



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Curated by Antonie Hunter

January 14 – February 21, 2021

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

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



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interviews

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Bay Area Deaf Arts celebrates and centers the art forms and cultural expressions historically rooted in the Deaf community, raising Deaf awareness in non-Deaf populations, and inviting collaboration between Hearing and Deaf artists. Curated by renowned Deaf producer, performer and activist Antoine Hunter, also known as PurpleFireCrow, this exhibition asks us: Where are the voices of Deaf and Deaf People of Color? What truths are we willing to listen to? Do you know they have more to show than just talk about Deaf culture itself?

Bay Area Deaf Arts celebrates American Sign Language (ASL), the shared language of the Bay Area Deaf community. The exhibition and events are virtual and open to Deaf and Hearing community members everywhere! Hunter emphasizes that Hearing and listening are two different things, we invite you to come listen and learn about Deaf arts, Deaf Queer arts, Deaf BIPOC arts, Deaf women arts, Deaf with disabilities arts and more. We invite our Deaf California Bay Area artist community to a space where the Hearing and Deaf community can learn from these amazing Deaf artists: Drago Renteria, Jon Kastrup, Clare Cassidy, Orkid Sassouni, Gungaa Tuvshinbat and more!

Hunter says "It's Zula!" which means "It's brilliant!". Don't miss it!

To see the virtual gallery visit

somarts.org/badavirtualgallery/

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

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

ABOUT CURATOR & EXHIBITING ARTIST

ANTOINE HUNTER

Bay Area native, Antoine Hunter also known as Purple Fire Crow is an award-winning, internationally-known, African-American, Indigenous, Deaf, Disabled, choreographer, dancer, actor, instructor, speaker, producer and Deaf advocate. He creates opportunities for Disabled, Deaf and hearing artists and produces Deaf-friendly events. He founded the Urban Jazz Dance Company and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival.

Antoine has received numerous grants and awards including the inaugural Jeanette Lomujo Bremond Award for Humanity, Isadora Duncan (Izzie) for Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival, and SF King of Carnaval.

Hunter’s work has been performed globally, most recently in Turkey, UK and Russia. He has lectured across the U.S. including at Kennedy Center’s VSA, Harvard and Duke University, and the National Assembly of State Arts. In 2019 alone, his company Urban Jazz Dance Company, an ensemble of professional Deaf and Hearing dancers, performed for and engaged more than 4,200 schoolchildren. His shoe company DropLabs and Susan Paley just released an innovative product to help people feel music through their shoes. He is Vice President of Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA's) Board. DCARA is a non-profit, community-based social service agency serving the deaf community. Established in 1962 as one of the first deaf-run agencies in the country.

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

Gallery Hours

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



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DEEPA AGARWAL

"I love fresh, farmers market vegetables so much I sometimes have to paint them or even paint with them"

Deepa has had a life steered by art starting in her home country of India, taking her to the Royal College of Art in London for a Master Degree in Graphic Design and finally onto California for a career in the commercial art world of computer animation at Dreamworks in Los Angeles. If you look hard enough, you can find her in the credits of movies like Kung Fu Panda 2 or Puss in Boots.

When you work at a bug studio like Dreamworks you are part of a team with several hundred artists. Each working in their own specialized division. Deepa was a Texture Artist and was responsible for digitally painting the surfaces of the sculpted characters and landscapes. This job is technical as well as creative and if you must know, here are some nerdy details.

Deepa created CG maps (diffuse, specular, bump, alpha, displacement, etc.) by painting textured using Mari and Photoshop software. Then using in-house software, she would use the shader setup such as shiny plastic, matte fabric, skin, hair, etc. as a base and tweak the shader parameters under temporary lighting to get the matching look and feel (spin renders) for the concept art reference.

But that was some time ago now and almost in a reaction against the strict constraints of this commercial world. She now likes to experiment and explore with 'real' paint on 'real' paper. That is what you see today.

You can learn more about Deepa's work at: bionicdeepa.com or on Instagram: [@bionicdeepa](https://www.instagram.com/bionicdeepa)

Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and "Deaf Eyes-How we see differently" workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center

934 Brannan Street | San Francisco, CA

Gallery Hours

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

somarts.org/



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

clare cassidy

clare cassidy takes pride in being genuine and capture the “in-between” moments. She expresses her feelings through still images on topics she feels passionate about; feminism, language rights, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQIA and pretty much basic human rights. When you look at her images, she hopes that you read them and can emotionally connect. As a mother of three Deaf children, clare was able to get plenty of practice on photographing children. Lifestyle child portraits are her favorite types of photography sessions.

She considers herself a documentary photojournalist and her strength as storytelling.

To learn more about clare’s work please visit:

clarecassidyphotography.com or on IG: [@ifyouwereachild](https://www.instagram.com/ifyouwereachild)

DRAGO RENTERÍA

Drago Renteria (he/him/his) is a Deaf, Chicano, heteroqueer transman and a long-time LGBTQ/social justice activist based in San Francisco. He currently splits his work time between running a small tech company and serving as Executive Director of the national Deaf Queer Resource Center, an organization he founded in 1995 to support, inform, empower, and bring more visibility to and awareness about marginalized Deaf LGBTQ communities.

In addition to his activism work, Drago is also a photojournalist and professional portrait photographer; he studied and received certificates in both genres from City College of San Francisco, one of the oldest and largest photography programs in the country.

For the past several of years, Drago has been working to document in visual form the gentrification currently taking place in San Francisco’s Mission District, an area he has called home for over two decades. He eventually plans to publish a book of his work showing how gentrification impacts communities of color.

To learn more about Drago’s work please visit: dragomedia.com or on IG: [@dragomedia](https://www.instagram.com/dragomedia)

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

Gallery Hours

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



ASL LOVE ❤️ (Bobby, Brian, Joy, Shea)

ASL Love is a Bay Area organization that was founded to provide Deaf expressive artists a space to share their artistic creations with the world and to support communities with resources & collaborations.

To learn more about ASL Love please visit aslove.com or follow them on Facebook: @asloved or IG: @aslheart

Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

ORKID(EH) SASSOUNI

Orkid Sassouni grew up on Long Island, in a small village town about twenty-five mile from Manhattan, right after her family left Tehran, Iran during stormy Revolution in 1979. Her generations of families had lived in ghettos for more than 250 years until 1918 because of their ethnic and different religious backgrounds. Ms. Sassouni graduated at Gallaudet University with a BA degree in Art History and Museum Studies. After that, Ms. Sassouni worked as a contractual gallery lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC for ten years. She studied studio photography at Parsons School of Design. Ms. Sassouni interned for two well known photographers: Hans Nelman and Annie Leibovitz. She has experience with hands on archiving as she processed the photographers' collections. Ms. Sassouni attended San Francisco State University and graduated with a MA in InterArts Disciplinary Studies (IAC) before the program was forced to close. She also worked as a Library Technical Assistant I at the San Francisco Public Library's Deaf Services Center since 2001 and still works there today. Ms. Sassouni has shown photography exhibitions in the US and Europe. Her works consist of documentary work within the Deaf community and her family.

This series was suggested by Ms. Annie Leibovitz who help with the idea of using an analog camera: Nikon FM2 with Ilford films. She lives in Bernal-Mission, San Francisco.

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

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

JON A. KASTRUP

Jon A. Kastrup was born in St. Louis, Mo in 1964. He became deaf when he was around 18 months old. His sister also became Deaf due to an unknown cause at around 18 months. He was taught and learned by both oral and manual education. Kastrup, graduated at Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in 1983, Rochester Institute of Technology with Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology in 1991, and Brigham Young University with Juris Doctor in 1996.

Kastrup shares, he did not find his career satisfactory so he was lost - a lost soul. He heard a lot about the phenomenal city of San Francisco known as the center for all kinds of radical movements. He was called to move there in the latter of 1990's. He thrived and found the best of himself through his artworks. After feeling pressure to conform, he embraced himself for who he was deaf, gay and distinctive that he was taught not to embrace them.

He dealt with major clinical depression and ongoing PTSD and found himself through his artworks by accident. It was a form of art therapy. His work is known for mixed media expressionism of his personal journey throughout his lifetime. His work reflects the dark and bright sides of humanity and his artwork is either dark, bright, or both. He uses multi-colors for a representation of emotional well-being, mental health, and spirituality and blended together to symbolize humanity.

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

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

GUNGAA TUVSHINBAT

Gungaa was born in Mongolia. She was born Hearing but started to lose hearing at the young age of 5 due to a medication that was used to save her life. At the age of 10, she became profoundly Deaf.

She grew up in the Oral world until the age of 16, she then began to meet and learn Mongolian Sign Language. She later completed her education with a Masters in Fine Arts in Mongolia. She was given the opportunity to spread her wings and open her heart to travel the world to more than 50 countries, meeting so many friends.

In 2003, Gungaa had the chance to produce Fine Art Pieces that sold in an auction in NYC. Many of Gungaa's artworks are still unseen by the public. She has many talents including sewing, sculpting, reupholstering, and painting surrealism, abstract and more.

She has also been involved in several Deaf Produced short films including one from Deaf Hope.

To learn more about Gungaa's work please visit:
gungaastudio.com or on IG: @Gungaa

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

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org



Bay Area Deaf Arts

Exhibition Run

January 14– February 21, 2021

Opening Reception tour & Artist Interview

Thursday, January 14, 6–8pm

Artist Panel, YOGA, Learning Photography

Saturday, January 16,
12–2:45pm

Artist Panel and “Deaf Eyes-How we see differently” workshop

Saturday, January 23,
12-2:45pm

Live Workshop, Artist Advocacy workshop, Urban Jazz Dance Company Performance

Saturday, January 30,
12-3:15pm

Learn more at somarts.org

ABOUT SOMARTS

SOMArts Cultural Center, founded in 1979, cultivates access to the arts within the Bay Area by collaborating with community-focused artists and organizations. Together, we engage the power of the arts to provoke just and fair inclusion, cultural respect and civic participation.

SOMArts plays a vital role in the arts ecosystem by helping activate the arts citywide. We do this by providing space and production support for non-profit events, as well as fairs and festivals throughout the Bay Area, and offering a robust program of art exhibitions, classes, events and performances that are affordable and accessible to all. SOMArts’ exhibition programs receive critical support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and The San Francisco Foundation, and are sponsored in part by a grant from Grants for the Arts.

SOMArts is located at 934 Brannan Street—between 8th and 9th—within 2 blocks of 101, I-80, Muni lines and bike paths. For public information call 415-863-1414 or visit somarts.org. Stay connected by following us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

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

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 12–7pm & Saturday: 12–5pm
somarts.org

