****

**BCA CELEBRATES PHOTO BASED ARTS BY BRONX WOMEN OF COLOR, EXPLORING THE THEMES OF**

**EQUITY AND RACE, IMMIGRANT PERSPECTIVES, AND MOTHERHOOD.**

Contact: Juanita Lanzo

juanita@bronxarts.org

718-518-6728

(June 13, 2018 – Bronx, NY) Bronx Council on the Arts – Longwood Arts Project opens their first ever all women photography and photo-based art exhibition, ***Through a Feminine Lens*** at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos. From June 27 until August 8, 2018, seven emerging female artists of African and Latino descent will present their artworks capturing the urgent and compelling ideas on what it means to be an immigrant, a racial minority, and a mother. In addition to the opening reception on June 27, this exhibition will also present an Artist Talk on July 18, at which the artists will discuss how reclaiming a feminine voice is reflected through their work and how this can initiate change.

Frequently questioned, critiqued, and debated around the world, especially in the given socio-political environment, is: what does it mean to be an inclusive society when often people are segregated due to their various differences – racial, sexual, gender, personal beliefs, economic, or immigration status? The works featured in *Through a Feminine Lens* enunciate a dialogue between art and social politics. While the artists’ works are rooted in a combination of historical contexts, memories and past, the various forms of their representation challenge convention and spark a conversation that can’t be ignored. Some artists in this exhibition use photographs juxtaposed with everyday objects (bright color fabric) to create a relational experience of being. Others use double exposure, superimposition or fragmentation to evoke memory. Through both straightforward and abstract expressionist artworks, *Through a Feminine Lens* connects present-day social issues with heritage, spirituality and history.

**Christa David** fuses the mediums of painting, collage and assemblage to examine faith, power, politics and identity; **Lisa DuBois’s** photographsare based on the spiritual significance of water in ritual practices; **Maria Estevez** tacklesfrailty and the ephemeral using translucent, double exposed faint black & white images of beauty; likewise**, Melanie Gonzalez** captures landscape in monochromatic and double exposed photographs to reflect on her own complex cultural and national identity; **Ijeoma Iheanacho** gives a platform to one hundred black women to come forward and share their story to reclaim and reaffirm their personal identities through a collective image installation; **Adeline Lulo,** through her photographs, attempts to capture the family lives of the Dominican Republic and also have a romanticized veneer to emphasize her personal connection and love for the Caribbean culture and the place; **Gloria Zapata** uses her photographs to raise awareness about women’s health along with political issues.

**Public Information:**

Free Admission**.**

**Summer Gallery hours:**

Tuesdays and Thursday – 10am – 6 pm, Wednesdays 1 pm – 8 pm

**CLOSED:** Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Fourth of July.

For detail gallery hours please visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org)

*Bronx Council on the Arts is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts; City Councilmembers James Vacca, and Andrew Cohen; State Assemblymen Jeffrey Dinowitz and Michael Benedetto****.****Also supported in part by the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, Hispanic Federation, the City of New York, and the Department of Youth and Community Development. Special thanks to Hostos Community College and the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture for their support.*