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P&G and ArtsWave launch CMF Outdoor Museum beginning Saturday

WHO: P&G, the presenting sponsor of the Cincinnati Music Festival, and ArtsWave, the engine for the arts, have joined together to create an outdoor art exhibition.

WHAT: CMF Outdoor Museum as a new, additional feature to this year's Virtual Cincinnati Music Festival (CMF). It features works from 15 artists of color, all focused on the theme of: community, unity, music and celebration.

WHEN: The exhibition will be created Saturday, July 25 from 9 AM to 9 PM; the community is invited to stop by throughout the day. **The media is invited for artists interviews and photos at 4 PM. Social distancing and masks will be required.**

WHERE: The exhibition will be dispersed throughout Washington Park, through a partnership with 3CDC.

Exhibition will run July 25-September 7, 2020.

Project leads for artist recruitment: [Gee Horton](#), self-trained hyperrealism visual artist and key player in artist recruitment for the Black Lives Matter mural recently completed, [David Michael Butler](#), SoRealist artist and Assistant Professor/Illustration Chair, Art Academy of Cincinnati, and [Pam Kravetz](#), artist, educator and Board of Trustees for Artworks and Art Academy of Cincinnati.

Note: Individuals selected for the CMF Outdoor Museum add to the diverse pool of talent featured in the Black Lives Matter mural with the goal of increasing opportunities for local artists of color to exhibit their art throughout the community.

Artists: see attached list – 15, in total.

More information: artswave.org/outdoormuseum.

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About the Cincinnati Music Festival:

The Cincinnati Music Festival began in 1962 and is one of the largest music festivals in the United States attracting over 90,000+ people from around the country with its roster of leading R&B, jazz, soul and hip-hop artists creating an economic impact of \$107 million for Cincinnati. CMF is held at Paul Brown Stadium in partnership with the Cincinnati Bengals. 2020 marks the sixth consecutive year in which P&G has supported the Cincinnati Music Festival as a presenting sponsor.

About ArtsWave:

ArtsWave, a nonprofit serving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region, is the engine for the arts. Its roots stem back to the late 1920s when the Cincinnati Taft family provided initial investment matched by community support. In the late 1940s, it evolved to become the first united arts fund in the nation and in the mid-1970s, the first organization to initiate workplace giving for the arts. ArtsWave continues to innovate while leading, as illustrated by its No. 1 rank nationally in community arts fundraising; coordination of a sector-wide Blueprint for Collective Action; piloting of new technologies to maximize arts engagement; and development of resources for the arts.

Strong funding for the arts has allowed Cincinnati's arts and culture scene to become a national draw and regional asset, creating a wave of economic and community benefits. Each year, ArtsWave supports the work of over 100 arts organizations, school outreach programs, festivals, community centers, neighborhoods and various collaborations through impact-based grants. In 2019, ArtsWave raised over \$12 million, marking its sixth year in a row surpassing this milestone. The 2020 ArtsWave Community Campaign has raised more than \$10 million so far and is still actively seeking donations.

ArtsWave is focused on helping the Cincinnati Region's arts sector weather the coronavirus crisis. The region's arts sector has an economic impact of more than \$300 million annually and includes more than 225 organizations throughout Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana that employ 10,000+ individuals as artists, performers and staff. The sector was hit at the onset of the coronavirus crisis, when venue and performance closures were announced in early March. ArtsWave has accelerated \$2.4 million in grant payments for 44 organizations which receive operating revenues, expanded its \$10,000 Working Capital Bridge Loans for eligible arts organizations, and has provided Emergency Arts & Culture Organization grants to 47 organizations. The public can help fund these and additional, evolving efforts at artswave.org/give.

CMF Outdoor Museum Artists

ARTISTS	HANDLE / WEBSITE	BIO
Hannah Jones	@hannahljonesy	<p>Hannah Jones is a 27 year old mixed race queer artist currently based in Cincinnati, OH. Her work fantasizes a world that thrives outside basic hetero-normative thinking. She uses loud, vivid, saturated, pop imagery to illuminate and dignify ALL HUMANS on every level of the spectrum who are visualized happily thriving in full flying, glorious colors outside the rigid black and white boxes society places on them and their identities.</p> <p>Jonesy wants her audience to see something positive and exciting in her work and feel SEEN and embraced and celebrated for the unique colors of their existence. She encourages you to see yourself in living color.</p>
Terence Hammonds	@terencehammonds	<p>Terence Hammonds lives and works in Cincinnati, Ohio as a printmaker. He received a BFA from the school of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in conjunction with Tufts University. His work is informed and inspired by the struggles and determination of African-Americans seeking equality during the civil rights movement of the 60s and fuses imagery from that era with soul, funk, rap and punk music. Hammonds appropriates imagery from various movements and civil rights history and combines them with decorative motifs and patterns that adorn, memorialize and abstract histories of racial identity in America.</p>
Antonio Adams	@art_thing_kingdom_master	
Cedric Michael Cox	www.cedricmichaelcox.com	<p>Cedric Michael Cox is best known for his paintings and drawings which fall between surrealism and representational abstraction. As a student at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, Cox was awarded a fellowship to study at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland. After receiving his BFA in Painting in 1999, he began to exhibit locally and regionally. Cox's paintings catapult color into rhythmic action with abstract and recognizable images that create compositions inspired by themes in music and the natural world. His work remains true to sharing Cox's innermost self and radiates passion from the canvas. Working under several influences which include architecture and art history, Cox's work ranges from the geometric, to the curvilinear, to floral-like forms, all dancing within surrealistic shapes.</p> <p>In addition to his work being in corporate collections, Cox executed several large-scale public murals in various Public and Private Schools in the Cincinnati region. Cox's past exhibitions include, The Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, The Weston Art Gallery, The Columbus Art Museum, Dayton Art Institute, Five Myles Gallery in Brooklyn, Museum of Science and Industry and Gallery Guichard in Chicago, and The Taft Museum of Art. In 2019 Cox's work was on exhibit at the 21c Museum Hotel in Cincinnati, and this year he had a solo exhibition at James Ratliff Gallery in Sedona, Arizona. He recently completed a series of 64 paintings for Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Throughout his career, Cedric Michael Cox's work has been featured in books, magazines and television.</p>
TC Thomason	@TCthomason	<p>TC Thomason lives and works in Cincinnati. His art practice is multidisciplinary but rooted in a simple conviction: Beauty is a basic need. Drawing from the creativity in everyday life and everyday people, TC aims to create chapels of human connection through paint, ink, installations and collaborative community work. TC is a tattoo artist at White Whale and a member of Cincy Nice art collective.</p>
Gee Horton	@gee_hortonart	<p>Gee Horton is a Cincinnati-based self-trained Hyperrealist visual artist who has recently transitioned from his corporate 9 to 5 job to focus primarily on making art and building communities. Using graphite and charcoal pencils, Gee's drawings capture a heightened sense of realism, but it is important to note that the Hyperrealist style is only one facet of comprehending his work. Having earned a master's in social work from the University of Louisville, he often incorporates his education and life experiences into his art to achieve a kind of power that for many, triggers emotional associations. With this in mind, his current work makes a connection between his African roots and their juxtaposition to American attitudes on the social and emotional development of the African American male experience.</p> <p>Gee is currently working on a series of works entitled, "Coming of Age". In collaboration with photographer Jason Carter, the series is autobiographical and offers a complex multi layered conversation about black male adolescence and the search for identity, acceptance, purpose and love. Gee is currently selling hand-selected pieces from this series as well as other works on his website. Expect to see this prolific collection "Coming of Age" to debut in 2021, which will be His first gallery showing to the Cincinnati community.</p> <p>Gee has been drawing for the last three years and has been featured in local art exhibitions and media publications. He is currently serving as the Mercantile Library's first African American Artist-in-Residence. He has been commissioned to draw a 6 foot portrait of Peter H. Clark, the Mercantile Library's first African American member. Gee played a major role in the Black Art Speaks collective to paint the Black Lives Matter! mural in front of Cincinnati's City Hall. His contribution in the Black Lives Matter mural is the "L" in "Lives", using text from the renowned African American poet Langston Hughes' 1926 poem, "I, Too". Gee currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Artworks, WavePool, and is a Co-Host of the Urban Consulate Cincinnati Chapter.</p> <p>You can also find some of Gee's artwork at BLACK Coffee lounge, located downtown Cincinnati at 824 Elm Street. For more information, visit geehorton.com or follow on Instagram @gee_hortonart.</p>

Ryan Nichole Leary	@ryannicholestudios	Ryan Nichole Leary was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, and her love for visual art started as early as age one. Like most children, Leary was caught decorating the walls with markers and crayons. However, Allen and Darla Leary took this as an opportunity to encourage her creativity and used butcher paper to line the walls in the house so she can continue her murals. Leary would attend both Bowling Green State University (Art History) and University of Cincinnati (Art Education) as she grew into an artist, art historian and art educator. After numerous art exhibitions, lectures and teaching experiences in Cincinnati, Leary relocated to Chicago and was the Founding Visual Art Instructor at Butler College Prep (BCP). While at BCP, she shared her talent, skills, stories and passion with her leaders (students); she encouraged them to find their passion and let it lead the way. In 2016, Leary returned to Cincinnati and was an interim art instructor at Elementz and assisted in youth art development. Today, she continues to work as a visual artist, specializing in portraits, provides art history lectures at local institutions and blends her love for creativity and activism in her work. She describes her work as "Obnoxiously Large, Unapologetically Black." She explains, "As an art historian, you see grandiose images of people that do not look like me, do not tell my narrative or story. Most images you see of Black people are inaccurate, incomplete and based on biases that paint us as inferior, a complete lie. For me, it is important to tell our story through pigments, hues, textures, truth and transparency. Unfortunately, so much of Black people's lives have been dictated and controlled by hatred and vitriolic intent. The least I can do, as an artist, is capture our images and stories."
Jam Ocean Blue	@jam_oceanblue	Jam Ocean Blue, is a multi-dimensional artist from Dayton, Ohio. Born as Ja-Mae Shaunte' Abney on a national holiday, the 4th of July, Jam knew she was destined to be great. During her junior year in high school, she enrolled in a drawing program at Willis "Bing" Davis Art Studio where she found her love for creating. The following year, she participated in a Congressional Art competition where she placed 3rd and was interviewed on the local news. Jam graduated from Stivers School for the Arts in 2009. With a love for all things art and beauty, she completed a 12-piece dress collection for her first fashion show with some of her favorite Stivers alumni. Later, her interest in beauty led her into the world of hair, where she received her cosmetology license. Inspired by the beauty in all people, Jam channeled her artistic side once again and began drawing portraits. In 2014, having a knack for helping the youth, She volunteered at the same local art gallery where it all began, Bing Davis Studios. It was there, in that special place, that she was inspired to teach art as she watched her mentors light fires in the eyes of children. Within the last few years, she hosted a series of "Paint Parties" where she instructed classes of 30 to 60 amateur painters. Most recently, Jam Ocean Blue did her first city mural in her hometown, named the "Gem City". That job opened the door to many creative opportunities for her throughout her community. But most importantly, that job provided her with a key to unlock the safe to her freedom of creating her own path and inspire the world around her.
Latausha R Cox	@TaushaCreates	Latausha Cox is an artist, educator and researcher who seeks to influence and transform students through engaging, meaningful art practices. She believes people of color are not represented in many resources and visual content related to art education. To provide a bridge between teachers and students of color, she has began researching strategies to unite the individual with a cultural identity that is celebrated and illuminates a voice. She uses illustrations to narrate her own racial journey which reveals gaps within the field of education. Cox currently works at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center serving the community through various arts engagements and event coordination. She is also a pre-service art educator who is working towards a teaching license. Latausha is married and a mother of two children, residing in Cincinnati, Ohio. She loves to draw and help others discover a love and appreciation for art and notice the art that surrounds them. She would love to create for, with and alongside you.
Kyros Barton	@barton.avi	
Lance Johnson	@lanceljart	
April Sunami	www.aprilsunami.com	
David Michael Butler	@davidmichaelcreates	St. Louis native and Ohio-based Artist David Butler has situated himself within the figurative painting tradition. He attained his BFA at the Columbus College of Art and Design and is inspired by the figurative works of traditional painters. Butler's work engages the visual essence of pop/urban culture, placing figures in environments and narratives to provoke dialogue on identity, and his life experiences. His recent focus is interpreting Pulp Fiction novels with text that speaks to multiple identities, and sub cultures. Along with his visual arts background, Butler has maintained ten-year career as an educator, illustrator, and mural painter doing work for clients such as Price Waterhouse Cooper, Ithaca College, Soulo Theory Creative, National Association of Black Accountants, and Miami University Oxford, Ohio. He has illustrated three children's books and completed illustrations for multiple editorial publications. David currently works as an educator, and recently graduated from the The University of the Arts, for a MFA in Studio Art. He lives in Columbus, OH with his wife Erica. Artist Statement: I make paintings, drawings, installations, and films. I touch various overlapping themes. Several reoccurring subject matters can be recognized in the work, such as the relation with popular culture, politics, social justice, and Blackness. My work tells Black stories and shows intersections of race, identity, and equality. I'm striving to breathe questions between these themes, and create work that is the shoulder shake for the world to notice what's fallen ordinary.
Marshall Shorts	@mrshortscreates	
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