

Black Joy Is My

PROTEST.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION DRAWS ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN AN EXCLAMATION OF BLACK JOY AS A SIGN OF PROTEST

Black Joy Is My Protest

Opens: August 15, 2022 at Busboys and Poets Baltimore

Contact: Tyrone N. Manning

blackjoyexhibition@gmail.com

201-892-2667

[Digital Press Kit](#)

Curated by Jennifer N. Shannon, [Black Joy Is My Protest](#) presents a compelling collection of 24 works by 12 Black artists from across the United States. Some highlights of the exhibition are from Yewande Kotun Davis, a Baltimore artist whose three pieces are vibrant and create a sense of nostalgia, Jersey City (NJ) artist Remain Da 1's Hip Hop sonnet is dedicated to uplifting Black women and the DMV's own Keisha LaRue merges photography and canvas to illuminate joy. Most of the artists are Maryland and D.C. based including: Jeffrey Felten-Green, an award-winning artist, craftsman and master gardener lives in Cheverly, MD; David W. M. Cassidy, a self-taught artist out of Upper Marlboro loves to create with oil paint; Ishmael McKinney, a Baltimore photographer who is redefining the view of Black Americans; Maryland artist Candice Tavares, creates wooden art and digital images; and D.C. native Kwame Edwards, creative director of KMATiKC Media LLC, uses film to showcase overlooked narratives.

Recent Jersey City (NJ) high school graduate Colby Reed creates artwork based on her life experiences; Kristian Cloud, multidisciplinary artist who lives in Colorado prefers photography and digital art; Istwa (Tisha), a Philly based artist uses abstract expressionism to explore

intimacy, liberation and more; and Lizzie Brown, owner of From The Core Art Studio in Richmond, VA, shares and fosters a love for art with the youth.

The exhibit will be mounted on the walls of [Busboys and Poets Baltimore](#) starting August 15 until January 31, 2023. The opening reception (Artists Talk) will take place October 11, where you will hear from the artists of this special collection.

Visit BlackJoyIsMyProtest.com for additional details.

History of Black Joy Is My Protest

[*Black Joy Is My Protest*](#) is a statement that challenges the way Black People are portrayed and how we live. While we support and acknowledge the necessity of protest in a more traditional sense, our mission is to highlight the Black experience as more than moments wrought in struggle. We want to show just how full and meaningful our lives are through the art, poetry, imagination and creativity of others.

Black Joy is My Protest is the follow-up exhibit to [*REVOLT: Black Joy Still Exists, It Always Will*](#), an all-virtual exhibit that premiered in 2020.

Exhibition Overview

Each piece brings something unique to the *Black Joy Is My Protest* exhibit. Whether it is Hip Hop, a short film, photography or paintings, there is something for everyone's pallet. The artists whose work will be up throughout the restaurant used their talents in clever ways to exemplify Black Joy as a form of Protest.

Sponsorship and Partnership

The Black Joy Is My Protest exhibition is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. We appreciate their support and want to also thank Busboys and Poets for partnering to showcase this important work.

About Busboys and Poets

Busboys and Poets is a restaurant, bar, bookstore and community gathering place. First established in 2005, Busboys and Poets was founded by owner Andy Shallal, an artist, activist, and restaurateur. After opening the flagship location at 14th and V Streets, NW DC, Busboys and

Poets is now located in nine distinctive neighborhoods in Washington D.C. Metropolitan and Baltimore areas. Busboys and Poets is a cultural hub for artists, activists, writers, thinkers, and dreamers.

General Information

Busboys and Poets Baltimore

3224 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Tel: 410.497.7114

Hours: Monday–Thursday: 11AM–9PM

Friday: 11AM-10PM

Saturday: 9AM-10PM

Sunday: 9AM-9PM

Admission is FREE