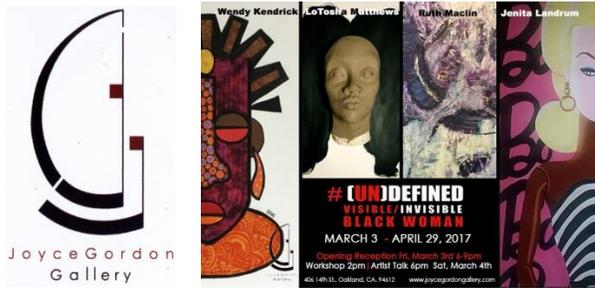


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Who:** Wendy Kendrick, Jenita Landrum, Ruth Maclin, LaTosha Matthews

**What:** “#[UN]DEFINED VISIBLE/INVISIBLE BLACK WOMAN”

**Exhibit dates:** March 3 – April 29, 2017

**Opening Reception:** Friday, March 3rd 6-9pm

**Creative Art Workshop:** Saturday, March 4th 2-4pm

**Artist Talk:** Saturday, March 4th 6pm

**Women’s Month Poetry w/ Lyrical Opposition:** Saturday, March 18th 6-9pm (program start at 7pm)

**Women’s Musical Group:** Friday, March 24th 6-8PM

**Sistah's Let's Talk hosted by Barbara Howard:** Thursday, March 23rd 6-9pm. Sistah's getting together to have real conversations around Sistahhood and healing circle.

**Phenomenal Woman:** Friday, March 31st 6pm to 9pm. A celebration of the lives of phenomenal women.

Both events are moderated by Barbara Howard aka Sistah B Mellow from The Eyes of the Conscious Soul and catered by Wendy'Cheesecake Le'Royalty Ladies Catering Service

**Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery**

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

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

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Joyce Gordon Gallery presents, “#[UN]DEFINED VISIBLE/INVISIBLE BLACK WOMAN,” a traveling exhibit by four women artist whose body of work explores iconography, time, inclusion and exclusion of the black female image.

“#[UN]DEFINED VISIBLE/INVISIBLE BLACK WOMAN,” is inspired by Phoenix Arizona artist, Jenita Landrum. The mixed media exhibit examines a world where black women are visible and yet invisible in some ways through the eyes of four women artists from across the country. Each artist, Ruth Maclin, Wendy Kendrick, LaTosha Matthews and Jenita Landrum

created bodies of work that expresses their views, experiences or feelings of visual/invisibility through metaphorical, allegorical and spiritual presence.

Landrum's work began in 1959 with an image that has become larger than life from inception of a doll. From the beginning, the black female image was overlooked until 1979. As an artist and black girl that played with images that didn't look like herself, it inspired Landrum's work to speak to the invisibility of black women and her quest to make the black female image become visible from 1959 to 2009.

**Jenita Landrum's** career started in the valley while attending Arizona State University as an undergraduate majoring in Painting and Drawing. In her stay in Phoenix, she was co-owner of North Fifth Avenue Studios and Galleries in Downtown Phoenix. She left the valley to complete her education at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Upon completion of her Masters of Fine Art she opened The Art Loft Studios and Gallery in Columbus, Ohio. During her stay in Columbus, Jenita's work and career took flight. Her creations are exhibited nationally covering Arizona, Michigan, Texas, St Louis, Chicago, Ohio, Washington DC, Kentucky, and Indiana. Jenita has traveled internationally pursuing fellowship in Ghana Africa, Dresden Germany and Poland. She is a nationally sought after curator and lecturer, has completed several public commissions and is extensively collected. Landrum is a gifted artist who has benefited from the mentorship of internationally famous artists such as Rip Woods, Jacob Lawrence, Sam Gilliam and Pheoris West.

Landrum describes her work as educational, beautiful, and edgy. Through her craft she explores race, class, and gender through self-identity of images that reflect life realities of living in inner cities. The work exhibited is her journey through the art process of crossing mediums of paint, mixed media and found objects.

**Wendy Kendrick's** inspiration continues to come from "Big Mama", her grandmother who was the "creative compost" in her life. The time she invested in teaching Kendrick to sew, crochet, macrame and cook was an "invisible seeding" as such.

While each of the quilted masks are created, her inner thoughts become woven unconsciously into each piece. Some days the masks are stern and masculine, some days whimsical or full of attitude. The creation of these masks are the direct manifestation of the invisible made visible in her life. Today she finds herself smiling as she continue the age old tradition of quilting but with a modern day flair. The mixing of colors, textures, patterns and shapes is undeniably "visible". She smile and think of Big Mama as she too provide an "invisible seeding" but with elementary students, teaching them to sew and quilt. Today she smile, wondering what will become "visible" after the germination process.

**Ruth Maclin** is an abstract multi-media artist from Columbus Ohio. She studied art and holds her B.F.A. and M.F.A. from The Ohio State University. While attending the university she was selected for the Dean's List and inducted in the prestigious national honor society - Alpha Kappa Mu.

Ruth knows the importance of directing one's creative energies toward a positive path that embraces a spiritual philosophy that manifests itself in many forms. "My vision is to create a retreat where a community can come together in a holistic environment to promote spiritual healing, using various art forms."

"Art is a high level of energy for the eye to see, the ear to hear, the mind to think, the mouth to speak and the heart to store in a divine time. For it is done where there is not time or space. It is the beginning and the ending."

**LaTosha "La" Matthews** is a conceptual multimedia artist who actively makes artwork and lives in Columbus, Ohio. She received her BFA with a specialization in ceramics in 2011. Graduating with a Distinction in the Arts from The Ohio State University for her research of arts and human motivation, which is a prevalent topic in her work. La Matthews' has shown artwork in a variety of exhibitions including Beyond These Walls: Department of Art Biennial Alumni Exhibition 2008, One Good Idea: A Collection of Wildest Dreams 2011, Shine: Emerge Project Part One 2013.

La Matthews has served as a community arts activist working with City of Columbus former Mayor Coleman's Applications for Purpose Pride and Success program for the past five years and has worked with young artists and their families on a permanent mosaic that is installed at the Vine Street Parking garage in the Short North.

**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.