

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2024

Media Contacts

Darius Sabbaghzadeh | darius@hellothirdeye.com

Kyle Hinton | kyle@hellothirdeye.com

**Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) Announces 2024-2025 Emerging Artist Program
Awardee Exhibition *Unveiling Histories: A Fabricated Archive* by Jessica Monette**



Image caption: Jessica Monette, *Untitled (Decimation)*, 2024. 44 x 34 in. Coconut husks from Itaparica, Brazil, watch batteries, acrylic paint, paint marker, sequins, glass beads, plastic & resin cast of artist's face, faux flower decorations, snake plant from Brazil planted in soil from various locations in New Orleans. Courtesy of the artist.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) is pleased to present *Unveiling Histories: A Fabricated Archive* by Jessica Monette, the fourth exhibition in the museum's 2024-2025 Emerging Artist Program, on view October 2 to December 15, 2024.

The Bay Area-based artist's work is deeply rooted in familial history and the investigation of heritage. Each artwork in *Unveiling Histories: A Fabricated Archive* is a tangible expression of a dynamic interplay between personal introspection and a broader critique of the societal structures of marginalization. Specifically, the presentation will feature mixed-media works that

MoAD

have been crafted as a vehicle to navigate the profound loss and trauma left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Monette's research for the exhibition included DNA testing, excavating oral histories and collecting photographic documentation, placing in focus the enduring aftermath of colonialism and how extant terror is historically accumulated.

The exhibition features motifs borrowed from aerial surveys of Hurricane Katrina's impact, serving as metaphors for systemic oppression. Additional materials used include commercial building materials such as house paint, plaster and thin-set mortar, stemming from the philosophy that these elements are imbued with a profound aura. Similarly, the works' archival sensibility is amplified by the inclusion of site-specific soils and waters, as well as protective and healing ingredients like brick dust, Agua de Florida scent, and cascarilla. Soil from both Georgia and California represent the physical patterns of forced and voluntary migration in the artist's family, while water from the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain signal a layered narrative that links past, present and future.

Additionally, rope used in the works operates as a symbolic bridge that holds the weight of a violent past, the poetics of ancestral bonds of DNA, and what the artist calls "integral fibers that resist erasure." Each mixed-media work in the exhibition is a visual documentation of Monette's physical, spiritual, and philosophical journeys in a profound form of communion with the past. *Unveiling Histories: A Fabricated Archive* attests that understanding and acknowledging complex and painful histories are essential aspects of navigating the present, all while envisioning a future rich with boundless possibilities.

ABOUT JESSICA MONETTE

Jessica Monette (b. 1986, New Orleans) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work investigates the elusiveness of heritage and the multiplicitous implications of colonialism through the aesthetics and materiality of painting, sculpture and installations. Underpinning her work is her investigation into the phenom of cultural/ancestral retentions and the phenomenology of Hurricane Katrina (New Orleans, 2005). These concepts are extracted through architectural manifestations that investigate historical and contemporary systems of subjugation.

Jessica received her AA in Fine Art painting from the Academy of Art University (2016), her BA in Art Studio from San Francisco State University (2020) where she minored in Africana Studies which has continued to inform her work. To date, she has shown in various galleries in the Bay Area such as Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland, the Martin Wong Gallery, and San Francisco Women's Art Gallery. Jessica is currently a MFA Art Practice candidate at Stanford University, 2024 cohort.

ABOUT MoAD

MoAD (Museum of the African Diaspora) is a contemporary art museum whose mission is to celebrate Black cultures, ignite challenging conversations, and inspire learning through the global lens of the African Diaspora. MoAD is one of only a few museums in the United States dedicated to the celebration and interpretation of art, artists, and cultures from the African Diaspora. The museum presents exhibitions highlighting contemporary art and artists of African

MoAD

descent and engages its audience through education and public programs that interpret and enhance the understanding of Black art. Founded in 2005, the museum continues to be a unique cultural arts staple in the San Francisco Bay Area community. For more information about MoAD, visit the museum's website at moadsf.org.

General Information

For general information, the public may visit MoAD's website at moadsf.org or call 415.358.7200. MoAD is located at 685 Mission Street (at Third), San Francisco, CA.