



Media Contact: Terri Dixon
LAGRANT COMMUNICATIONS
323.469.8680, ext. 232
Terridixon@lagrant.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The California African American Museum Presents Its Newest Exhibition,
“Evolution of the Revolution”
*On View January 18 through June 26***



LOS ANGELES (February 9, 2016) The California African American Museum (CAAM) announces its latest exhibition, “Evolution of the Revolution,” currently on view through June 26, 2016. “Evolution of the Revolution” is a multi-media installation that explores the African American revolutionary path from the Transatlantic Middle Passage to the present day political arena. It includes pivotal moments such as the Underground Railroad and Civil Rights Movement in a unique show of display. An Exhibition Reception and Walk-Through will be held at CAAM on Friday, February 12, from noon to 2 p.m.

The exhibition was created by Surreal Box Cinema, an artistic collaboration between two experienced set designers, photographer Lynn Rossi and conceptual artist Nichelle Evans. The two artists merged their creative skills and experience as set designers to develop a unique experience for art, culture and history enthusiasts that pays tribute to the men and women who triumphed over slavery and struggled to gain equal rights.

“Nikki and I wanted to create a body of work that tells the stories left out of the history books. We wanted to create a visual journey, from past to present, about the African American experience,” says Rossi.

The exhibition includes large scale photos, in which the artists captured by creating elaborate staged sets that featured models posed with a variety of props. Installed in the exhibition are several of the props used in the photos and a life size retro-style bus to celebrate Rosa Parks and other civil rights leaders as the original riders of justice and freedom. The artists hand-crafted most of the props, spending at least three to six months creating each prop. Yet, the Rosa Parks prop took a year to create due to its size.

“We have worked together for more than six years to make this vision come to life,” adds Rossi. “We’ve also collaborated with people from all over the world and all walks of life including refugees who escaped the Rwandan Genocide, to those living on Skid Row in Los Angeles. I think the most exciting part of doing this project is what we’ve learned about ourselves and from others, as we created these time capsules to be sent out into the world.”

“When you walk in this exhibition, the similarities of the events unfolding in today’s political movements and the ones displayed in Surreal Box Cinema’s props and photos are reminders that there is still work to be done for fairness and equality,” says CAAM’s Executive Director George Davis. “One of our roles as the largest African American cultural institution on the West Coast, is to help make those parallels transparent to the community and art is an excellent way to do that.”

Exhibition Programs

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Surreal Photography Workshop

Apply your own artistry to create a photographic portrait of yourself or a family member guided by Surreal Box Cinema artists. We will decorate a fantastic studio and set lights and props. Please bring your own professional camera or phone camera, and additional items and/or costumes! RSVP (213) 744-2014

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Mural Painting Workshop

Discover the magic and intricacies of mural painting by helping artist Crushow Herring paint a large mural on paper that will be displayed in CAAM’s Courtyard temporarily. RSVP (213) 744-2014

CAAM’s exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Parking is \$12 in the lot located at 39th and Figueroa Streets, or take the Los Angeles Metro Expo line and exit the USC/Expo Park station. For more information visit www.caamuseum.org or call (213) 744-2024.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the art, culture and history of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of over 4,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, CAAM houses a research library containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling exhibitions on a regular basis.

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