

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Who:** Malik Seneferu

**What:** “Ancestral Portals” Paintings and Drawings by Malik Seneferu (co-curator)

**When:** February 5 – February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Opening Reception:** February 5th 6-9pm

**Artist Talk** Saturday, February 20th 1-3pm

Panelist include guests, Tarika Lewis, 23andMe (a privately held personal genomics and biotechnology company based in Mountain View, California) and more

**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 “**Ancestral Portals**” a 23 day solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Malik Seneferu. Malik celebrates Black History Month and his ancestors from a life long search and recent genealogical discovery.

The narrative of lineage and ancestral discovery at Joyce Gordon Gallery continues into the month of February from a more personal chapter by Malik Seneferu. This exhibit includes pen and ink tree drawings, the “Aesthetic Ascension” series and the major feature of portraits of the artist’s recently discovered parents and grandparents. Also included is a solution driven panel discussion regarding the dismount of ancestral portals for black people of the ‘Americas’. Will finding our family help develop resolution for us?

Viewers of this exhibition can witness in 23 days, how 23 pairs of the artist’s chromosomes became the portal to his recently discovered family through the help of 23andme (a privately held personal genomics and biotechnology company based in Mountain View, California). This exhibit is an event beyond the artist’s dreams. Malik had a long standing experience of what it would be like to have a full grasp of who he was as it relates to his parents and family history.

**Malik Seneferu was born Herman Jerome Smith Jr.** in San Francisco California to Lenora Zelma Marie Matthews RIP 12/08/14 and Harmon “Herman” Jerome Smith Sir RIP 09/19/10 April 7, 1971. By 1993 he arrived to spiritual/creative ascension as his name ascended to **Malik-Heru Jawanza Seneferu**. On August 18, 2015, by way of **23andme.com** and his good friend and possible cousin Joan Tarika Lewis happened to be the day he would make contact with his father’s family to learn that he have three brothers that dreamed as children to also know who he was.

Malik is a self-taught and extremely prolific African-American artist that has created more than 1,000 different pieces of artwork, including paintings, murals, and mixed media projects in the past 25 years. Despite the fact that he has no formal college training, Malik’s art has hung in many different professional arenas throughout the world, such as galleries, museums, magazines, and newspapers.

While growing up in the 1970s and 80s, Malik saw his peers going to jail and getting killed. Living a life of crime did not appeal to him, so he chose to follow his dreams and began creating art. His interest in art became a pursuit for spiritual, mental, and physical elevation. In addition to creating original art pieces, Malik works with communities that have seen hardship.

**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.