

FACE IT

January 5-21, 2024

Piano Craft Gallery
Boston, MA

A juried exhibition celebrating
James Baldwin's ideas on his
100th birthday



Hakim Raquib

Juried by Hakim Raquib (Boston), Colgan Johnson (Boston), Ellen Jacob (New York)

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

—James Baldwin, 1962

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Violence Transformed invites visual artists to participate in “FACE IT,” a juried multi-media arts exhibit celebrating the breadth of James Baldwin’s revolutionary ideas. The exhibit will focus on the art and activism of socially engaged artists in and beyond Boston.

There is nothing more relevant today than Baldwin’s 60-year-old call to face our society’s reality. Efforts to stop us from facing injustice include a surge in book bannings, new laws to criminalize teaching the truth about America’s racism, sexism and misogyny, and other performances aimed at making us forget everything that urgently needs changing.

Violence Transformed wants today’s socially-engaged artists to hear this call in the broadest terms possible. We believe we can celebrate James Baldwin best by sharing imagery in all media that intends to help audiences face and embrace what needs to be faced to change our social reality.

Violence Transformed’s overall desire is to document and celebrate the transformative power of art and the ways in which art, artists and art-making can foster and inspire new ways of seeing the past, present and future clearly, as well as renewed paths to resistance, resilience, healing and recovery.

We hope to attract artists from diverse communities throughout the country and from Boston neighborhoods including Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester.

CALL TO ARTISTS:

Violence Transformed’s “FACE IT” seeks 2D and 3D entries in any medium for exhibition and/or digital projection at the Piano Craft Gallery in Boston, MA. Submissions can include videos of proposed performances for showing during the exhibit. Please note: The audience for Violence Transformed exhibits include children, adolescents and adults of diverse backgrounds and communities. We are less interested, therefore, in graphic depictions of violence than in works that encourage reflection, awareness and community-wide engagement with the arts.

DEADLINE: Submissions to be received no later than November 15, 2023

NOTIFICATION: Selections to be confirmed December 1, 2023

DELIVERY OF ARTWORK: Work to be received by December 28, 2023, or earlier

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Up to six (6) images in JPEG (.jpg) format. The file name for each image must be in the following format: Last name_title.jpg (example: Warhol_campbellssoup.jpg). Image size should not exceed 2MB. Physical dimensions are limited to 72” tall for 2D work and 36” wide for 3D work.
2. A list of images designating for each: Title, Medium, Dimensions and a brief narrative indicating the work’s relationship to themes of “FACE IT.” Artist narratives will be exhibited with selected works.
3. Artist’s Statement, bio, contact, website (if applicable), social media handles, and contact information. Please keep to one page.
4. A Violence Transformed Artist Submission & Release Form:
<https://tinyurl.com/artist-liability-release-23-24>

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Submit the following by email to: ViolenceTransformedMail@gmail.com

- a. Enter your last name and VT 2023 “FACE IT” artist submission” in subject line
- b. Attach items #1-4 above
- c. Pay submission fee online by clicking <https://tinyurl.com/artist-submission-fee> to complete online payment of \$20 (students exempt)

Please note:

- If accepted, jurors may request artists to provide a high-resolution image (minimum 2000 pixels on the longest side) for use on web page banners.
- Artists will be informed of drop off/pick up dates of original artwork.
- Please indicate whether the work is available for purchase. Violence Transformed will reserve 20% as a donation.

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ABOUT THE JURORS:

Hakim Raquib is an award winning visual artist/ photographer, curator, and educator. Currently, Raquib is an artist in residence at Northeastern University’s African American Master Artists in Residence Program (AAMAARP), where he continues to mentor and share his experiences and skills with young aspiring artists. Raquib has exhibited his work nationally and internationally. Raquib’s work is in collections at The Museum of the National Center for African American Artists, the Museum of Fine Arts, De Cordova Museum, LEF Foundation, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Polaroid Foundation, Cyberarts Inc. and Partners Health Care. Raquib has received several citations from the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for

his work with youths and for his artistic achievements. In 2017, he received the Brother Thomas Fellowship Award for outstanding artistic excellence.

Colgan B. Johnson is an award winning photographer and videographer from Dorchester, MA. Since graduating from Amherst College in 2003, he has spent most of his time learning, educating and creating within the Greater Boston educational and artistic communities. A Certified Boston Artist, and currently A Creative Entrepreneur Fellow with the Greater Boston Arts and Business Council, his passion is empowering and bringing authentic representation to the people and communities he is blessed to work with. He truly believes great visuals and storytelling have the power to inspire community, help create understanding, and maybe even social change for the better. His greatest joy is helping to provide amazing voice and visuals to usually under or misrepresented communities in the educational, artistic, and political spheres.

Ellen Jacob is an award-winning artist/photographer, curator and educator whose practice is rooted in social justice. She is a recipient of a Ford Foundation grant and Creative Engagement Grant. She is the founder of Art Justice Cohort, an exhibiting group of diverse artists. Her work has been exhibited globally, including the 2019 Harnett Biennial of American Prints at the University of Richmond Museums; the 5th Biennial of Fine Art Photography, Barcelona; FIF-International Photography Festival, Brazil; and the 2020 Picturing Justice Exhibition, Atlanta. She is a Josephine Herrick teaching artist and also taught at San Francisco Art Institute. She is a member of Soho Photo Gallery, New York City and holds her degree from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY.

ABOUT VIOLENCE TRANSFORMED:

Violence Transformed is an annual series of visual and performing arts events that celebrate the power of art, artists and art-making to confront, challenge and mediate violence. Violence Transformed events include visual arts exhibits and music, dance and theatrical performances hosted by multiple venues in Boston and beyond. Violence Transformed's events include provider and artist-led workshops for individual families and communities impacted by violence. During the course of this exhibit, the Transformative Action Project (TAP) of Violence Transformed will offer free of charge creative engagement workshops.

ABOUT THE VENUE:

Piano Craft Gallery works to eliminate common barriers to accessing the arts such as race, education level, and class by guiding our operation through an anti-racist and inclusive lens. The Piano Craft Gallery, Inc. does this by sharing, promoting, and celebrating the work of racially, culturally, and socio-economically diverse artists of all abilities with the public. This results in diverse networks of individuals accessing the gallery space and experiencing the arts.