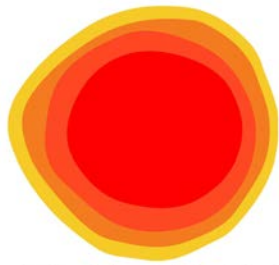


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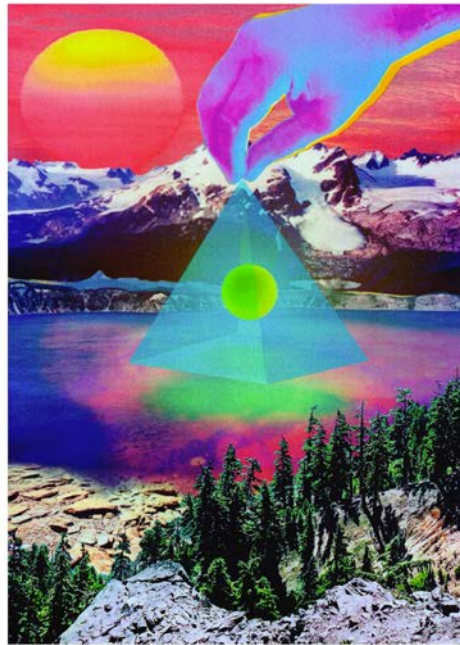


**CAAM** California  
African American  
Museum

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**California African American Museum Presents  
*Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed: because i am that***



(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) is now featuring the work of contemporary artists Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed in the Museum's vast atrium. The multi-faceted, two-person exhibition *Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed: because i am that* is on view through May 7, 2023.

The collaborative exhibition features screenprints, paintings, video, window vinyl, and a mix of sculptural works in a dynamic environment that will evolve to include additional artists in performance, movement, and sound. Roberson's and Mohammed's intuitive practices figure Blackness as an abstraction, something free of fixed narratives and boundaries. *because i am that* is a conversation

between two artists, a means to attend to the physical and metaphysical and to create a space that inspires limitless Black thought.

*Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed: because i am that* is curated by Essence Harden, Visual Arts Curator, CAAM. “Adee and Azikiwe both work across a wide range of materials and genres and have vested interests in abstraction, color theory, and Blackness as an expanse,” explains Harden. “I was interested in what a conversation between artists with different practices but similar ethos would look like and how the Museum could hold an evolving story on Blackness, place, and possibility.”

*because i am that* is the sole exhibition on view at CAAM, which is undergoing infrastructure upgrades that impact its galleries, research library, and conference center. During this time, CAAM will offer exhibitions and public programs in the atrium and continue to present exhibitions and programs at Art + Practice in Leimert Park, as part of the ongoing collaboration between the two institutions.

### **About Adee Roberson**

Adee Roberson (b.1981, West Palm Beach, Florida) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is a meditation on symbolism and texture. Synthesizing performance and installation, their work weaves sonic and familial archives with technicolor visions through paintings, video, and melodic compositions. Roberson has exhibited and performed at numerous venues including Portland Institute of Contemporary Art; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Antenna Gallery, New Orleans; Project Row Houses, Houston; Palm Springs Art Museum; Human Resources, Los Angeles; Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Roberson is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Cutting Edge Grant and a 2021 Los Angeles Artadia Award, and has been an artist-in-residence at Echo Park Film Center, Treehouse Lagos, and ACRE.

### **About Azikiwe Mohammed**

Azikiwe Mohammed (b. 1982, New York) is a 2005 graduate of Bard College, where he studied photography and fine arts. Mohammed received the Art Matters Grant in 2015, the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant in 2016, and a Rauschenberg Artists Fund Grant in 2021. He is an alumnus of residencies at Pioneer Works in Brooklyn and Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, New Jersey. Mohammed's work has been presented in a number of solo exhibitions including at the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, and the Knockdown Center, Maspeth, New York, as well as group exhibitions at MoMA PS1, Queens; Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; Frac Normandie Caen, France; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.

### **Also on view: CAAM at A+P**

In addition to *Adee Roberson and Azikiwe Mohammed: because i am that* at CAAM, the Museum is also presenting two exhibitions this fall at Art + Practice in Leimert Park. They are:

### ***Chloë Bass | #sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America***

At Art + Practice

September 17, 2022 – January 21, 2023

*Chloë Bass | #sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* is a photography, text-based, performance art, and public sculpture project by conceptual artist Chloë Bass (b. 1984, New York). It culminates the artist's ongoing project, *#sky #nofilter*, for which she captured images of cloudless blue skies in an effort to mark time in the lead up to the 2016 US Presidential Election. Bass then coupled the images with personal and political writings that she shared on Instagram over the course of a year.

The series of works on paper, glass studies, and video now on view are a prelude to the forthcoming public art installation. For this presentation, Bass has conceived a newly commissioned public sculpture in South Los Angeles that features sixteen blue glass panels adapted from the original *#sky #nofilter* photographs. Together they form a participatory analemmatic sundial, where the viewer's body functions as the shadow-casting element that determines the time of day. Each sundial panel is engraved with text drawn from Bass's original *#sky #nofilter* writings that will cast its own shadow and offer a linguistic point of reflection.

*Chloë Bass | #sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* is curated by Taylor Renee Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator, CAAM. The exhibition is co-presented by CAAM and Art + Practice. CAAM at A+P is a five-year collaboration. The public art sculpture is commissioned by CAAM, with support from Teiger Foundation.

### ***Justen LeRoy: Lay Me Down in Praise***

At Art + Practice

September 17, 2022 – January 21, 2023

*Lay Me Down in Praise*, created by multidisciplinary artist Justen LeRoy (b. 1994, Los Angeles), is a three-channel film installation that asks how the scream, moan, and melisma—also known as the vocal run—provide a sonic route toward Black environmentalism. LeRoy layers clips of Black performers with images of geological activity. Through this juxtaposition, the artist considers how resistance and regeneration inhabit the wordless screeches of the Earth and the history of Black sound. *Lay Me Down in Praise* insists the Earth's aches and upheavals, felt in volcanic eruptions, tectonic shifts, and other cataclysmic events, are entangled with Black resistance and liberation.

*Lay Me Down in Praise* is curated by Essence Harden, Visual Arts Curator, CAAM. The exhibition is co-presented by CAAM and Art + Practice. CAAM at A+P is a five-year collaboration. The film is commissioned by CAAM, with support from Teiger Foundation, Serial Pictures, and Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND).

### **About the California African American Museum**

CAAM explores the art, history, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the West. Chartered by the State of California in 1977, the Museum began formal operations in 1981 and is a state-supported agency and a Smithsonian Affiliate. In addition to presenting exhibitions and

public programs, CAAM houses a permanent collection of more than 5,000 works of art, artifacts, and historical documents, and a publicly accessible research library. Admission to CAAM is free.

Hours: Tuesday (through November 22, 2023)–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays (except MLK Day) and Tuesdays (beginning November 29, 2022), Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. CAAM is located in Exposition Park at the corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition Boulevard, west of the 110 (Harbor) Freeway. Exposition Park parking is available for \$15 (daytime) at 39th and Figueroa Streets. The Metro Expo line Expo Park/USC station is a five-minute walk through the Exposition Park Rose Garden to the Museum.

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Images:

Page 1

L: Adee Roberson, *Horizon*, 2021. Screenprint on paper, 16 x 20 inches. Courtesy the artist

R: Azikiwe Mohammed, *Potential Futures 15 Until Sanctum*, 2022. C-print, 10 x 14 inches. Courtesy the artist