

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Who: Bill Dallas & John Whitehead

What: Artmatism & Geometric Abstractions

Exhibit dates: September 2 – October 1, 2016

Opening Reception and Artist Talk: Friday, September 2nd 6-9pm (Artist Talk 7pm)

Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery

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

www.joycegordongallery.com

For more information please contact:

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Joyce Gordon Gallery celebrates its 13th Anniversary with “**Artmatism and Geometric Abstraction**,” with renowned Oakland-based painter Bill Dallas and sculptor John Whitehead.

Bill Dallas was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and currently resides and works in Oakland, CA. He grew up surrounded by music – Kansas City Blues & Jazz. Although he had a love for the art form, he never focused his direction toward music. It wasn’t until 1963, after his move to Berkeley, California, that he decided to pick up a brush & experiment with painting. He soon discovered an innate talent & love for painting. He later attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a BFA in 1974. A traveler whenever possible, Dallas has visited 19 countries, most commonly Korea and Japan, where he studied with calligraphy master painter, Toshi Yoshida.

Dallas’ work has been exhibited throughout the Bay Area, New York and other parts of the United States. His work is found in private collections, in Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, and South Africa & throughout the United States.

From early childhood until now Bill Dallas has been connected with music and painting – especially the beauty of jazz, and how it reflects his style of painting, a definition he later coined as “**Artmatism**.” Artmatism is also a way to distinguish his work from what is commonly called abstract art since the only abstraction in his work is from his imagination and not contents of reality. Writer and communication professional, Catherine Brozena has this to say about Dallas’

work, “ He sees the process of making art and the finished product as a united whole. In other words, art is both the vehicle for expression and the expression itself.”

John Whitehead was born in Demerara, Guyana, in 1951. He came to the United States at age five and grew up in various inner-city neighborhoods on the west side of Oakland, California. At an early age, John showed a high appreciation and ability for visual arts, spatial relationships, and math. By the age of ten, without any formal training, he had begun painting in oils, creating architectural models, working in clay, and drawing imaginative abstract images.

In 1971, John enrolled in the University of California, Berkeley and received his B.A. in economics. In 1983, he was awarded a master’s degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. From 1990 to 2015, John taught economics as a tenured professor at City College of San Francisco. Although his early passion and ability for visual arts were largely neglected for most of those years, the urge to do creative artistic work remained firmly anchored within him. So, around 2005, about ten years before retirement, he started laying the groundwork for his eventual return to art in a serious way. At that time, John began creating beautiful multi-colored abstract wall sculptures from various art media. Soon after, he began a new body of work consisting of geometric abstract stainless steel and aluminum sculpture influenced by the sculpting methods and paradigms introduced to him in his high school sculpting class.

John Whitehead’s sculptural work evolves from the constructivist and geometric abstract traditions. While it is inspired by his faith in humanity and the beauty of nature, it is most directly influenced by Fletcher Benton’s geometric abstractions and David Smith’s “Cubi” series. Stylistically, his work contains a variety of geometric constructions, shapes, and patterning curves and spaces that exhibit movement, harmony, energy, symmetry, and balance. One of his evolving visions is to integrate the geometric abstract aspect of my work with a variety of contemporary and traditional African artistic paradigms.

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.