



August 30–October 2, 2018
Curated by Karen Seneferu and Melorra Green

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:
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.

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***The Black Woman is God
Workshop and Artist Talk***

Saturday, September 15, 2018,
1–4pm

Closing Reception

Thursday, September 27, 2018,
6–9pm

Learn more at somarts.org

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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, Aiyana 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.

Gallery Hours



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

Orisa Futurista:

Oshun

Photography

20" x 24"

2018

\$600

Orisa Futurista:

Yemaya

Photography

20" x 24"

2018

\$600

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.

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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 seamstresses, 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 deities. These orisha are part of the Ifa tradition which comes from Ile Ife Nigeria and is practiced throughout the diaspora. This work serves as 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 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

Gallery Hours



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

The answers aren't what you see in pages, it's what you see

within yourself and the world

Digital painting installation

18" x 24"

2018

NFS

EBONY IMAM 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.

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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 on going 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.

Gallery Hours



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

<i>Blue Hilda</i>	<i>Lulas's Eyes</i>	<i>Sister Queens</i>
ipad painting	ipad painting	ipad painting
20" x 16"	14" x 11"	14" x 11"
2018	2018	2018
\$450	\$200	\$200

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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.

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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 activist, 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 activism 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.

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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

<i>PRINCESS</i>	<i>PHAROAH</i>	<i>MADONNA</i>
Acrylic	Acrylic	Acrylic
16" x 20"	16" x 20"	18" x 24"
2017	2017	2017
\$1100	\$1100	\$1500

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/theirs) 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.

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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 Orixá Ogum.

Gallery Hours

ARTWORK

After Sunrise
Watercolor,
graphite and
gouache on canvas
24" x 30"
2018
\$400

*I'll Go Where No One
will Find Me (Crystal
Illusions)*
Watercolor,
graphite and
gouache on canvas
24" x 30"
2018
\$400

Fool on the Hill
Watercolor,
graphite and
gouache on canvas
24" x 30"
2018
\$400

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 a 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

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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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"

Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center

934 Brannan Street | San Francisco, CA

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm

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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

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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 One'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

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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

Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center

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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 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.

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ARTWORK

HAWA // EVE

35 mm film ink, archival ink print

20" x 30"

2017

\$450

"she came from Nigera
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, CinePalium 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 fiilm

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 lms in her living room and kitchen. She has screened internationally since 2008 and has been a fulltime lmmaker 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).

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ARTWORK*CREATION*

Film

54 min

2018

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.

Gallery Hours



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.

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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

Lawd Have Mercy

Digital print

65" x 60"

2018

SABRINA NELSON

Petition for Membership Black Bird Life

Mixed media

Dimensions vary

2018

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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

Gallery Hours