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## DECADENCE OF ANOTHER KIND: A JOURNEY THROUGH ART AND RESILIENCE

*Opening Reception January 19<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.*

*Artists Kevin Cole, Eleanor Neal, Kevin Okeith, Preston Sampson, Shirley Woodson and Jamele Wright Sr. to participate in Artist Talk on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.*

(CHICAGO – January 14, 2023) -- "*Decadence of Another Kind*," opens with a reception this Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bridgeport Art Center's 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery. On Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> there will be an Artist's Talk featuring Kevin Cole, Eleanor Neal, Kevin Okeith, Preston Sampson, Shirley Woodson and Jamele Wright Sr. The diverse group of artists, each tell a unique narrative rooted in their Southern heritage. What sets these artists apart is the distinct voice derived from the soil and ancestors of the South, offering a nuanced perspective on honoring the past, confronting the present, and preparing for the future. The exhibition is mounted by Atlanta based September Gray Fine Art and is being presented in partnership with Pigment International.

The common thread among these artists, whether African Americans with roots in the South or individuals like Antonio Carreno from the D.R. and Frank Schroeder from France, lies in their profound understanding of the human condition and the art of navigating life's constant flux. The exhibition serves as a testament to the shared experiences that transcend borders and backgrounds.

"Abstraction is truly a free form and free way of thinking, giving artists an inspirational voice to tell their stories in diverse ways, felt on their own terms. Unlike figurative art, which allows for only one story at a time, abstraction is akin to an epic novel that unfolds with each viewing. This mirrors the abstract nature of our lives, which cannot be confined to a single definition," explains September Gray, of September Gray Fine Art and curator of the exhibition.

Internationally distinguished artist Basil Watson's works on display showcase the beauty of sculptural work, celebrating the Black body and emphasizing the strength and grace of women.

Eleanor Neal and Shirley Woodson, two prominent artists featured in the exhibition, will unveil new works that highlight the resilience of communities in isolated places, emphasizing the power and beauty that emerges under any circumstance. Their pieces, spanning both abstraction and figurative styles, promise a rich and immersive experience for visitors.

Basil Watson, another internationally distinguished artist, will showcase the beauty of sculptural work, celebrating the Black body and emphasizing the strength and grace of women.



Confirmed artists attending the exhibition include **Neal, Woodson, Kevin Cole, and Jamele Wright Sr.**, with additional participants expected to be announced soon.

"When we think of decadence, we often envision excessive behaviors and indulgence in luxury. For these artists, decadence takes on a new form—a celebration of life's stories and experiences. Through their work, they create beautiful and meaningful pieces that delve into the complexities of our existence," adds Gray.

The exhibition promises to be a visual feast, offering attendees the opportunity to explore the intricate layers of life through the eyes of these talented artists. Don't miss this unique journey through art and resilience at the Bridgeport Art Center through March 1.

**September Gray** and **Marci Rubin** Curators, "Decadence of Another Kind" Bridgeport Art Center

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