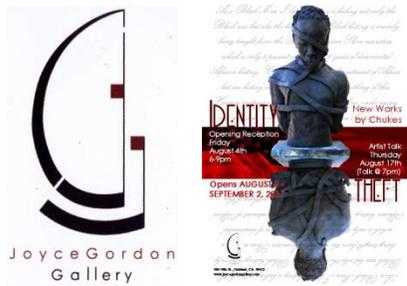


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Who:** Chukes

**What:** “Identity Theft”

**Exhibit Dates:** August 4 – September 2, 2017

**Opening Reception:** Friday, August 4th 6-9pm

**Artist Talk:** Thursday, August 17th 6-9pm (Talk 7pm)

**Where:** Joyce Gordon Gallery

406 14th Street Oakland, CA. 94612 (12<sup>th</sup> St. Bart)

[www.joycegordongallery.com](http://www.joycegordongallery.com)

For more information please contact:

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Joyce Gordon Gallery is proud to present a new body of work titled “Identity Theft” from the renowned artist Chukes.

“Identity Theft” is a very personal statement for Chukes. He began creating these pieces at the beginning of 2017 to protest the televised killings of Black people and people of color here in America and through out the world. Chukes states, “This work is a learning tool designed to confront the negative stereotypes plaguing Black people and people of color and challenge the misconceptions that lead to self-hatred and genocide. Chukes has included aspects of history, race, religion and technology in his work. Chukes goes to to say, “the work in this exhibit is his artistic representation of what happens when people or nations of people are stripped of their indigenous identity and re-taught a history that historically filters the truth and presents a incorrect version of past and present injustices and this filtered history is being used against us as a weapon of self-destruction.” The “Identity Theft” exhibit is a non-violent approach created to bring awareness to enhance our civilization and help us get our identity back.

Chukes is a native of Northern California he received his BFA from The California College of Arts and Crafts and later moved to Southern California where he now lives, and received his MFA from the prestigious Claremont Graduate University.

Chukes was born with a creative spirit and he has been following that creative muse since he was a child. His art is known for his brightly colored exaggerated human figures with misplaced

appendages – hands attached heads or backs, leading up to elongated necks and impossible long locks. The results are surreal pieces that cause the viewer to re-examine their notions of beauty of the body.

Chukes art has been featured in the White House. He has also been in the collection of Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Actress CCH Pounder and famed art collectors, Bernard and Shirley Kinsey to name a few. Chukes works have been published in countless magazine including *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Ebony* and *Essence* magazines, as well as books and films.

Please come and join the Joyce Gordon gallery for this insightful and thought-provoking exhibit and artist talk.

**Joyce Gordon Gallery** is a commercial fine art gallery located in the downtown district of Oakland, California. It exhibits art that reflects the social and cultural diversity of the Bay Area and international artists. The aim of the gallery is to respect the creative pursuits of the individual and seeks to make such work accessible to a broad audience.