

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



AZIZ GALLERIE



Featured Artists: Olivia Davis, Aziz Diagne, David Bruce Graves, Rashaud Griffie, Kaya Fortune, Saru Hager, Emmanuel Kazadi, Okey Steven Ofomata, Bryan Keith Thomas, Zoe Boston, Fan Lee Warren

Exhibition Title: "Poetic Justice: From L.A. (Leimert Park) to the Bay"

Exhibit Dates: December 4, 2020 – January 30, 2021

Opening Reception in Oakland: Friday, December 4th, 2020 | 6-9pm

Additional programs to be announced

To register for events, visit: <https://poeticjusticeevents.eventbrite.com>

Curated by: Eric Murphy and Jideofor Chikeruba (an exhibition design artist for Hammer Museum at UCLA and Head Curator for Aziz Gallerie)

Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery

406 14th Street

Oakland, CA. 94612 (12th St. Bart)

www.joycegordongallery.com

Aziz Gallerie

3343 W. 43rd St. (Leimert Park)

Los Angeles, Ca. 9008

www.azizart.com

For more information please contact:

Joyce Gordon

info@joycegordongallery.com

www.jgordongallery.com

510.465.8928

Joyce Gordon Gallery and Aziz Gallerie is pleased to announce, "**Poetic Justice: From L.A. to the Bay,**" a multi-media visual artist exchange exhibit between Bay Area and L.A. artists in the gallery hubs of downtown Oakland and the L.A. neighborhood of Leimert Park. This carefully curated simultaneously run group exhibit also includes artists workshops, lectures, walking tours and other community collaborative projects.

The title, Poetic Justice is a nod and a tribute to the 1993 film by the late director, John Singleton. It's based on a character in L.A. named Justice (Janet Jackson) who uses poetry to deal with the pain of her loss as she journeys her way to Oakland to attend a convention. **Poetic** in this exhibit explores serendipitous connections such as Aziz Gallery, a former production studio of the late John Singleton or perhaps the Los Angeles neighborhood of Leimert Park named after land developer Walter Leimert who was born and raised in Oakland, CA. **Justice** in this exhibit can be referenced as creating positive outcomes or establishing one's alienable rights.

Living as an African American is a social justice related issue. The visual expression of the experience of what it means to be labeled 'black' in a world that lives in aversion to that word and the people it represents (while concurrently absorbing the culture of our authenticity) is existentially tacking the nucleus of the connectivity of tissue between social justice and the label 'black' via African American Art. This becomes visible in the works of Los Angeles native, Oakland based artist, **Kaya Fortune**. His painting "Kush to Compton" represents his past and those prominent African American Artists who have influenced his work such as Betye Saar, Samuella Lewis, Charles White and others, some of whom he personally encountered while growing up.

Knowing your culture is the platform for art in all forms and watching it being taken, rebranded and pushed with a new narrative while simultaneously forcing the originators of said art under the platform it created, is the premise of poetic justice. Being able to stand on the very platform that had been stolen and reclaim our truth is poetically and socially just. This is evident in the work of Senegalese born, American Artist, **Aziz Diagne** who established a gallery and studio in Oakland before moving his gallery to the Leimert Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Aziz's prints and Theissoise paintings (reverse painting on back of glass) are often mistaken as Picasso style art. Some audiences are reminded that it was African Art, masks and sculptures that influenced Pablo Picasso's early 20th century art.

Zoe Boston is an artist in almost every sense of the word. She was born in Los Angeles, raised in New York, and now lives in the Bay Area. Her inspirations come from God, life, love, music, and everything in between. Although she has been drawing all her life, she did not begin painting until she moved back to the West Coast in 2014. She uses acrylic on canvas to express herself, and continues to grow with each new piece. The viewer not only witnesses her art, but also glimpses into her life's journey.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., **David Bruce Graves** now resides in the East Bay region of Northern Ca. after a long successful graphic art design, advertising, and teaching career in New York. He continues his passion of creating art which predominantly celebrates his African-American heritage. David creates impactful, symbolic images which are archival, visually poetic, and which often invite individual reflection and interpretation from the viewer.

Born in Dyersburg, Tennessee, **Bryan Keith Thomas** received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in 1996. Thomas currently resides in Oakland, California, where he works as an Associate Professor at the California College of the Arts, in San Francisco & Oakland, CA. Thomas received the “White House Honor” as a guest of First Lady Laura Bush, for work with the Art in Embassies Program (Washington, DC.) The theme of his current work is the celebration of the Black experience through its historic symbols; cotton, roses and the African and African American image. His work celebrates the luxury of being- Black, Southern, and eternal icons.

Fan Lee Warren is a contemporary African American artist. She lives, works, and teaches drawing, painting and art history at Laney Community College in Oakland, CA. Born in Birmingham, AL, and raised in Chicago, Warren’s artwork explores various perceptions of black American culture, and its reflected historical construct. Her work depicts information simultaneously from the past and present. The ancient universal spiral provides the transformative symbolism that connects her current and past work with her ancestral memories.

Jideofor “Sunnie” Chikeruba is a young curator from Los Angeles California. Raised in Redondo Beach, his experience comes from trial and error, self-discovery and throwing himself in the mix as well as self-education. He studied political science in college but always had an affinity for arts and music. He had his first exhibit in 2014 and has been doing art exhibitions and music shows since. He is an assistant

curator in a gallery in Los Angeles known as Innerspace and an exhibition design artist for Hammer Museum at UCLA. He is also the head curator for Aziz Gallerie and he also manages artists.

Aziz Gallerie is a space by the diaspora for the diaspora not just limited to Los Angeles but seeks to represent black artist at an international level creating a space that truly facilitates cultural exchange. It also functions through community outreach programs and Initiatives in the form of events centered on the gallery to enhance awareness and notability of the space and its commitment to the community and arts.

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. IG/FB @Joycegordongallery <http://www.joycegordongallery.com/>