

# California African American Museum

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## **California African American Museum Announces Upcoming Exhibitions for Summer Reopening**

**A Public Sculpture by Chloë Bass Will Be Installed and an Array of Public Programs Will Take Place Outdoors This Summer**

(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) announced today a suite of exhibitions opening August 5, 2023, in galleries newly reopened after a months-long closure for upgrades to CAAM's building. Beginning May 8, 2023, CAAM's lobby, which has been open during construction, will close leading up to the reopening celebration in the evening on August 4, 2023.

Meanwhile, CAAM will offer a slate of public programs outdoors this summer, including a summer solstice program on June 21, 2023, to mark the debut of *#sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* by Chloë Bass, a commissioned outdoor sculpture that takes the form of a participatory analemmatic sundial. While engaging with the sculpture, visitors' bodies function as the gnomon—the projecting element that casts a shadow to determine the time of day.

Looking towards August, CAAM Executive Director Cameron Shaw said, "I'm excited for CAAM to be once again fully programmed with an outstanding and diverse suite of exhibitions. They range in subject from the Great Migration to Black leisure in California, and include both solo and group exhibitions of contemporary art. Together they offer the kind of deep, vibrant experience that visitors have come to appreciate from CAAM, where coinciding exhibitions that consider various facets of African American history and culture via art, artifacts, film, and more offer opportunities for expansive thinking about Black lives past, present, and future."

The exhibitions opening at CAAM this summer are:

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

Opening June 21, 2023



*Chloë Bass | #sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* is a public sculpture and performance art project by conceptual artist Chloë Bass. The commissioned sculpture, which takes the form of a participatory analemmatic sundial, consists of sixteen blue glass panels that collectively form a partial ellipse. While engaging with the sculpture, the human body functions as the gnomon—the necessary projecting element that casts its

shadow onto each glass panel, determining the time of the day. Bass has engraved contemplative phrases onto each sundial panel that appear on the ground below in shadow form. *#sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* culminates the artist's ongoing project, *#sky #nofilter*, which began during the lead up to, and aftermath of, the 2016 US Presidential Election.

This project is curated by Taylor Renee Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator.

## ***A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration***

August 5, 2023 – March 3, 2024



*A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* explores the profound impact of the Great Migration on the social and cultural life of the United States from historical and personal perspectives. This award-winning traveling exhibition features newly commissioned works across media by twelve acclaimed artists: Akea Brionne, Mark Bradford, Zoë Charlton, Larry W. Cook, Torkwase Dyson, Theaster Gates Jr., Allison Janae Hamilton, Leslie Hewitt, Steffani Jemison, Robert

Pruitt, Jamea Richmond-Edwards, and Carrie Mae Weems. Through the artists' distinct and dynamic installations, *A Movement in Every Direction* reveals anew the spectrum of contexts that shaped the Great Migration and explores the ways in which it continues to reverberate today in both intimate and communal experiences.

*A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* is co-organized by the Mississippi Museum of Art and the Baltimore Museum of Art. The exhibition is co-curated by Ryan N. Dennis, former Chief Curator and Artistic Director of the Center for Art and Public Exchange, Mississippi Museum of Art, and Jessica Bell Brown, Curator and Department Head for Contemporary Art, Baltimore Museum of Art. The CAAM presentation is organized by Essence Harden, Visual Arts Curator.

## ***Black California Dreamin': Claiming Space at America's Leisure Frontier***

August 5, 2023 – March 31, 2024



Access to nature, recreation, and sites of relaxation—in other words, leisure—is critical to pursuing the full range of human experience, self-fulfillment, and dignity. *Black California Dreamin': Claiming Space at America's Leisure Frontier* illuminates Angelenos and other Californians who worked to make leisure an open, inclusive reality in the first half of the twentieth century when Southern California was reimagining and positioning itself at the center of the California and American Dreams. In shaping recreational sites and public spaces during the Jim Crow era (1900s–60s), African Americans challenged white supremacy and situated Black identity within oceanfront and inland social gathering places throughout California. *Black California Dreamin'* features historical photographs and memorabilia along with contemporary artworks that illuminate these leisure practices.

This exhibition is curated by Alison Rose Jefferson, independent historian, curator, and author of *Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era*.

## ***Darol Olu Kae: Keeping Time***

August 5, 2023 – January 15, 2024



*Keeping Time* is a short film by Darol Olu Kae, an artist and filmmaker born and based in South Los Angeles. It ruminates on the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra (the Ark), an avant-garde jazz group from South Central LA, active since 1961, defined by its malleability and its musicians' allegiance to pure and nuanced jazz forms as established by its founder, the late composer and pianist Horace Tapscott.

Kae's film, which intersperses original 16mm, 35mm, and digital film formats with recently excavated archival footage from Tapscott's personal home movies, draws inspiration from the collective's foundational organizing structure that highlights community interdependence and preservation. The title, *Keeping Time*, invokes an insular belief common among jazz musicians that timekeeping in performance is the drummer's responsibility. In the Ark, rhythm is accounted for collectively, a practice that gestures back to an African indigenous relationship to time that is dependent on ritual, intuition, and fellowship.

This exhibition is curated by Taylor Renee Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator.

## Untitled project by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh

August 5, 2023 – August 3, 2025



Tatyana Fazlalizadeh is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist whose practice considers Black image making as a site of protest, contestation, affirmation, and possibility. At CAAM, Fazlalizadeh will present a series of portraits of Black Angelenos wheat-pasted across the atrium's monumental walls. Based on photographs and conversations taking place this spring while the artist is living in Los Angeles, the portraits ask how safety is inferred, built, and felt for the city's Black residents.

Fazlalizadeh's methodology of amplifying individuals' voices through portraiture emerged in 2012 from her public art series *Stop Telling Women to Smile*, in which she took on gender-based street harassment via unwavering, closed-lip portraits of women posterized across Brooklyn, New York; accompanied by statements, their presence transposed the dominant, oppressive voices that often try to silence them. The exploration of safety in Fazlalizadeh's project for CAAM will carry through to a solo exhibition at Art + Practice, opening spring 2024, when both sites will exhibit her work concurrently.

This exhibition is organized by Essence Harden, Visual Arts Curator.

## ***We Are Not Strangers Here: African American Histories in Rural California***

August 5, 2023 – January 21, 2024



The history of California's rural communities cannot be told without the role of African Americans. For generations, Black Californians have contributed to rural areas, working the land, building homesteads, fighting school segregation, training teachers, establishing independent settlements, and vigilantly protecting equal rights. Stories of these residents challenge myths about early California and create new narratives about freedom, citizenship, and self-governance. Through historical photographs and documents from court cases, poetry, vintage textbooks, interviews, music, and rare archeological objects, this exhibition reveals nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residents living in varied rural landscapes from coastal mountains to the Central Valley and desert communities. Their civic accomplishments helped transform the state. *We Are Not Strangers Here* highlights the importance of Black Angelenos in particular to these efforts.

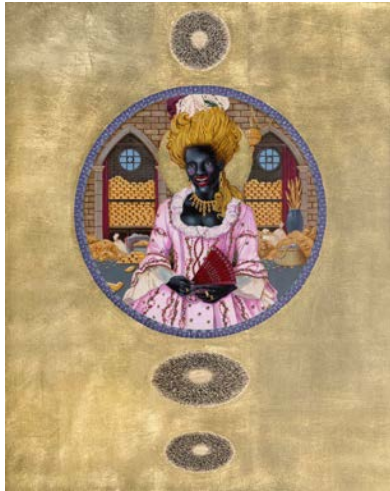
This exhibition is curated by Susan D. Anderson, History Curator, with consultant Amy Cohen.

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

The Museum is also presenting the following exhibition this fall at Art + Practice in Leimert Park:

### ***Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place***

September 16, 2023 – March 2, 2024



Artist residencies are an important tool for artists to explore site-oriented practices and experience firsthand particular places and cultures. *Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* presents the work of eleven former fellows at the Sacatar Institute in Bahia, Brazil, all from North America and of African descent, to reflect on how Bahia, an epicenter of the African diaspora, has fueled their work and changed their understanding of themselves.

The artists include Gerald Cyrus, Juan Erman Gonzalez, Mark Stephen Greenfield, Karen Hampton, Rik Freeman, Francis Tre Lawrence, and Tim Whiten.

This exhibition is curated by Bia Gayotto, independent curator, artist, and writer, and is co-presented by CAAM and Art + Practice as part of CAAM at A+P, a five-year collaboration.

### **Summer Public Programs at CAAM**

Highlights of the Museum's outdoor summer programming include:

Sunday, June 18, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### **Juneteenth Prosperity Market Farmers Market**

Black farmers, chefs, and entrepreneurs pop-up at a special Juneteenth edition of the Prosperity Market pop-up at CAAM. Activities include farm stands, prepared food, handcrafted artisan goods, DJ, cooking demonstrations, children's reading hour, arts and crafts, yoga (10:00 – 11:00 a.m.), and sound bath (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.).

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Summer Solstice Salutation with Chloë Bass**

*Chloë Bass* | *#sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America* is an outdoor sculpture and performance art project by conceptual artist Chloë Bass, debuting at CAAM on June 21, the summer solstice. The sculpture takes the form of a participatory analemmatic sundial in which visitors cast shadows that determine the time. Celebrate the solstice—the longest day of the year—at a lecture/performance by Bass, followed by an outdoor sound bath provided by Sol & Sound.

Thursday, August 4, 2023 | 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

## **Grand Reopening Celebration—KCRW Summer Nights @ CAAM**

Open galleries, DJs, food trucks. Free and open to all.

### **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.

The Museum is closed May 8–August 4, 2023. Hours beginning August 5, 2023: Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays (except MLK Day), 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**

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Artist rendering of *Chloë Bass: #sky #nofilter: Hindsight for a Future America*

Larry W. Cook (b. 1986), *Augusta* from the series “Let My Testimony Sit Next To Yours,” 2022. Inkjet print, pigment-based, printed on Hahnemühle Fine Art Baryta paper. 40 x 50 in. Courtesy the artist

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Verna Deckard Lewis (later Williams) and Arthur Lewis in front of the Casa del Mar Club fence, Santa Monica, California, August 2, 1924. Scrapbook photograph. Courtesy the Verna Deckard L. Williams Collection of Arthur and Elizabeth Lewis

Darol Olu Kae, *Keeping Time*, 2022 (still). Single-channel video installation; 16mm transferred to video, color, with sound, 32:26 min. Courtesy the artist

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Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, installation view of *Pressed Against My Own Glass*, paper and oil paintings on wall, University of Michigan. Photo by artist

Farm hand and horse standing next to shed, inscribed “Tomy,” ca. 1908. Courtesy the Roberts Family Papers, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library

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Mark Steven Greenfield, *Xica Da Silva*, 2021. Acrylic and gold leaf on wood panel, 20 x 16 inches. Collection of Linda Lott