

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) takes audiences *In the Artist's Studio* as part of its innovative lineup of online offerings

San Francisco, CA, July 20, 2020 —The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco invites you to meet some of its favorite artists right in the fascinating spaces where they create their work. *In the Artist's Studio*, online every Wednesday at 1pm PDT, takes audiences into the studio of a different artist each week to see new and in-progress work and to hear how that work has changed as a result of COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. Each visit ends with an audience Q&A.

“It was extremely important to us to continue supporting artists and serving our community during this prolonged museum closure,” says Demetri Broxton, Senior Director of Education, MoAD, and host of the popular weekly talks. “Many of the artists we speak with had exhibitions already installed or in the works as the pandemic emerged. These virtual studio visits provide artists with a much-needed opportunity to keep dialogues open about their practices, and our audiences have really been enjoying these engaging and thought-provoking lunch breaks.”

The exciting summer lineup includes these upcoming talks:

- **Barbara Earl Thomas**
July 22, 2020
Co-presented with Claire Oliver Gallery

Thomas is a visual artist, a writer, and the former Executive Director of the Northwest African American Museum.

- **Erica Deeman**
July 29, 2020
Co-presented with Anthony Meier Fine Arts

Deeman is a photographer primarily focused on portraiture. Her work visualizes themes of identity, gender, and race.

- **Leonardo Benzant**
August 5, 2020
Co-presented with Claire Oliver Gallery

Benzant is a Dominican-American artist, with Haitian heritage, born and raised in Brooklyn, whose practice is informed by his studies of the Kongo and his spiritual beliefs shaped by research into Western, Eastern, African and Caribbean religion, art, history, culture, and rituals.

- **Rodney Ewing**

August 12, 2020

Ewing's drawings, installations, and mixed media works focus on his need to intersect body and place, memory, and fact to re-examine human histories, cultural conditions, and events.

- **Adebunmi Gbadebo**

August 19, 2020

Co-presented with Claire Oliver Gallery

Gbadebo is a visual artist who creates sculptures, paintings, prints, and paper using human hair sourced from people of the African diaspora.

- **Lewis Watts**

September 2, 2020

Co-presented with Rena Bransten Gallery

Watts is a photographer, archivist/curator, and Professor Emeritus of Art at UC Santa Cruz. His work centers around the "cultural landscape" primarily in communities occupied by people of African descent.

Past participating artists have included Bisa Butler, Andrea Chung, Jefferson Pinder, Dr, Fahamu Pecou, and many more.

The public is asked to register in advance at moadsf.org/calendar to receive instructions on joining the talk via Zoom and pay what they can to attend.

In response to its temporary closure due to COVID-19, MoAD has vastly increased its online programming, developing a new and exciting digital voice and connecting the Museum to virtual audiences worldwide. Its innovative lineup of online offerings includes the new *Conversations Across the Diaspora* series hosted by author Sarah Ladipo Manyika; *Open Mic Thursdays*; *Choppin' It Up with MoAD*, a weekly IG live series with MoAD's Chef-in-Residence Bryant Terry; *Community Resilience*, a series that highlights important issues of the day and the work being done to keep the community resilient in a time of upheaval and uncertainty; the upcoming *BLATANT*, an artist as first responder; an ongoing African Book Club; an African Diaspora Film Club; virtual tours of past exhibitions; art making workshops for ages 7 and up; and more.

All programs can be accessed and registered for on the website at moadsf.org/calendar. Times noted above are all PDT.

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.

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

For media information or visuals visit our online press gallery or contact:

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