



For Immediate Release

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**The 9th Southwest Black Art Show will be held April 6-8, 2018
at the African American Museum, Dallas**

"We Are Who We Are" is the show's theme that celebrates and equally values the artists' autonomy and their roles in the global ecosystem

Dallas, TX-February 1, 2018—The **Southwest Black Art Show (SWBAS)** is committed to the exclusive presentation of original art produced by artists of African and African-American descent. This year's show will have over 20 African American artists, including emerging artists Desmond Blair, a Dallas based painter who creates amazing portraits and Nychelle Elise a painter and tattoo artist who hails from Dallas, Texas. Included as this years featured artists are, Fanta Celah, a world renowned artist, jazz vocalist, model and jewelry designer and Jerry "Twin" Lynn, one of the identical twin brothers that make up the artistic duo "Twin" who was born and raised in the Memphis, Tennessee suburbs. The influence of vibrant sounds of blues and jazz resonated through their work. Recently he relocated to Dallas and is sharing his gift as art teacher and artist.

Organizers have taken two bold steps to elevate the show. The first step was creating a theme "**We Are Who We Are**", linking all artist together regardless of genre or mission without melting their independence. The second step is to embrace African American female artist who are grossly underrepresented and have them as 50% of the artist exhibiting, increasing their visibility by 75% from previous years.

"The Southwest Black Art Show is a show that brings some of the brightest artists throughout the country to the Dallas area. This gives the DFW community a chance to see some renowned artists such as Jonathan Romaine and Najee Dorsey, as well as have an opportunity to purchase some of their works. The show's theme "**We Are Who We Are**" allows us to think about how we can project our community into our art and how we see ourselves, how the world sees us and at the same time it makes a statement about art, and Black America today," said Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., President/CEO of the African American Museum, Dallas.

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SWBAS debunks some of the divisiveness occurring in the current global consciousness regarding women and people of color. “I’ve been a professional artist for over 40 years and I’ve been in black art shows all over the world. There are a lot of male artists and very few female artist. It’s important that we make a change and get more women artists telling their stories” said Frank Frazier, one of SWBAS founders. This directly supports the goal to make the show a destination point where collectors come to find quality black art.

“We invite you to meet some of the members of the black art creative class. These artists use their creativity as the foundation for communicating their purpose to society. Their understanding goes beyond the surface and taps into the ocean of the human condition intertwined in science, math, engineering, health care, law, politics, business, emotion, and community investment. Join us for an experience,” said Renata Cathey, chief organizer of SWBAS. The Show will be held April 6 - 8 at the African American Museum, Dallas. This show will host a series of workshops for those interested in becoming collectors, but may not know exactly what to look for when viewing a work of art. The Show will feature presentations by tattoo artists, authors, educators, business owners, and leaders who offer broad viewpoints regarding art definition, the art industry, and the role of the creative class. Also there will be hands-on activities for families and children throughout the weekend.

The SWBAS was founded by artist, Frank Frazier, a group of art educators, collectors and curators from North Texas in 2010. Each year artists compete for one of three prizes. First prize is the “Best in Show” award for a one-person exhibition at the African American Museum, Dallas. Second prize is a one-person exhibition at the South Dallas Cultural Center. Exhibitions will be scheduled within a two-year period at each of the institutions. Third prize is a cash purchase of an art piece at the Museum’s discretion.

Located in Dallas’ Historic Fair Park, the 38,000 square foot African American Museum is the only Museum in the Southwestern United States dedicated to the collection, preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials that relate to the African-American experience. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas. The Museum has a small, but rich collection of African art, African-American fine art and one of the largest African American folk and decorative art collections in the United States. Started in 1974 as a part of the Bishop College Special Collection, the Museum has operated independently since 1979 under the vision of Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., Founding President/CEO.

Visit www.aamdallas.org to find the latest information about the Southwest Black Art Show, including the list of current artists and scheduled presentations. Media outlets may contact Sharka Edwards at the African American Museum at sjones@amdallas.org or 214-565-9026, ext. 304. For sponsorship opportunities, ad information or artist registration please contact Jane Jones at 214-565-9026, ext. 328 or jbjones30@gmail.com.

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