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DECADENCE OF ANOTHER KIND: A JOURNEY THROUGH ART AND RESILIENCE TO HOST TEA & CONVERSATION WITH SHIRLEY WOODSON on February 17th

Exhibition continues through March 1

(CHICAGO – February 4, 2024) – Internationally acclaimed artist **Shirley Woodson** will be featured for ***Tea & Conversation*** at the **Bridgeport Art Center** on February 17th , part of the art exhibition ***"Decadence of Another Kind."*** This exhibition features a diverse group of 13 artists, each telling a unique narrative rooted in their Southern heritage. The exhibition is mounted by Atlanta based **September Gray Fine Art** and is being presented in partnership with **Pigment International.** The talk is from 1 pm – 3 pm in the center's 4th Floor Gallery.

Woodson has been painting for over 60 years and her portraits and figurative paintings depict her life, environment and African American history. Her epic painted stories are represented in private and public collections throughout America, such as The Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Studio Museum in Harlem, Toledo Art Commission (Ohio), The White House and The Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art.

What sets the artists featured in Decadence apart is their distinct voices 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 exhibit opened on January 19th to a record January crowd at Bridgeport and has garnered significant interest from the media. **Charles Young** of New City writes, "each work aims not only to designate a referent but to assert its physical presence … the only way to grasp the immense breadth of the formal, ideological and intellectual project this exhibit takes on it to see it for yourself."

"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 Sept**ember Gray**, of September Gray Fine Art and curator of the exhibition.

Featured artists in addition to Woodson include **Eleanor Neal**, **Basil Watson**, **Kevin Cole**, **Jamele Wright Sr**., **Michael Scoffield, Kevin O'Keith, Preston Sampson, Antonio Carreno**, **Gabrielle Torres**, **Ato Riberio**, **Freddie Styles**, and **Frank Schroeder.** The exhibition is 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.

More About Shirley Woodson

Since her debut in 1960, in a show of Michigan artists at The Detroit Institute of Arts, her exhibition record has been meteoric. Woodson has participated in an exhibition at the Academy of Arts and Letters in New York, the Oakland Museum in California, and other venues as diverse as Dakar, Senegal, and Lagos, Nigeria. Woodson has been featured in over 30 Solo Exhibitions. She is the recipient of MacDowell Residency, Creative Artists Grant, Detroit Council or the Arts and the New Initiatives for the Arts Exhibition Grant, NCA Award for Artistic Excellence, 1977, The DIA Alain Locke Award, 1998, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Lillian Benbow Award and numerous other awards and honors. Honored in 2021 Kresge Eminent Artist Award Recipient!

September Gray, Curator, "Decadence of Another Kind" Bridgeport Art Center

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