

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artists and Galleries Unite to Support the Museum of the African Diaspora

The Museum of the African Diaspora partners with Artsy for the Museum's first Online Benefit Auction

The auction will feature work from Otis Kwame Kye Oquaicoe, Amoako Boafo, Cassi Namoda, with the support of Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Roberts Projects, Goodman Gallery, and more...

April 21 - May 05, 2020

(San Francisco, CA) - The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) is launching its first benefit auction, as artists, donors, businesses, collectors, and individuals have banded together to ensure the vitality of this significant institution. During this critical need, the art world is in solidarity to support the institution as a foundational platform for artists of African descent in the Bay Area and throughout the world. Partnering with **Artsy**, the online auction will open on April 21st and close on May 5th, 2020. In creating an expansive, yet focused auction representing the infinite iterations of the African diaspora, MoAD presents works by artists who have close ties to the Museum in support of its mission and at a juncture in its survival.

The auction will consist of a collection of new and previously displayed works from artists across the world. The works, many of which were created to support this auction, represent signature pieces from the artists' unique practices. Artists who have committed to contributing pieces to this important initiative include **Otis Kwame Kye Oquaicoe, Amoako Boafo, Manuel Mathieu, Ferrari Sheppard, Wangari Mathenge, Andrea Chung, Cassi Namoda, William Cordova, Purvis Young, Adia Millett, Lava Thomas, Didier William, Raelis Vasquez, Dewey Crumpler, Wesaam Al-Badry, Enrico Riley, Alexandria Smith, Tiffany Alfonseca, February James, Whitfield Lovell, Peter Uka, Kwame Brathwaite, Ludovic Nkoth, Jerrell Gibbs, Dominic Chambers, Clotilde Jiménez, Todd Gray, Rashaad Newsome and American Artist**, with additional artists to be announced.



Amoako Boafo, Untitled, 2020, Oil on canvas, 70cm x 50cm, Courtesy of the artist and Mariane Ibrahim Gallery.

The auction will provide essential funding as MoAD makes every effort to open its doors once again. Like collegial institutions, MoAD is projecting extraordinary shortfalls in funding due to COVID-19 and, as cultural stewards, have a responsibility to protect and preserve the important institution. The auction is a critical piece in mobilizing all of MoAD's communities to save the institution in this unprecedented time. Artists have been overwhelmingly generous in donating available works or making new pieces, to support the institution and invest in its sustainability, as a part of the global art community. The online auction format will provide new and experienced collectors the opportunity to bid on some of the same exciting names previously seen in the galleries of the San Francisco museum, while supporting MoAD with much needed funding as it strives to make up lost revenue.

Monetta White, MoAD Director, said, "It is so important especially right now when our worlds are so unsure, to remember that the work MoAD is doing as an arts community is vital, necessary, and life-

affirming. Art, and access to art, is transformative and we have a responsibility to hold and create cultural spaces. In these times of extreme challenge and uncertainty, we must work together as a community, to collaboratively sustain our cultural institutions. We call on artists, donors, businesses, collectors, and individuals to support this institution as a foundational platform for artists of African descent in the Bay Area and throughout the world. Arts institutions are important now, more than ever, as artists continue to teach us new ways of existing.”

Adia Millett, an Oakland based artist whose work was included multiple MoAD exhibitions including *Black Refractions: Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem* (2019) and *Where is Here* (2016) notes, "This unexpected cultural transition is not a time to isolate, but a time to observe and listen to the wisdom of our creative voices. We must remember that it is ART, which has not only taught us to see the beauty and the struggle of our past, but the wisdom and hope of our future.”

Artists and gallerists have come together to donate work including Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Roberts Projects, Goodman Gallery, James Fuentes Gallery, Traywick Contemporary, Klowden Mann, Philip Martin Gallery, Rena Bransten Gallery, Sikkema Jenkins, David Lewis Gallery, Kavi Gupta Gallery and Koenig & Clinton, along with collectors Arthur Lewis, Hau Nguyen, and Ron Casentini.

The institution will be accepting donated artwork through April 21st. For further inquiry, please email ekuhlmann@moadsf.org

About MoAD

Opened in 2005 in San Francisco’s Yerba Buena arts district, MoAD, a contemporary art museum, celebrates Black cultures, ignites challenging conversations, and inspires learning through the global lens of the African diaspora. MoAD is uniquely positioned as one of the few museums in the world focused exclusively on African diaspora culture and on presenting the rich cultural heritage of the people of Africa and of African descendant cultures all across the globe.

Originally called The African American Cultural Institute, MoAD grew out of the research and development process that began in 2002. The new museum was renamed Museum of the African Diaspora to reflect a broadened scope and mission, and incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. The architecturally stunning space was designed by the nationally-renowned Freelon Group within the St. Regis Museum Tower.

For more information about MoAD, visit The Museum’s website at moadsf.org.

About Artsy

Artsy is the leading destination for exploring and collecting art from the world’s top galleries, museums, art fairs, and auction houses. Artsy partners directly with the most influential players in the art world, providing collectors and enthusiasts a central resource to learn about and purchase artwork from anywhere in the world. Powered by The Art Genome Project, a personalization system that maps the connections between artists and artworks, visitors to Artsy can browse art from the world’s leading museums, collect artworks from thousands of top galleries, explore international art fairs before they open to the public, bid in auctions from leading auction houses, and read about the art world in the world’s most-read art publication. Our mission is to make all the world’s art accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

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