKINTUNDE
Jazz Hudson - is a award winning Artist, passionate speaker, Educator & Black Girl Advocate who serves a host of communities seeking transformation through art. With a holistic approach to content & development, her interdisciplinary work engages audiences in dialogue and activism that extend beyond the page and stage. Jazz leads and design workshops utilizing oral and written tradition as a means of reclaiming and defining self.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Néné is a visual and poetic documentation of a mother’s journey through birth and postpartum.

ARTWORK
Néné: Women as Portals
A Journey through Birth & Postpartum Depression
Mixed Media Installation
8x10
2018
NFS

JEANETTE MARDEN
Bay area native, Jeanette Madden has worked as a graphic designer and developed and marketed various creative products and art. Her artwork has been exhibited locally and nationally. As well as creating her fine art, she is currently working as a caricature artist, drawing live at events. Her current artwork is created on an iPad. Her enthusiasm about the iPad as a creative tool has led her to host a Meetup group for artists who want to learn, observe and explore the tool.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Jeanette Madden’s current work illustrates how body language describes the way we move through space and time. Whether in motion or in apparent stillness, our bodies are always active. Meaning can be gleaned as we move or rest in space. Jeanette captures this meaning with color, texture and shape.

ARTWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artwork</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Lulas’s Eyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Queens</td>
<td>ipad painting</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
KALIMA AMILAK
KaliMa Amilak is an Afro-Caribbean photographer, poet, and performance artist. A native from New York, she is now pursuing her Masters in Photography and passion in the arts. KaliMa has collaborated with collectives, and has sold and exhibited artwork in various exhibitions in Brooklyn and Oakland including Bushwick Open Studios, The Black Woman is God, Point 66 Women’s Art Exhibition, and The Art of Living Black.

ARTIST STATEMENT
This artwork is a part of the 'A Sacred Beautiful Series,' which depicts cultural feminine resistance as a response to the Louisiana Tignon Laws that prohibits African American women from displaying their hair or wearing intricate hairstyles.

ARTWORK
*Primordial Presence*
Photography
20" x 30"
2018
$1100

KARIN TURNER
Karin Turner - KarinsArt works as a painter and mixed-media artist.

She has created figurative acrylic and watercolor paintings for nearly two decades. Her current work reflects an integration of traditional canvas mixed media acrylic paintings, watercolor works on paper, and assemblage sculpture installation with other mixed media to create simple straight-forward messages that can be experienced in both a visual and affective manner. Turner is a self-taught painter.

ARTWORK
*Find & Live With Your Silence...God Always Whispers First*
Acrylic on canvas, mixed media
36" x 48"
2014
$2750

KIERRA JOHNSON
Kierra Johnson is a photo-based artist from Decatur, GA. Her work addresses everyday aspects of spirituality, beauty, friendships and familial relationships. She has been commissioned by Walker & Co, Google, Ernst & Young, MakeDo, and Stanford Graduate School of Business. She was part of the group exhibition Black Women over Breathing co-curated by Danielle McCoy and Adrian Walker. Kierra recently presented her first solo exhibition at Betti Ono Gallery curated by Anyka Barber.
**ARTIST STATEMENT**

Kierra's work explores how culture and ancestral memory is retained in the body. She’s interested in how memories manifest in expressions to produce a collective experience. **SIGNIFY** is a series of staged portraits photographed with a focus on hands, to depict communicative gestures associated with Black cultural identity. To deepen her exploration of the body’s ability to hold onto culture, images were made in AL, GA and CA to mirror the Great Migration in the 20th century.

**ARTWORK**

*Body*
Photography
31.5” x 45”
2017
$1450

**KRISTINA A. WILLIAMS**

Kristina A. Williams is a self-taught photography and film artist living in Oakland, CA. Her work focuses on elevating the truths of persons of color, specifically Black womxn, through documentary storytelling, photojournalism, and portraiture. Williams masters the tools of Augmented Reality and digital manipulations of light, color and sound, to engage viewers interactively and promote empathetic connections to her content. As an educator and artistivist, Williams strives to inspire social change.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**

In a world that normalizes her pain, the Black womxn historically endures unparalleled toxicity. For this, Williams’ work centers the Black womxn with three goals in mind; to emphasize her sole rights to her portrayal, for Black womxn to see reflections of themselves elevated, and to educate others of her truths. Through these goals, Williams explores the vulnerability, resilience, and fortitude of the Black womxn in a form of artistivism calling for demand and necessity to hear her voice.

**ARTWORK**

*We Too, Are Joy*
Digital photo on wood
60” x 48” x 5”
2018
$2500

**KRISTINE MAYS**

Kristine Mays, a SF native has been an exhibiting artist since 1993. Mays has participated in raising thousands of dollars for AIDS research through the sale of her work by several philanthropic organizations. Her work has received local and national press. Mays has gallery representation in SF, Brooklyn, and Washington DC. Collectors of her work include George Lucas and Peggy Cooper Cafritz. Her work is displayed in private collections throughout the USA.
ARTIST STATEMENT
Kristine Mays' large scale wire sculpture entitled “Everyone Needs Big Mama” is a tribute to the matriarch of the family, that nurturing soul that provided wisdom and comfort to her family and her community.

ARTWORK
*Everyone Needs Big Mama*
Wire sculpture
30" x 42" x 34"
2018
$7000

KYTANA WINN
Kytana Winn is a born and bred military brat, self identifying as being a weird sister, a loyal daughter, an old soul, and most importantly an awkward majestic sunflower. In the summer of 2017, she graduated from Linfield College with a bachelors of Studio Arts. Her first love is and will always be B&W photography, but as of right now, her desire to explore the Black female body within afrofuturistic concepts has her dedicating her primary practice to paper/digital collage.

ARTIST STATEMENT
After reading Ytasha Womack's, Afrofuturism: The world of black sci-fi and fantasy culture, Kytana Winn began teeming with new-found questions like, "What would a divine feminine in space look like?" and "what does the reconstruction of the Black female body in power inspire? With these questions and visual inspiration from artists Joshua Mays, Wangechi Mutu, Manzel Bowman, and Taj Francis, Kytana has begun to approach the wonderfully lush world of Afrofuturism within her work.

ARTWORK
*And she gave me...*
Collage on canvas
15" x 30"
2017
$500

*And shifted the sand to...*
Collage on canvas
15" x 30"
2017
$500

*And so quite inexplicably...*
Collage on canvas
15" x 30"
2018
$500

JAEME BEREAL
Born the oldest child of a multicultural union, of two painters in the late 1950’s, I grew up amid the tumultuous 1970’s of the south central Los Angeles area and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1981. I have worked on several projects, including a book cover for a memoir for the Santana family, entitled, “Space Between the Stars”, by Deborah Santana, sold nationally in Barnes and Noble. I live with my cat and significant other in the historic Bella Vista district of Oakland, California.
ARTIST STATEMENT
This era of disillusionment with our leaders and our country has inspired what I consider to be my biological imperative to practice art. My art tells stories, with my narratives, political cartoons and portraits to help people feel more connected and grounded in reality. Many people in urban communities don’t often follow the continuity of events and political processes around them. One of the goals of my art is to offer a bit of substance and background, and bring people closer to issues and circumstances that affect us all.

ARTWORK

**LATISHA BAKER**
Latisha Baker is a self-taught pyrographic (firewriter) artist, who utilizes woodburning, a primitive technique on reclaimed and recycled wood to create her wearable and visual artwork. She captures stories through visual interpretations of life in honor of the human spirit. She exhibits her work and lives in the bay area.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**
Latisha uses a primitive technique called pyrography to create her work. She often works on dense surfaces, such as reclaimed wood or cold press water color paper. The imperfections of these surfaces contributes to the character and authenticity of the work. The surface usually dictates the direction of the work and the texturization is a derivative of the process. There is a common theme of reconciliation through recovery, healing and transformation.

**ARTWORK**

*Lay Your Burden Down*
Pyrography w/watercolor
24" x 51"
2018
4,800

**LISA EVANS AND SABAA ZAREENA**
Sabaa Zareena (pronouns: they/them/Sabaa) is a visual and performing artist. Sabaa’s work gives spectators the opportunity to become participants and tap into their critical analysis of the worlds they exist in and those they create.

Lisa Evans (they/them/their) is a black non-binary producer and performing artist. Their work explores the “ugliness” that can live within us and the potential for healing liberation when these elements can be shared and interrogated in public.
ARTWORK
Blessed Be The Black and Crazy
Installation
4' x 5' x 2'
2018
NFS

LORRAINE BONNER
Lorraine Bonner was born a scientist, and recently retired from a 35 year career as a physician. She began practicing art in response to personal trauma, and art led her to a deeper understanding of health and illness from the cellular to the political and spiritual level. She has studied at Merritt College and with numerous teachers in the Bay Area.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Lorraine Bonner is a sculptor who uses clay bodies of various colors to represent our multi-hued species, and black and white clay bodies to promote our evolving understanding of the deeply mutual relationship of Black and White.

ARTWORK
Grandmother’s Elder Sister
Clay Sculpture
16" x 15" x 15"
2008
$3500

MARISSA ARTERBERRY
Marissa Arterberry is best known for her spiritually charged paintings of Black women painted in vibrant colors and magical surroundings. Marissa’s work also explores the religious traditions of the African diaspora and ancestor veneration. Born and raised in San Jose, California, Marissa studied painting at San Francisco State University and lives and works in Oakland with her husband Codi and their two children Sage and Phoenix.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Marissa Arterberry’s first taste of Brazilian music was the sound of Sergio Mendes and Brasil ’66 during her childhood. Each of these paintings was inspired by a Sergio Mendes song, they are a celebration of the seed that flowered into a lifelong musical journey. Brazilian music lead her to study samba dance and later introduced her to the Orixas and the Candomble religion. These paintings also honor Candomble’s connection to the elements of nature, and Marissa’s devotion to the Orixa Ogum.
DANA KING
Dana King is a sculptor who brings humanity to the African American story. Black Art in America has identified King as one of 10 Emerging Black Female Artists to Collect and calls her work “important as it places history in contemporary contexts so that we are reminded of those who fought for our freedom.” Dana King hopes to continue to create public and private art pieces that inspire people to dig deeper into the true stories of American history.

ARTIST STATEMENT
This piece is about the African God/dess of Water, Mamiwata. She is a powerful spirit who is the bridge that joins land and water. However, humans are working against her, creating long lasting and possibly, permanent damage to our ecosystem. “Mamiwata I” is warning us. She has removed all of her earthly ornamentation to conserve energy. Her face is a mask of steely, regal resolve while oil soaks her, slowly riding up her body, waiting to consume her. We are running out of time. Mamiwata is waiting.

ARTWORK
Mamiwata I
Sculpture
21" x 14" x 21"
2018
NFS

TOSHIA CRYSTAL AND MARNIKA SHELTON
Toshia Christal is an Oakland native and artist of many forms. Born 1983, a graduate of Berkeley high, she has spent many years simply experimenting with any medium she can get her hands on. Toshia enjoys all mediums equally and dabbles with photography, jewelry making, drawing, painting, sculpting and more. Her art is particularly influenced by spiritual healing, African culture and the body of the women. Toshia owns a brick and mortar in Oakland Ca. located at 2911 Fruitvale Ave.
Marnika Shelton is an African-American Artist specializing in figurative sculpture. Her work focuses on political and cultural paradigms facing 21st century Black America. She uses the visual arts as a platform to drive home complex and controversial narratives. Taking on topics such as indoctrination and historical prejudice, recreating stories from unexplored angles to expose longstanding impacts on society.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**
Exploring hidden truths of Black hair. Connecting coils of our African hair to nothing less than galaxies & foreign realms. Creating a focal point for African hair & all of its special powers, mythical, spiritual, & most importantly realistic qualities. Intended as a tool for enlightenment, knowledge and of rebellion against a system rejecting Black hair or any form of Black liberation. This exhibit will create a window into the world of black identity that highlights Love strength & pride.

**ARTWORK**
*Closer to the Gods*
Mixed media Installation
5' x 5' x 5'
2018
NFS

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SHESHAT'S BRUSH
Naomi Hanna is a self taught African American Baltimore Artist. Her paintings reflect her experience within the African Diaspora. In July 2016, her first Baltimore City Art Show "Dreams of the Motherland" was a success, paying for her ticket to Accra, Ghana. She curated 4 of her own art shows despite failing advanced painting in Art School. Hanna is a teaching artist at Young Audiences of MD merging her art form with emotional cognitive health. Her dream is to become a grassroots art therapist.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**
Hanna's paintings reflect her experience within the African Diaspora using watercolors, acrylics, oils, multimedia, and pencil work.

**ARTWORK**
*Masaai Girl and Her Guide*
Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas
12” x 16”
2018
$800

*Sister I Said Your Name*
Acrylic on canvas
3’ x 4’
2016
$1200

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Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center
934 Brannan Street | San Francisco, CA

Gallery Hours
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somarts.org/infinitearchives
MARY-LOVELACE O'NEAL
Born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1942, Mary Lovelace O'Neal, a painter who also prints, is Professor Emerita from the University of California at Berkeley and former Chair of the Department of Art Practice. She retired from the University in 2006. She has taught at the University of Texas at Austin, The San Francisco Art Institute, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA, Humboldt State University, Arcata, Ca, and Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Bogota, Colombia, SA. As a printmaker she has worked with Robert Blackburn. She has represented the United States at a number of Biennales & International Art Festivals including Biennale Internazionale dell’Arte Contemporanea, Florence, Italy, Amadora 2000 VII Biennale 1st International de Gravura, Amadora, Portugal, Biennale International Du Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, Africa, Mondiale d'Estampes, Musee d'Art Contemporaine de Chemalieres, France.

ARTIST STATEMENT
In her 1993 lithograph *Racism is Like Rain, Either It's Raining or It's Gathering Somewhere*, O'Neal departs from her usual subjects of the ethereal to address the omnipresent cloud of racism. O'Neal addresses aesthetic and political concerns of the dark medium, exploring aesthetic qualities of black while also addressing the literal symbology of blackness. Colorful abstracted forms work against themselves and the imposing gray and black masses to create a dynamic effect of push and pull, call and response. O'Neal’s unique style gleans both aesthetic and political concerns into a provocative composition.

ARTWORK
*Racism is Like Rain, Either it is Raining or it is gathering Somewhere*, xii/xxx
Canvas
32" x 29"
1993
NFS

NYE' LYN THO
"Nye' Lyn Tho is an award winning portrait, commercial & conceptual photographer who captures the souls of her subjects. Marrying the technical aspects of digital photography with the intimate intricacies of ones true persona is the key balance that drives her work. Conscious of the widespread misrepresentation of people of color in mainstream American media, Nye' aims to create powerful, beautiful, healing stories of & for her community"
ARTIST STATEMENT
"Natural Heir" is a visual pun and nod to the often-controversial move of people of the African Diaspora, especially women, embracing the natural state of our hair. I've photographed 15 subjects, studied their personality and matched them to relating plant-life that historically represent African and African American culture. For instance, I replaced one subject’s hair with cotton, another with collard greens, while one is adorned in Calla Lily; the national flower of Ethiopia.

ARTWORK

**Natural Heir**
Photo Digital Image
18" x 24"
2016
$650

R.DAFINA KUFICHA
An acupuncturist by profession, R. Dafina Kuficha has a few hats she wears and she takes photos in all of them! Her favorite subjects are nature, people, events, and whatever catches her eye. She is thrilled to be a part of TBWIG art exhibition for the first time! For years, photographs have fascinated her. Yet, it wasn’t until about ten years ago that she bought her first real camera and said good-bye to throwaway cameras! Since then, photography has been her passion.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Dafina chose three musically creative Nubian queens, Nona Hendryx, Regina Carter, and Rhiannon Giddens to represent the first entries of her photography project "African Musical Goddesses," because their work continues to inspire Black women, especially, across the globe! Each has a fascinating story and each shares their talent with those who seek excellence in their genre. Viewers can research them and learn about their remarkable achievements!

ARTWORK

**Afro-Musical Goddesses: Nona Hendryx @ "Black Women Rock" SF Concert**
Photography
16" x 20" x 3/4"
2018
$450.00

**Afro-Musical Goddesses: Rhiannon Giddens @ OPC Concert Photography**
16" x 20" x 3/4"
2016
$450.00

**Afro-Musical Goddesses: Regina Carter @ Monterey Jazz Festival Photography**
20" x 24" x 3/4"
2017
$550.00
TRACI BARTLOW
I've loved taking and looking at photographs since I was a teenager. After living and working professionally as a performing artist in New York City and abroad for several years, I returned to my home town of Oakland California. My travels fed my interest in seeing and experiencing different cultures and upon returning home I saw my neighborhood through new eyes.

I began photographing everything I saw and experienced. With this skill set. I was able to parlay my love of photography into a career as a photojournalist. I began photographing the Hip-Hop music industry in the Bay Area and published photos and stories in local and national music magazines such as 4080, Vibe, The Source, Rap Pages, and even Black Enterprise.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Oakland Picture Lady - Tales of a 90’s Girl is a multi media photography based exhibition of photographs I shot in Oakland and the Bay Area in the 1990’s.

ARTWORK
East Oakland Girls, Circa 1992
part of a larger series "Oakland Picture Lady/Tales of a 90's girl
Photography
16” x 20”
1992
$500

NZINGA HATCH
Nzinga Hatch is a self taught painter born in Boston who lives in Oakland with. Her partner. She debut her work in 2017 Black Woman is God show at SOMArts.

ARTIST STATEMENT
This Ones’s Queer is the artist’s unscripted meditation that depicts her decisions to become a parent in a same sex partnership as an expression of creativity

ARTWORK
This one’s queer
Acrylic and oil pastel on paper
39” x 54”
2018
$1500

Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center
934 Brannan Street  | San Francisco, CA

Gallery Hours
Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org/infinitearchives
RIPLEY JENE
Ripley Jene, a NYC native residing in Oakland, is a multi-instrumentalist and creative technologist; She uses her experience in multimedia arts to express her introspective narratives and to participate in social activism. Despite the tumultuous social tensions we experience today, Ripley is determined to fight for harmony as she has a deep love for humanity. VR

ARTIST STATEMENT
My work look at the Black Woman Experience through a virtual reality lens.

ARTWORK
*A Black Woman to Feel Free*
Video & virtual reality
2018
NFS

REGINA EVANS AND KENYA ‘MOON’ AKBAR
Regina Evans is the Owner/Founder of Regina's Door Vintage Boutique which operates as a healing creative arts sanctuary for survivors of sex trafficking. She is an award winning social justice playwright, performer and poet.

Kenya ‘Moon’ Akbar, also known by her artist name as Moon The Manifestor, is an illustrator, designer, and student of women’s holistic health. Moon found her niche in sketching realism and portraits in 2015 and has been illustrating since.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Our project is the In My Mother's Garden altar wall. The wall will feature ancestral quilt pieces as it's foundation. The pieces will be overlaid with ancestral family photos, flowers and visual storytelling. The purpose of this wall altar is to visually provide the idea of "stitching together the community" through a steady hand and a loving heart. Attendees will be able to sit in front of the wall and have their pictures taken with a Polaroid so that they will have a memento.

ARTWORK
*Passage*
Installation
Dimensions vary
2018
NFS
SAGE STARGATE
Sydney Cain, aka sage stargate, is a visual artist born and raised in San Francisco. Her work focuses on the remembrance of precolonial wisdom. Graphite and chalk drawings, are used to resurface buried myths of ancient and intergenerational intelligence. As these tools are elements that have and continue to undergo metamorphosis within the earth, to Cain they also reflect and communicate stories that are carried within the eternal genealogy of descendants of the African Diaspora.

ARTIST STATEMENT
waters is a reflection and exploration into our perception of intimacy and nature. The image was inspired from sitting beneath a cypress tree that was housing a honeybee hive. Watching and listening to them propel in and out of the tree was like witnessing an asteroid shower spewing out of the hollows of a black hole.

ARTWORK
Waters
Graphite on paper
16” x 20”
2016
$700

SHAH NOOR HUSSEIN
Shah Noor Hussein is a multidisciplinary artist & scholar who crafts environments that cultivate creativity & storytelling in communities by recentering marginalized voices in dialogues on alternative epistemologies & cultural reproduction. Through the mediums of writing, photography, videography and arts education, shah produces projects that speak to the diverse issues facing black, brown, queer & marginalized communities to empower their narratives through playful, magical & healing modalities.

ARTIST STATEMENT
Black GRRRL Rising is a multimedia cultural archive of photography, poetry, audiovisuals & academic research on the role of black women & folk music in cultural & spiritual resilience. BGR is a continuation of shah noor’s three year multidisciplinary art & scholarship project, Black GRRRL Healing, which produced a zine, two short films, three symposiums, four residencies, five publications, a workshop series & a masters portfolio on the intersection of queer black feminism & healing justice.
ARTWORK

HAWA // EVE
35 mm film ink, archival ink print
20" x 30"
2017
$450

"she came from Nigeria
to make life in Sudan;
an African Eve --
they called her The Wind."
- hawa (2017)

SHYLAH PACHECO HAMILTON
Shylah Pacheco Hamilton is an filmmaker, writer and professor. She is a devotee of Oshun under the tutelage of Chief Iyanifa Fajembola Fatunmise aka Luisah Teish. Her research and creative practices meet at the crossroads of digital diaspora and visual culture. These works have shown at venues including Dok Leipzig, CinePaliium Fest, Oakland Underground Film Festival and The Hague. Current research interests include Afrosurrealism, Decolonial Feminist Theory and African Diaspora Ritual Practices.

ARTIST STATEMENT
EBO is an experimental film about the spaces where ebo to Orisha are offered.

ARTWORK

Ebbo
Experimental film
5 minutes, 35 seconds
2018
NFS

SYLVIA LOY ST. LOUIS
Sylvia Toy St. Louis is a middle class African American housewife who makes greenscreen art films in her living room and kitchen. She has screened internationally since 2008 and has been a fulltime filmmaker since 2015. Her awards include Best Fx Design (2018) and Honorable Mention for Cinematography (2016). She also won a Grand Jury Award for characters she developed (2016) and a Gold Award for her short, KILLER JANE (2018) from L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film and Script Festival.

ARTIST STATEMENT
CREATION is an experimental, greenscreen art film inspired by the Central African creator god, Mbombo, who created the world by vomiting it. The two main characters are The First One (Night), who suddenly appears out of a void of light - i.e., a Big Bang event - and immediately vomits The Second One. The First One hates existence. The Second One loves existence and vomits all the parts of the Universe. CREATION won Best Fx Design (2018), Five Continents International Film Festival (FICOCC).
TAYLOR MADE MOSLEY
Taylor Mosley is a Oakland native and director/producer in the Bay Area. Taylor is shifting her work towards telling more stories about the Black woman’s experience in America. Her intention is to tell stories about Black women whose journeys reflect her own, fight the eraser many feel in the spaces they occupy, and spark help the inspiration and courage needed tell their stories, even if it seems like no one is listening. Her motto is: "We are here and we've always been."

ARTIST STATEMENT
The Black Woman is God is a film that reflects on the concept, creation, and manifestation of the project's lifespan. Karen Seneferu and Melorra Green, and all the artists involved, have sparked a movement, expanded consciousness, and enlightened minds on the radiance and utter glory of the Black woman, just by proclaiming the title. As they move into the future and next phase of TBWIG, they are coming bigger, louder, and ready to reveal their exaltation to the world.

ARTWORK
The Black Woman is God
Video
2018
NFS

WORLDY SISTAH - TRACY BROWN
As a Visual Griot, community worker and global adventurer Tracy is dedicated to applying her talents toward the development and liberation of her community. Tracy holds an MA in Arts Politics from NYU. She has served as mentor to countless youth, sailed the eastern seaboard, worked for Women's empowerment in West Africa and so much more. Currently, Tracy devotes her time to caring for her family, kickin' it with her Bulldog, Brixton Optimus Prime, and developing her creative projects.

ARTIST STATEMENT
We recognize that many of our most important messages come from our mothers. The Black Woman Is God is an exhibition that celebrates the African woman and her declaration of her divinity as her true self. We, Gods, know who we are and in living that truth are forced to compete against and address imagery and ideals that work to deny our divinity. One of the hardest experiences is having to address these forces with our youth and seeing our babies (no matter the age) misrepresented and sometimes absorbing those misrepresentations as their truth.
Many of us will even unwittingly promote the cultivation of unhealthy self images by investing our hard earned dollars in them and handing them to our children. In spite of that multi-layered problematic we endure. In spite of all that, there is still a small voice inside of us that will not allow us to forget our divinity. In spite of it all. We see our divinity but so does everyone else which made us a target in the first place. But still we rise. We are just that divine. Buying into the ideas illustrated is the artificial price of successful navigation of life in this society. Much like this toy it is Mass produced, Mass distributed and familiar. We reject it and shine but we acknowledge it if only for identification and training purposes.

**ARTWORK**
*The Artificial Price: Crime Scene at the Crib*  
Mixed Media installation  
3’ x 4’  
2018  
$1,500

**VAL KAI**
Val Kai is a multi-dimensional Photographer, born in Berkeley and raised in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area. She was exposed to Art at an early age, via her parents who were Art and Music enthusiast. Val started expressing herself with Photography in high school. But it was after high school that she was formally introduced. She then started learning and working on her own. A one word description that best describes Val’s work is Variety. Her portfolio contains many areas of focus.

**ARTIST STATEMENT**
My Installation is an image of a little boy with a wild imagination (the Prince), with his shero character (Melanated Star Chile). The Prince imagines a girl (a bush Princess) who is a Queen with special powers to ward off bullies and increase his ability to learn, play sports, music, dance and sing.

**ARTWORK**
*MELANATED STAR CHILE & THE LITTLE PRINCE*  
Photography/Mixed media  
24” x 36”  
2018  
$1250

**VANESSA - ADDISON WILLIAMS**
Vanessa Addison-Williams is from Monterey, CA and currently lives in Fresno, CA with her husband and two sons. She received a BA in Graphic Design and an MA in Studio Art, both from CSU, Fresno. She currently teaches computer art and graphic design courses at Fresno State and Clovis Community College, Fresno, CA. Vanessa believes that education and creative expression go hand-in-hand as does her personal artistic expression through her works of conventional and digital collage art.
ARTIST STATEMENT
Fragments of body parts, words, patterns, machinery and waste are all contextualized in a commodifying factory of African American identity constructs. Constructs are interchangeably produced through the eyes of society and self as perceptions, stereotypes, myths, misrepresentations and even some truths that pour into the factory for production or fall upon the wasteland. Signifying symbols in everyday construction of identities forces evaluation of meaning and exploration of new meaning.

ARTWORK
Made in America (MIA)
Collage animation
1 minute 16 seconds
2012
contact gallery for pricing

ASIA HAMILTON
Blue
Print
47” x 29”
2018

BREE GRANT
Fellow Traveler
Digital photo
(2) 48” x 29”
2018

IJANIA CORTEZ
Untitled
Acrylic on raw canvas
36” x 60”
2018
$1000

MARCIA JAMES
Laud Have Mercy
Digital print
65” x 60”
2018

SABRINA NELSON
Petition for Membership Black Bird Life
Mixed media
Dimensions vary
2018
LAKIBA PITTMAN
*And I Smile*
Pen & Ink Reproduced on canvas
23” x 32”
2017
$175

NICOLE DIXON

“Listen”
Acrylic, charcoal, chalk pastel, wood, fabric, gold leaf on canvas
48 in x 30 in
2018
$2,400

“Fihankra”
Acrylic, charcoal, chalk pastel, wood, magazine paper, watercolor, fabric, gold leaf on canvas
30 in x 48 in
2018
$2,800

ROSALIND MCGARY
*FULL*
3.75’ x 4.5’
Ink, acrylic, white and yellow gold on wood panel
2007
$12,000

TARIKA LEWIS

The Family
Acrylic, house paint on wood
46” round
2017
$20,000

Ground Zero BPP, Tribute to women in the BPP
Acrylic on wood
24” x 77”
2018
$20,000

SYDNEY G. JAMES
*Role Call*
Acrylic on raw canvas
60” x 68”
2018

MELLORA AND MELONIE GREEN
*Taiwo and Kehinde*
Ibejis: Born Gods
Spiritual technology
6’ x 8’
2018
NFS
KAREN SENEFERU

_In Assembly_
Mixed Media
60” x 4” x 108”
2018
NFS

_Vision of God_
Pencil on Paper
56” x 42”
2018
NFS

THE RAMP GALLERY ARTISTS

Left to right

_Karin Turner_

_LOVE Your Self MORE So You Can LOVE Others More (You are Most Worthy)_
Embellished canvas print, mixed media
20” x 30”
2018

On adjacent wall, above

_Karin Turner_

_Perseverance_
Acrylic on canvas, mixed media
48” x 72”
2005

_R. Dafina_

_Regina Carter_
Photography
23” x 29”
2016

_Valerie Brown–Troutt_

_Clouded View_
Acrylic, recycled material
36” x 36”
1995–2018

_Venus L. Morris_

_Curiosity Healed the Cat_
12” x 18”
Photography
2016

_Valerie Brown–Troutt_

_Bloom Where You are Planted_
Digital mixed media
18” x 24”
2018