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July 10, 2021

## **"Quantum of Soul Power"**

Quilts and Mosaics by Carlos Spivey

**August 6 – September 25, 2021**

**Opening Reception:** August 6th | 6-9pm  
**Artist Talk:** Friday, September 3rd | 6-9pm

**Where: Joyce Gordon Gallery**  
406 14th Street Oakland, CA. 94612 (12<sup>th</sup> St. Bart)  
[www.jgordongallery.com](http://www.jgordongallery.com)

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Joyce Gordon Gallery presents "**Quantum of Soul Power**," an exhibition of quilted and mosaic portraits by Los Angeles based artist and animator, Carlos Spivey. The two month exhibit also celebrates Joyce Gordon Gallery's 18th Anniversary in September.

Quantum is based on the amount or measurement of its subject. Soul power is the ability of one's soul to incarnate itself on this physical plane of existence; to awaken while in its physical body and take control and rule the personality self. The personality itself is that mortal part of us that will one day die and thus, because it knows of its own mortality it fights tooth and nail to be the boss.

As this title refers to Soul Power, the Black power movement was and still is a fight for our ability to determine our own collective destiny. Awakening our collective consciousness to achieve a common destiny of what we are meant to be; liberating us from the ideologies of colonialism and racism that were created to keep us down. Soul Power..., this collective super body, positions us to achieve our social, political, economic, industrial, spiritual, religious, Historical and cultural destiny.

“I create images of dignity that show the beauty and depth of a people that have been the victims of social, political, economic, cultural and historical inequities for hundreds of years both in America and globally. I hope to right the wrongs of negative stereotypes that have influenced the opinions, expectations and/or limitations of Black folks and how we are viewed by others.

I hope to provide an alternative view, truer to our soul and spirit; a vision that correlates with our African cultural legacies that have been denied but live in our residual memories. I paint pictures of Love, beauty and sacred totems. Black butterflies and Black angels with big Afros populate my surrealistic landscapes. To let our visions be filled with more than limitation, sometimes we need to see ourselves flying and rising.” – Carlos Spivey

Carlos Spivey is an African American artist who is a 4th generation Los Angeles native currently residing in South Central Los Angeles. Carlos's aim as a visual artist is to depict African Americans and Africans of the Diaspora In a positive light. His approach to art and independence stems from his mother and father's Maverick spirit and firm conviction to not have to work subserviently, as was often the case for African Americans early in this century.”

He received his BA in fine arts from UCLA in 1981. He later attended Graduate school at UCLA as well and received his MFA in Film/Animation in 1992. He has completed several animated shorts. He continues to evolve both as an artist and an animator seeing the past as the foundation of the present artistic endeavors that he is involved in.

In 2014, Spivey was commissioned by the California Trust for Public Land to create the public art for a new park in Watts called Serenity Park. The park was completed in January of 2015. He was responsible for the design, fabrication and installation of the 5 mosaics in the following dimensions. In 2015, he designed 6 of 12 figures for the Watts Median Monument which celebrates the people of Los Angeles. The 12 foot silhouettes were fabricated from Steel and appear in a

median in Watts. That same year he was also part of a team of artists who designed several way finding poles to alert pedestrians to landmarks and tourist destinations in the City of Watts. They designed the poles and he also created Photoshop mockups of the poles for the engineers.

In 2016, he was honored with a solo exhibition at the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus in the Noah Purifoy Gallery. He exhibited 53 original art pieces in the mediums of oils, pastel, acrylic, mosaics, stained glass, ceramic sculpture, mono silk screens, mixed media and quilts. The show was well received and ran from August 16, until March 5, of 2017.

He also worked in the mediums of graphite and watercolor. Most of his mosaic works are portraits of full body images of beautiful black people. As he became curious about the fabrication of tile, he started working with ceramics, making masks at first and then his own tile familiarizing himself with the entire clay process from hand building to bisque to glazing and firing. He has since made many mask relief sculptures that incorporate mosaics with hand built items. There is no clear cut line between fine art, murals, mosaics, sculpture and animation.

**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/>