



**Diversity Studies Faculty Inaugural Exhibition
Offers Robust Schedule of Community Events
Including Lectures, Live Music, Poetry Tours, and More**

**On View at the Oliver Art Center, CCA Oakland Campus
April 9-20, 2018**

Free and Open to the Public



*Still from Love/Amor, an experimental film by CCA lecturer Shylah Hamilton on view in HOME:
Making Space for Radical Love and Struggle*

San Francisco, CA—March 22, 2018—The Diversity Studies Program at California College of the Art presents its first-ever faculty exhibition **HOME: Making Space for Radical Love and Struggle**—a two week long celebration of art and resistance that highlights the program’s history at CCA and its roots in the larger struggle to establish Ethnic Studies programs across

the United States in the 1960s and 70s. The exhibition, presented at the Oliver Art Center on CCA's Oakland campus, will feature a range of artworks that explore the theme of "home" and its myriad resonances in relation to academia, community, family, identity, and nation. The gallery space and campus will also be activated with two weeks of robust public programming including teach-ins, lectures, live music, and poetry tours. The exhibition and events are free and open to the public.

"HOME showcases the amazing work done by Diversity Studies faculty, creates a physical space for our program to engage more substantively with the CCA community and the community at-large, and highlights the 50 years of activism and persistence, in radical love and struggle, that are the program's history and its legacy," says Dr. Melinda Luisa de Jesús, the chair of CCA's Diversity Studies program who envisioned the exhibition.

Highlights of celebratory events held in conjunction with the exhibition include: a lecture by graphic artist and illustrator Emory Douglas who served as the minister of culture for the Black Panthers from 1967-1980; a lecture and music demo by *History of Funk* scholar and KPFA radio host Rickey Vincent; poetry tours of the exhibition by San Francisco poet laureates Kim Shuck and Devorah Major; and a showcase of musical performances and lectures the night of Friday, April 13 featuring powerhouse vocalist, songwriter, and producer Jennifer Johns, classical guitarist Matthew Grasso, and Oakland-based rapper and activist Vreni Michelini-Castillo (aka Chhoti Maa).

HOME is co-sponsored by the President's Diversity Steering Group. The Exhibition Committee for HOME consists of: Claudia Bernardi, Melinda Luisa de Jesús, Shylah Pacheco Hamilton, Taraneh Hemami, Sean Levon Nash, Eduardo Pineda, Bryan Keith Thomas, and 2018 Diversity Studies Fellow Keyvan Shovir. Students in CCA's Middle Eastern and North African Art (MENArt) group and Community Arts (COMAR) group are also each hosting events tied to the exhibition and their respective areas of academic study.

HOME: Making Space for Radical Love and Struggle

Exhibition and Public Events Schedule

Free and open to the public

Exhibition

CCA Oakland Campus, Oliver Art Center (5212 Broadway Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618)

On view: April 9-20, 2018

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Opening reception: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 starting at 5:30 with remarks by former chair Malaquias Montoya at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Reception: Friday, April 20, 2018 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Faculty featured: Claudia Bernardi, Sita Bhaumik, Melinda Luisa de Jesús, Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, Guillermo Galindo, Ikaika Gleisberg, Matthew Grasso, Shylah Pacheco Hamilton, Taraneh Hemami, Maxwell Leung, Devorah Major, Vreni Michelini-Castillo, Malaquias Montoya, Sean Levon Nash, Trena Noval + Shalini Agrawal/ 3rd Space Lab Collective, Eduardo Pineda, Mariella Poli, Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera, William Rossel, Pallavi Sharma, Kim Shuck, Bryan Keith Thomas, Rickey Vincent, Noga Wizansky

Public Events

CCA Oakland Campus (5212 Broadway Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618)

***Decolonizing & Design: A Boriqueer Perspective* by Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera**

Monday, April 9, 2018 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

AICAD Post-Graduate Teaching Fellow Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera will give a public lecture. Rivera is a visual communicator and educator steeped in cultural complexities expressed through the nuanced, visual languages of print and digital media.

Tea with Trena Noval + Shalini Agrawal

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 11:00 a.m.-Noon

Artist Trena Noval and architectural designer Shalini Agrawal are founding members of 3rd Space Lab Collective—a cultural exchange collective with artists from the Bay Area and Bangalore, India. For this event, Noval and Agrawal will host a tea and a discussion aimed at sharing mutual creative processes, values, and cultural practices to build a new cultural landscape.

Rickey Vincent Vinyl Showcase

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Rickey Vincent will give a public lecture on the history of Funk music. Rickey is an author, educator, and musicologist specializing in Funk. He is also the author of *PARTY MUSIC: The Inside Story of the Black Panthers Band and How Black Power Transformed Soul Music* (2013) and *Funk: The Music, the People and the Rhythm of The One* (1996) and has been the host of *The History of Funk* on KPFA radio for over twenty years.

Emory Douglas

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Graphic artist and illustrator Emory Douglas will give a public lecture on the intersection of art, printmaking, and activism. Douglas served as the minister of culture for the Black Panther Party from 1967 until the party formally dissolved in the early 1980s. Douglas produced numerous iconic posters and prints for the Black Panther Party.

The Sounds of HOME Showcase
Friday, April 13, 2018

4:45-5:30 p.m. Oliver Art Center

CCA Diversity Studies faculty member and classical guitarist Matthew Grasso and world music scholar William Rossel will discuss and perform North Indian fusion music.

5:40-6:30 p.m. Nahl Hall

Performance by Jennifer Johns, a powerhouse vocalist, songwriter and producer who vacillates between soul, hip hop, afrobeat, dancehall, rock, reggae, deep house, and more. Johns has shared musical line-ups with Lauryn Hill, The Black Eyed Peas, Mos Def, Capelton, Ziggy Marley, Gil Scott Heron, Wyclef, Les Nubian, De La Soul, and Common, to name a few.

7:15-8:30 p.m. Nahl Hall

CCA Diversity Studies founder Dr. Alashe Michael Oshoosi (Michael Wright) and former chair Dr. Sonia Mañjon will bring forward the the history and legacy of CCA's Diversity Studies program, as well as its importance to the contemporary moment and beyond.

9:00-10:00 p.m. Nahl Hall

CCA lecturer, rapper, and activist Chhoti Maa (Vreni Michelini-Castillo) will conclude the evening with a musical performance. Born out of a tradition of migrants in Guanajuato and forced by the Mexican post-NAFTA exodus into movement, her raps have roots in her grandmother's poetic recitation and in Mexican oral tradition. Chhoti has performed in Puerto Rico, China, Spain, Qatar, U.A.E., Ghana, Peru, Mexico and across the US. Based in Oakland, she recently partnered with Maddy Clifford (aka MADlines) to form the collective BrujaLyfe and create a vital platform for bilingual, female hip-hop artists in the Bay Area.

The Color of Humor

Sunday, April 15, 2018 from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Students from CCA assistant professor Sean Levon Nash's course The Color of Humor will present their research to the public. In this course, students explore humor, and consider the subaltern perspectives of various historically disenfranchised peoples including Black, Native, and Chicano.

Healing through art: what are the airs of the soul?

Monday, April 16, 2018 from 11:00 a.m.-Noon

CCA lecturers Vreni Michelini-Castillo and Shylah Pacheco Hamilton will host a teach-in on CCA's campus that is open to the public, exploring art, visual cultural, and representation in the media by questioning its healing power for individuals and communities.

Poetry Tour through HOME

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 from Noon-2:00 p.m.

Poet, visual artist, community activist, and CCA senior lecturer Kim Shuck will lead a poetic tour through the HOME exhibition. Born in San Francisco, Shuck is both a Cherokee citizen and a citizen of the United States. Her poetry is inspired by her heritage and by her experience as a fifth-generation San Franciscan. She is the poet laureate of San Francisco, appointed by the late Mayor Ed Lee in June 2017.

***Unsettling Trans & Queer Frameworks of Legibility: Native Hawaiian Māhū Identity in Settler-Colonial Contexts* by Ikaika Gleisberg**

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Ikaika Gleisberg will give a public lecture on her current research, which examines how Trans Studies attempts to undo and unravel oppressive structures and normative frameworks in favor of embracing divergent forms of alterity. Gleisberg aims to identify approaches that decenter cis- and heteronormative thinking in the classroom as a starting point for students to cultivate strategies for surviving and resisting the logics of settler colonialism and white supremacy.

COMAR Students Breadmaking/Intervention

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 11:00 a.m.-Noon and 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Student activists from CCA's Community Arts Program (COMAR) will conduct an urban intervention with bread making at the center of the activity. More information to be announced in the coming weeks.

MENArt Group Presentation

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

CCA's Middle Eastern and North African Art (MENArt) Group will organize a public lecture. The group works to recognize, make visible, and support the diverse Middle Eastern and North African artist communities in the Bay Area.

Poetry Tour through HOME

Thursday, April 19, 2018 Noon-2:00 p.m.

Award-winning poet, fiction writer, and CCA faculty member Devorah Major will give a poetry tour of the exhibition HOME, tying together the artworks in the show. Major, a former poet laureate of San Francisco, has toured Italy, Bosnia, Jamaica, Venezuela, Belgium, England and Wales, as well as throughout the United States. She performs her poetry and serves on panels speaking to African-American poetry, Beat Poetry, and the poetry of resistance.

About the Diversity Studies Program

The Diversity Studies program at CCA has existed in different forms since its establishment in 1970. Diversity Studies informs students about the contributions of historically underrepresented, indigenous, immigrant, and forced migratory communities to American arts, history, culture, and society. In both studio and seminar classes, the program highlights the

interrelations between global and diasporic communities as well as the impact of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality on art and design practices.

About California College of the Arts

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs in art, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners, and attracts promising students from across the United States and from 55 countries around the world. Graduates are highly sought-after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco that will open during the 2021–2022 academic year. Spearheaded by Studio Gang architects, the new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college's programs in art, crafts, design, architecture, and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions; and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever before.

For more information, visit cca.edu

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