

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2023

New Exhibition in Recognition of Black History Month Opens at the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery

Exhibition, Curated by The CreArtive Freedom Family of Oxnard, will Include a Celebratory Closing Reception with Moving Artist Performance and Opportunity to Meet the Artists

VENTURA, CA – The CreArtive Freedom Family, Ventura County Arts Council and the County of Ventura are excited to announce a special art exhibition in recognition of Black History Month. The exhibition, titled *Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Present - Imagining Our Future...* is on display now through March 17, 2023, inside the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery, located at 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA, 93009.

The visual arts exhibition was curated by Oxnard-based performing arts and exhibition studio The CreArtive Freedom Family, and features work from local Ventura County artists who relate to, support or have a connection to Black culture. Exhibiting artists include Javier Ordonez, Diana Dupuy, Nyla Young, Stephen Harper, Karla Ayala M., Kaya, Dez "Deadstxle" Porter, Amber Garza and Doranda Martin. The exhibit features paintings, photographs, glass work and mixed media pieces.

“With this exhibition we honor the epic efforts, hopes, dreams and accomplishments of our people,” said Doranda Martin, founder and creative director of The CreArtive Freedom Family. “Join us as we celebrate our life experiences and imagine the future on our journey towards a harmonious humanity.”

The public will have an opportunity to meet the artists at a celebratory closing reception on Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the Main Plaza of the Hall of Administration. This closing reception will also feature moving artist performances, choreographed to compliment the visual artwork, by members of The CreArtive Freedom Family and the Oxchord Dance Group.

The exhibition and closing reception are free and open to the public. Artwork is on display on the Main Plaza and 4th Floor of the Hall of Administration, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Craig Rosen, Interim Executive Director, Ventura County Arts Council, by phone at (805) 658-2213 or by email at crosen@vcartscouncil.org.

Artists

Visual Artists

Karla Ayala M. (Painter)
Diana Dupuy (Photographer)
Amber Garza (Painter)
Stephen Harper (Painter)
Kaya (Painter)

Doranda Martin (Painter)
Javier Ordonez (Photographer/Painter)
Dez "Deadstxle" Porter (Painter)
Nyla Young (Painter)

Moving Artists

Jeric Gambon
Doranda Martin
Laprice Moore

Margarita Moran
Nyla Young

Oxchord Dance Group

Choreographer: Michelle Arrieta
Michelle Arrieta
Jada Bato
Marissa Calasin
Destiny Cobain
Marlene Erwing
Jovanna Escamilla
Kortni Godsey

Jasmine Kim
Malachi Lawton
Zauriel Luna
Ismael Monter
John Partida
Dailan White

Photography Dancers/Models

Marlene Erwing
Jeric Gambon
Kristy King
Laroyeana
Zauriel Luna
Doranda Martin
Mecca

Laprice Moore
Margarita Moran
Omowunmi
Daisy Valdivia
Mary Veal
Nyla Young

Glass Blower

Gerald Hester

The CreArtive Freedom Family Leadership

Founder & Creative Director

Doranda Martin

Board Members

Doranda Martin
Laprice Moore

Daisy Valdivia
Chondra Ward Williams

About The CreArtive Freedom Family

The CreArtive Freedom Family is a creative moving arts organization united in boundless exploration of vast life experiences, towards the progressive growth and development of the unique identity as a moving artist. Their mission is to support the free and holistic well-being of the distinct individual through facilitating the exploration, discovery, examination, development and radical exhibition of the divine identity through creativity.

For more information about The CreArtive Freedom Family, please visit them on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/creartivefreedomfam/>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CreARTiveFreedom/>.

About Ventura County Arts Council

Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) advances the arts in Ventura County by providing arts education and opportunities in schools and other creative settings, by advocating for local artists and arts organizations, and by creating partnerships among artists, arts supporters, businesses, foundations, and county organizations. It embraces diversity and equity, striving to reach low income, marginalized, and communities of color with programs that offer equal access to the arts. VCAC was formed and incorporated as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization in 1997. It has been designated by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as the local partner of the California Arts Council (CAC), with a mandate to serve the county's citizens in partnership with CAC.

For more information about VCAC, please visit <https://vcartscouncil.org/>.

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