

CANTON NEWS UPDATE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village Arts Factory's Fine Art Gallery to Exhibit Works By Gavin Beckford and Danielle Reeves

(Canton, MI – May 29, 2024) The Fine Art Gallery at the Village Arts Factory is proud to present a special Juneteenth Art Gallery Exhibit, entitled “Black & Light: Honoring the Beauty of Black Life,” which will be on public display during the month of June. This collaborative photography exhibit will feature works from artists Gavin Beckford and Danielle Reeves. An opening reception will be held on Wednesday, June 5, from 6 – 8 p.m., giving viewers an opportunity to view the exhibit, meet the artists, and enjoy a variety of light refreshments. This event is free to attend and is open to the public.

“Black and Light” is a journey through the multiplicity of Blackness and Black culture. It is symbolic of Black heritage as light, emboldened by the pride that is rooted in the existence of a vibrant, resilient, innovative, intentional, and extraordinary people. “Black and Light” is a literal reference to the illumination of opulent melanated skin tones in the light of photographic styles and techniques that create space for blackness to glow in all of its glory. As stated by the exhibit’s organizers, “Black and Light is an exhibition meant to highlight, honor, and normalize the beauty of Black life. Black is indeed Light.”

Gavin Beckford’s initial interest in photography was sparked by the two cameras he received for his ninth birthday. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, he recalls the deep loss he felt when sentimental family photos were destroyed during Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. The experience made him realize the importance of capturing special moments and events and inspired him to do so as much as possible. Beckford’s passion for photography really emerged during his time in Madrid, Spain and throughout his European travels. It was then that he found his knack for street photography given the vast number of interesting subjects. He also realized the positive mental impact photography had on him; using the process to relieve stress and revitalize him. After returning to the United States and Jamaica, Beckford explored portrait photography. He describes how seeing an image of yourself years later can immediately bring back that memory and what stood out at that point in your life. In his own words, Beckford states his goal with photography, “is to capture the moments with intentionality and my desire is to convey the sentiments of my subject while provoking the curiosity of the viewer.”

A self-taught photographer, Danielle Reeves discovered her love for the artform while taking an introductory photography class in high school. For years, she was known for being the friend at social gatherings, capturing photos with something other than a phone. When Reeves turned forty, she decided to celebrate the milestone by purchasing an upgraded camera. Shortly after, she came up with a plan to photograph her then 10-year-old daughter at the first snowfall. The posting of those photographs on social media catapulted Reeves’ hobby into a profession after an onslaught of compliments and inquiries lead to bookings. The rest is truly an accidental love affair with helping people see themselves in ways they never thought possible through photography. She has found her passion in portraits and continues to hone her craft at becoming an unconventional headshot photographer. Reeves is intentional about using her artistic platform to capture the Black experience in a way that defies stereotypes and dreams of one day photographing an Essence magazine cover.

This art exhibit at the Fine Art Gallery at the Village Arts Factory is free and open to the public during gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; during all public events; or by special appointment arranged via email to kevin.ryan@cantonmi.gov.

The unique and expansive Fine Art Gallery at The Village Arts Factory, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI, 48188, welcomes visitors to experience art in an up-close and captivating environment. Serving a dual purpose as a bustling point of connection to many of the artist studios, as well as an immersive art display space, the Fine Art Gallery is truly the heart of the Village Arts Factory, where art is created, displayed, viewed, and appreciated.

For more information about this latest exhibition, please call 734/386-0650 or visit <https://villageartsfactory.com/artgallery>.

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