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**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM PRESENTS  
*BAHIA REVERB: ARTISTS AND PLACE AT ART + PRACTICE***



(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) and Art + Practice (A+P) announced today that the exhibition *Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* will be presented at A+P in Leimert Park September 16, 2023 – March 2, 2024.

*Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* presents the work of ten artists who are former fellows at the Sacatar Institute in Bahia, Brazil—all from North America and of African descent.

The exhibition reflects on how Bahia, an epicenter of the African diaspora that is located in northeast Brazil, has fueled their work and changed their understanding of themselves. Bahia was the first point of entry of enslaved Africans into the Americas and remains the center of Afro-Brazilian culture to this day.

CAAM Executive Director Cameron Shaw says, “*Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* demonstrates how artist residencies can be important, often deeply meaningful, sites for artists to explore and expand their practices within new places, contexts, and cultures.”

“After twenty-five years living in the US, in 2018 I was awarded a Sacatar Fellowship to do a residency on Itaparica Island (in the state of Bahia), which enabled me to return to my homeland and produce work in this area for the first time,” says Brazilian-born Bia Gayotto, who curated the exhibition. “By engaging with the local community I was able to learn about its history, beauty, and struggles from a completely different perspective, and further understand the underlying racial, economic, and cultural division between north and south, where I grew up.”

The artists whose work appears in the exhibition are Sandra Brewster, Gerald Cyrus, Rik Freeman, Juan Erman Gonzalez, Mark Steven Greenfield, Karen Hampton, Germaine Ingram, Francis Tre Lawrence, Precious Lovell, and Tim Whiten.

Focusing on each artist’s process, the exhibition features a range of media—including installation, work on paper, video, painting, textile, watercolor, and mixed media—initiated either before, during, or after the artists’ residencies at the Sacatar Institute. *Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* reflects on how these experiences shaped their visions and impacted their practice as they engaged in myriad ways with the richness and cultural power of Bahia.

For some artists, their time in Bahia represented an encounter with their Black ancestors and African roots. Los Angeles-based artist Mark Steven Greenfield presents a series of paintings that pay homage to martyrs and mythical figures from Afro-Brazilian history, in particular symbols of Black pride and heroic resistance in Brazil, while textile artist Karen Hampton explores stories of the African diaspora in the United States and her own lineage.

Other artists found home and a feeling of belonging, or an unknown or forgotten spiritual part of themselves. Installation artist Sandra Brewster is inspired by her family’s migration from Guyana to Toronto. She centers her practice on the experiences of African Caribbean communities and their relationship with “back home,” such as in *Clothesline*, 2008/2023, a large wall installation that depicts a clothesline packed with

garments that allude to the white clothing worn during Candomblé ceremonies.

Though the artists' backgrounds and approaches vary, many overlapping concepts and narratives reappear throughout the exhibition. Collectively the artworks illustrate questions of Afro-Brazilian histories and respond to the legacies of African colonialism and diaspora, dealing with issues of displacement, forced migration, faith, environmental justice, and inequality.

*Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place* is curated by Bia Gayotto, independent curator, artist, and writer, and is co-presented by CAAM and A+P as part of CAAM at A+P, a five-year collaboration.

### **Related programs at Art + Practice**

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Street Orixás Dance Performance**

Captivating dance duets celebrate the *orixás* (spirits) of Brazilian Candomblé: Exu, Ogum, Iansã, Xangô, Oxum, Oxóssi, and Iemanjá.

Thursday, October 19, 2023 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### **LA, Bahia, Africa: A Writing Workshop**

Beginning and experienced writers are invited to interact with *Bahia Reverb: Artists and Place*, using the artwork to inspire their own investigations into place, memory, and culture. Led by author Faith Adiele.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

#### **Curatorial Walkthrough: *Bahia Reverb***

Curator Bia Gayotto provides a tour of the exhibition.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Viver Brasil Dance Performance**

Bahian choreographer Vera Passos pays homage to the song “Para Onde o Samba Me Leva” and the great samba dancer, Joselita Moreira da Cruz Silva.

### **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–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays (except MLK Day) and Tuesdays, 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.

### **About Art + Practice**

A+P is a private operating 501(c)3 foundation based in the neighborhood of Leimert Park in South Los Angeles. A+P supports the local needs of foster youth and children experiencing displacement worldwide through its collaborations with nonprofit providers First Place for Youth and PILAglobal. A+P also provides Angelenos with access to museum-curated art exhibitions and diverse public programs, organized by CAAM. Admission to A+P is free.

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and select national holidays. A+P is located in historic Leimert Park Village at 3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles, with a space for public programs across the street at 4334 Degnan Boulevard. There is metered parking on Degnan Boulevard and W. 43rd Place. Free street parking can be found in the neighboring residential area with a two-block walk to A+P. Bus lines that stop nearby are 40, 102, 210, 705, 710, and 740. A+P is also serviced by the Metro K Rail Line. The station is Leimert Park.

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Image:

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