

For immediate release  
August 7, 2020



Still from *DOLLY BABY* (2018). Pictured: Diahann Carroll in *Claudine*

### **Performing Incantations: Deconstructing Racialized and Gendered Media Erasure**

Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to announce *Performing Incantations: Deconstructing Racialized and Gendered Media Erasure*, featuring Britt Sankofa, curated by Dawn Langford. The exhibition will be on view from August 22 to September 14, 2020. Hamiltonian will be open by scheduled appointment times Tuesday – Friday 11am – 4pm, available through our website.

*Performing Incantations* is centered and inspired by historical defiance and how it informs how we navigate and resist continued oppression. Images work on a subconscious level that influence response, who is perceived as innocent or guilty, and who is deserving of justice. The foundations are moving or being moved, and there are still some bricks that need loosening.

The use of the word “incantations” evokes the power of words, intention, and harnessing the spiritual to influence or accomplish a task. Linguistic manipulation through the lens of imposed racial and gender-based oppression can shape perceptions reflecting disparate realities.

This exhibition, organized by Dawne Langford, features work from filmmaker and playwright Britt Sankofa vibrantly demonstrating black feminine empowerment, the presence of ancestors, and defiance when faced with male subjugation of the feminine. This exhibition will also interrogate the legacy of media erasure and misrepresentation, aiming to demystify this process and assert subjectivity in place of oppression.

**Britt Sankofa** (Washington, DC) is a filmmaker and theater artist with roots in Washington DC, Durham NC, and Cameroon. After studying film and digital media at Virginia Commonwealth and New York Universities, respectively, she fell in love with theater and performance simply because “there’s no camera cuts and there’s no ‘take 2’”. Her work is heavily influenced by intergenerational black experiences, sex and gender roles, and childhood nostalgia. Film and theater works have been featured at Feinstein’s 54 Below (2016), Afrikana Independent Film Festival (2017-19), Love is the Only True Act of Resistance film showcase for Godsbanen Arts Center (2018), Direct Current showcase for Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage (2018), We Got

Next: Young Contemporaries exhibition for the DC Council for Arts and Humanities (2018), the Black Femme Supremacy Film Festival (2019) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Women Filmmakers Festival. In her spare time, Britt likes to dig her feet in the soil and sip on something dark.

**Dawne Langford** (NYC / Washington DC) is an independent documentary producer, artist and curator. Exhibition venues and collaborations include Mel Chin Studios, George Mason University, Georgetown University, Transformer, SPRING/BREAK, Times Square Arts Alliance and The Smithsonian Asian Pacific Center.

### **Events and Programs:**

Opening Reception

Saturday, August 22 7-9pm on zoom. RSVP through our website.

Artist Talk

Saturday, August 22, 7pm on zoom. RSVP through our website.

### **About Hamiltonian Artists**

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to build a dynamic community of innovative artists and effective visual art leaders by providing professional development opportunities to innovative new artists and by advancing their entrepreneurial success. Through its unique investment into the next generation of cutting-edge artists, Hamiltonian helps artists to develop important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career. Through artist talks, public events and its membership program, the organization contributes to the vitality of DC's burgeoning arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

Hamiltonian Artists is located at 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC, 20009.

### **GALLERY HOURS/HOW TO VISIT**

For the safety of our community and staff, all visitors will be required to wear a mask to enter the gallery. Only five visitors at a time. And, please remember to social distance and stay six feet apart. Public restrooms are not available at this time.

Please visit the Exhibition page on our website to schedule your time to see the show.

For more information visit [www.hamiltonianartists.org](http://www.hamiltonianartists.org)

For press inquiries and additional info contact:

Rex (Alexandra) Delafkaran

Exhibition Director

[rex@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:rex@hamiltonianartists.org)

(415) 300 - 5823