

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Who: African American Quilt Guild of Oakland (AAQGO)

What: “Bringing Neighborhoods Together: Quilts Around Oakland”

When: March 4 – April 30th, 2016

Opening Reception: March 4th 6-9pm

Live Jazz Music

Mini Quilt Workshop by AAQGO Members: March 19th 1-3pm

Artist Talk: Friday, April 1st 6-9pm

Workshop 2 (Placemaking): April 2nd 1-3pm

Where: **Joyce Gordon Gallery**

406 14th Street Oakland, CA. 94612 (12th St. Bart)

www.joycegordongallery.com

For more information please contact:

Gallery Curator, Eric Murphy

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Joyce Gordon Gallery in collaboration with AAQGO presents “Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland”

Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland is a citywide quilt exhibition and quilt making project developed by the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland (AAQGO) for 2014-2016. The project involves creating quilts about people, the environment, history, business, culture and other aspects of life in Oakland, California. Over 100 quilts have been made by guild and community members during the project period. Community quilt workshops have been conducted in schools, community centers and non-profit organizations.

About six months ago, Marion Coleman (fellow quilter, Project Curator and AAQGO Board Member) and her guild sisters came up with an elaborate idea: designing narrative quilts that would convey in cloth the personality, history and social complexity of their home ground. “Our name is the African American Quilt Guild of *Oakland*,” Ms. Coleman emphasized. “There’s a sense of pride and possession about our place.” The result is “Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland,” a citywide exhibition of more than 100 quilts opening this week in a variety of locales.

Wildfires were burning across California as Marion Coleman began “Firestorm,” her quilt about the flames that ravaged the Oakland and Berkeley Hills in 1991. It is an inferno captured in cloth: the blackened silhouettes of trees, engulfed in a blaze of intricate, swirling stitches. Other quilters take a more sobering tack. In a piece titled “Hands Up Don’t Shoot,” Jackie Houston, addresses race and police brutality, anchoring her piece around a haunting oversize image of her 7-year-old grandson, his raised hands dramatically, extending beyond the quilt’s edge. Ms. Houston said she used her grandson to evoke the perils of being an African-American boy. Speaking of recent deaths around the country, she added, “This could be anybody’s child.” by Patricia Leigh Brown Feb 2, 2016 – New York Times. Click below for original article.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/03/arts/design/quilts-with-a-sense-of-place-stitched-in-oakland.html?_r=3

The quilts are all masterpieces of art and creativity. The uniqueness of this year’s show is that the Guild member’s quilts are being displayed all around Oakland. In order to view the quilts you will have to travel around Oakland. Currently, the date and places where the Guild member’s quilts will be on display are listed on the Guild’s website, www.aaqgo.org. For those who are unable to come to Oakland, the Guild will be publishing a catalog of the quilts. The catalog will not only display each quilt, but tell the story of the how and why of each quilt. Oakland native, Gertrude Stein, once said “There was no there there” in Oakland. One of many interpretations is that Ms. Stein returned to a Oakland that was no longer the same; the Quilts project dismisses that notion. This quilt exhibit demonstrates that there is a “there, there” and it is unique and only found in Oakland!

This project is funded in part by Alliance for California Traditional Arts, The Clorox Company Foundation, Alameda County Arts Commission, Hoffman Fabrics and members of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland.

AAQGO Mission Statement

The African American Quilt Guild of Oakland was created in June 2000 to preserve and continue the tradition of quilting. We promote fellowship among persons interested in all aspects of quilting. Our goal is to contribute to the knowledge and appreciation of fine quilting and quilts. We sponsor and support quilting activities through regular meetings and special events with the community.

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.