

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2025

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## **MoAD Announces Slate of New Fall Programs, Timed to Museum's 20th Anniversary, Nexus Week, and Annual Afropolitan Ball**



(L to R): Installation view of *Continuum: MoAD Over Time* at MoAD, on view from October 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026. Photo by Josef Jacques; Harmonia Rosales, Photo by Charles Jones for M.F.B. Entertainment. Images courtesy of MoAD.

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – This fall, the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) reopens on October 1 with two new exhibitions that celebrate its 20 year history and underline its renewed mission and role in the global art conversation. Timed to the second annual [Nexus: SF/Bay Area Black Art Week](#) that culminates with the [2025 Afropolitan Ball](#), MoAD announces new exhibitions, public programs, and unique community partnerships. Tickets to all programs and additional information is available now at [moadsf.org/events](https://moadsf.org/events)

**Monetta White**, Executive Director and CEO of MoAD, said, “The programs we’re hosting timed to our 20th anniversary year echo MoAD’s renewed commitment to Black art and artists. We envision art of the African Diaspora as central—not peripheral—to the global contemporary arts landscape, and the events we have in store demonstrate the limitless ways we can author new perspectives, worlds, and ways of being together.”

Programs tied to ***UNBOUND: Art, Blackness & the Universe*** curated by **Key Jo Lee** will augment the conceptual rigor of the special exhibition, exploring the cosmic and metaphysical capacities of Blackness through moderated talks, visual meditations, performances, screenings,

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and more. The fall season of programs will kick off on October 1 at 6PM during *UNBOUND*'s opening reception with *Irresistibly Alive*, a site-specific performance by exhibition artists **M. Carmen Lane** and **Sidra Leigh Bell**. Taking its title from Toni Morrison's call "to be unstoppably, irresistibly alive," the work will summon ancestral presence through movement, voice, and ritual.

Additionally, every second Saturday MoAD hosts **Thrive@MoAD**, a free community day sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, with free admission to all exhibitions. Thrive@MoAD dates for 2025 will be October 11, November 8, and December 13.



Gustavo Nazareno, *The Secret Matrices of Creation*, 2025. Oil on linen, 70 5/8" x 138 5/8" x 1 13/16" (triptych).  
Everton Ballardin © Courtesy of GUSN Studio and Opera Gallery.

## **Details on *Continuum: MoAD Over Time* (October 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026)**

Alongside *UNBOUND: Art, Blackness & the Universe*, MoAD will open the exhibition ***Continuum: MoAD Over Time*** in the second floor Salon gallery, which presents archival materials and artworks that honor the museum's twenty-year legacy as a catalyst for Black creativity and culture while charting its expanding role on the world stage.

Organized thematically and chronologically, *Continuum* moves through key eras and ideas in the museum's evolution, tracing a living timeline from its founding to the present and into the future. Visitors will encounter foundational figures, pivotal exhibitions, program milestones, innovations, and visionary leadership moments. This show is designed to celebrate memory and spark reflection, including artists **Cheryl Patrice Derricotte**, **Chester Higgins Jr.**, **JoeSam.**, **Richard Mayhew**, **Ramekon O'Arwisters**, **Gordon Parks**, **Lava Thomas**, and **Sam Vernon**.



## Fall 2025 Program Highlights

### ***Irresistibly Alive***

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 6pm to 8PM**

**Tickets:** Free; register [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

On the opening night of *UNBOUND: Art, Blackness & the Universe*, audiences are invited into *Irresistibly Alive*, a rare and unreplicable performance conceived by artist M. Carmen Lane and choreographer Sidra Leigh Bell. Choreographed and performed in collaboration with dancer Sophia Halimah Parker in intricate costumes designed by Mark Eric, the work summons ancestral presence through movement, voice, and ritual.

### **Nexus: SF/Bay Area Black Art Week Presents: Global Groove ReMix**

**Friday, October 3, 2025 | 8pm to 12am**

**Tickets:** VIP (8pm entry) \$95.00, GA (9pm entry) \$45.00; available [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94103

In partnership with MoAD, YBCA, Empire, and The Svane Family Foundation, this reimagined celebration builds on history: the original Global Groove was MoAD's first public opening event in 2005. Now, twenty years later, Global Groove returns—renewed for a new generation.

DJ Novena Carmel and Kooldrink will take center stage, bringing a soundtrack of movement, joy, and community. VIP admission includes early entry beginning at 8pm, lounge seating, complimentary drinks, light bites, and a commemorative gift celebrating MoAD's 20th anniversary.

### **PŌPOLOHENO: Songs of Resilience & Joy with Māhealani Uchiyama**

**Saturday, October 11, 2025 | 2pm to 3:30pm**

**Tickets:** Free; register [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

Presented by Kumu Māhealani Uchiyama, Pōpoloheno is an unprecedented musical initiative celebrating the often-overlooked contributions of African-descended individuals in post-contact Hawaiian history. Kumu Māhealani will dive deeply into her research and the creation of the song and hula celebrating Betsey Stockton, the very first woman of African descent in Hawai'i. The event will culminate in a short performance.

This transformative project, sponsored by the Gerbode Foundation, and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, has resulted in an album of original music released in June 2025 and culminated with concert performances in San Francisco and O'ahu in August 2025.

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**MoAD & Litquake present *Chronicles of Ori, An African Epic* with Harmonia Rosales**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 3pm to 4:30pm**

**Tickets:** Free with suggested donation; register [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

MoAD's Chief of Curatorial Affairs & Public Programs Key Jo Lee will be in conversation with *UNBOUND* artist Harmonia Rosales to discuss her debut book, *Chronicles of Ori*.

In the book, Rosales retells the African myths she has long treasured, crafting an enthralling epic that spans the birth of the universe to the modern world of colonialism and resistance. She writes of the powerful, temperamental deities called the Orishas; of the founding of Yorubaland by the shrewd leader Oduduwa; of the young heroine Eve, born in a time of violence and despair, who would help her people regain their past splendor; and of shimmering serpents and monstrous shadows who stalk the lands of mortals.

**MoAD & SFJAZZ present JJJJJerome Ellis**

**Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 2pm to 3:15pm**

**Tickets:** GA \$20, seniors/students \$12, free for MoAD and SFJAZZ members; available [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

MoAD and SFJAZZ present an intimate performance in MoAD's gallery with JJJJJerome Ellis.

JJJJJerome Ellis (any pronoun) is a disabled Grenadian-Jamaican-American artist, surfer, and person who stutters. The artist works across music, performance, writing, video, and photography. Their debut album, *The Clearing* (2021), was called "an astonishing, must-listen project" (The Guardian). It was co-produced by NNA Tapes and The Poetry Project, and it was released with an accompanying book published by Wendy's Subway.

***Thy Navel is a Goblet That Does Not Lack for Wine: The Visual Journey***

**Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Tickets:** Free/pay what you can; register [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

Musician and visual artist Mark Montgomery French will present an intimate viewing of his ambient protest film, *Thy Navel is a Goblet That Does Not Lack for Wine*, from his album of the same name. This evocative work employs trance-like animations and sensory immersion to explore themes of meditation, resistance, and recovery, reframing Blackness as an origin, an expansion, and a liberation. It sonically draws from across the Diaspora—Javanese gamelan, dub reggae, string quartets, and jazz noir—not just as a style, but as a way to map Blackness across geographies and time.

The evening will conclude with a Q&A with Mark Montgomery French, offering insights into the album's themes and creation.



**Painting the Cosmos with Dr. Nia Imara in conversation with Key Jo Lee**

**Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 2pm to 3:30pm**

**Tickets:** Free; register [at the link here](#)

**Event Location:** MoAD, 685 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94105

MoAD's Chief of Curatorial & Public Programs Key Jo Lee and artist/astrophysicist Dr. Nia Imara will discuss Dr. Imara's latest book, *Painting the Cosmos: How Art and Science Intersect to Reveal the Secrets of the Universe*. The presentation will be followed by a book signing.

The book may be purchased from MoAD's online book store [at the link here](#) in advance of the program.

### **ABOUT MoAD**

San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) is a contemporary art museum whose mission is to place the contemporary art and artists of the African Diaspora at the center of the global cultural conversation. 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 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 cultural beacon where the African Diaspora shapes contemporary art in the San Francisco Bay Area community. For more information about MoAD, visit The Museum's website at [moadsf.org](https://moadsf.org).

### **General Information**

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