



THE ART & CULTURE MOVEMENTS PULLING US TO THE MOTHERLAND

Amoako Boafo's Ghana Residency

*Chance the Rapper & Vic Mensa's **Black Star Line Festival***

1-54 Marrakech Opens February 9 - 12

Two cultural events played out on the continent over the holidays. Both called attention to the growing global influence of Africans across creative disciplines e.g., art, music, fashion architecture. The launch of **Amoako Boafo's Ghana Residency** and Chicagoans **Vic Mensa** and **Chance the Rapper's** launch of the **Black Star Line Festival** in Accra were globally attended events. Joining Boafo was his Chicago gallerist **Mariane Ibrahim**.

Both these events bring to mind **FESTAC 77**, the 2nd World Festival of Black and African Arts, a global Black Diaspora event held in Lagos, Nigeria in 1977. It was the second global event of its kind and the largest. Pigment recently hosted a Salon Talk with **Dr. Yaounde Olu** who was in attendance at FESTAC 77. Other Black art luminaries in attendance included **Bettye Saar** and **Jae Jarrell** of **AfriCOBRA**, who curated the festival's fashion events, and Chicago photographer **Kofi Moyo**.

In 2022 Pigment Magazine won its second **Ozzie Award for Best Cover Design** featuring the work of Lagos based artist **REWA**. The influence of African artists in the global arena continues to proliferate and look for **Pigment International** to report more as we prepare to attend the **1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair**, the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and the African diaspora. **1-54 Marrakech** will be the fourth edition in Morocco, after a three-year hiatus, and will take place from **9-12 February 2023 (Press preview 9 February)**.

The 2023 Marrakech edition will welcome 20 exhibitors, including eight galleries from the African continent (four of which are based in Morocco), and 12 galleries which will participate at 1-54 Marrakech for the first time. Newcomers to Marrakech include **Foreign Agent (Lausanne, Switzerland)**, **HOA Galeria (Sao Paulo, Brazil)**, **La Galerie 38 (Casablanca, Morocco)**, **Mmarthouse (Johannesburg, South Africa)**, **Superposition Gallery (Miami Beach, USA)**, and **TEMPLON (Paris, France)**.

Click **READ MORE** below to see the full press release.



PHOTOGRAPHER TONY SMITH - WELCOME TO HIS WORLD REFLECTING A LIFETIME IN THE ARTS

What a joy walking into Tony Smith's, aka Lovelace, artist loft in Chicago's South Loop. It was filled to the brim with an eclectic mix of artworks, cameras, mementos, flea market finds including a metal pig, and of course his amazing photos. His studio | gallery is a wondrous place. He has been in the space for more than 20 years and says it is as much home and his actual home. Many will be familiar with the window where he has captured images of many of the city's Black culture keepers in his coffee table book. He says on a sunny day it gets the perfect light.

Smith is a photographer/filmmaker, and photography instructor and also shoots short documentary film projects, featuring iconic African American Artists. One of his favorite films on the Black Arts Movement in Chicago, is "Black is Beautiful." This documentary film/solo exhibition features reflections on the cultural, racial, political and historical significance of creating the Wall of Respect.

Thanks for giving Pigment International a tour. And if you're interested in purchasing one of Tony's amazing, body conscious photos we have a few on our walls at Art on the 9ines, 735 E. 79th Street.

Read more about Tony's Chicago upbringing, career and influences [here](#).

ARTISTS SHARE HOW FACING FEARS, GRATITUDE AND THANKFULNESS CAN LEAD TO IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH

Psychologist and photographer **Dr. Obari Carman** joined visual artists **Santana "Edo" White** and **Blake Lenoir** at **Artist on the 9ines** in the Mahalia Jackson Corridor along 79th Street in Chicago. The trio spoke about the highs and lows in their lives, turning points that spurred them to action and how showing vulnerability as a Black man can be fraught with challenges. Gratefulness was a recurring theme for White who starts each day writing down specifics of the things he is grateful for. He also has regularly scheduled appointments with his psychologist.

FOREVER ARTFUL – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FELICIA GRANT PRESTON

Felicia Grant Preston is a visual artist and retired art educator whose work is rooted in pure abstraction and an electric color palette. Instead of focusing solely on her signature style, her work takes shape around moments when her ideas take form in printmaking, collage, charcoal, and textile. She is a co-founder of the 35 year old **Sapphire & Crystals** art



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collective which mounted an exhibition at the Bridgeport Art Center this past summer. Our best to her and sculptor son **D. Lamar Preston** pictured offering a toast.