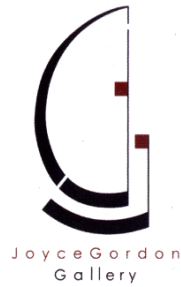


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## “Born Free”

Paintings by Virginia Jourdan

Curated by Eric Murphy

**January 6 – February 25, 2023**

**Opening Reception:** Friday, January 6th | 6-9pm

**Artist Talk:** Friday, February 3rd | 6-9pm

<https://bornfreeeventsbyvirginiajourdan.eventbrite.com>

**Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery**

406 14th Street Oakland, CA. 94612 (12<sup>th</sup> St. Bart)

[www.jgordongallery.com](http://www.jgordongallery.com)

For more information please contact:

[eric.joycegordongallery@gmail.com](mailto:eric.joycegordongallery@gmail.com)

[www.jgordongallery.com](http://www.jgordongallery.com)

510.465.8928

Joyce Gordon Gallery and The Art of the African Diaspora presents, “**Born Free**,” an AOTAD satellite exhibit of paintings by Virginia Jourdan that is inspired by the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Preamble states: *Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,*

*Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.*

I choose to paint black silhouettes of African Americans, to create a powerful strong contrast against bold vibrant colors. Combining a social narrative with the concept of love, I want to express, peace, love, joy and freedom in my paintings. Halos are painted around the heads of the figures symbolizing the light of their souls shining. Each person, no matter what creed or color has something to offer humanity.

Acrylic paint allows me to layer colors and create texture because of its thickness and ability to dry quickly. Acrylic paints also have vibrant bold colors that uplifts the spirit. The motif of sunflowers, dove and heart are symbols of joy, peace, love and happy colors are used to uplift one's soul. – Virginia Jourdan

Virginia was born and raised in San Francisco and enjoyed art even as a child. She continued pursuing her passion and developing her talents at the University of Washington where she honed her skills in painting, then went on to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she received her BFA in Illustration. Virginia moved to New York and worked as a freelance Illustrator for commercial jobs before returning to the Bay Area where she began focusing on fine art to allow for more creative freedom.

Artist statement:

*“A human right is one of the fundamental rights required for living with dignity. Because they are inherent and beyond challenge, no one has the authority to remove these rights, because they come from God.” These paintings are about human rights.*

**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/>