

Jasmine Mendez-Paredes
10 Art Museum Dr, Baltimore, MD 21218
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For Immediate Release

BACKGROUNDER

The Baltimore Heart Gallery

The Baltimore Heart Gallery was founded as an exhibit in 2020 and has evolved into a new branch of the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Founder and lead curator Janine Flores opened the One Heart Many Connections exhibit in an effort to create a safe space for people to use their creativity to build community and connection. Due to the increased participation, the executive board decided to make this a permanent yet ever-changing expansion.

In partnership with the Baltimore Museum of Art, the heart of our framework is the gallery's personality, defined into four traits: innovation, collaboration, empathetic, and inclusion.

Every week a theme will be discovered, and audiences will have the chance to build their creative pieces that will be featured in a week-long exhibit. Members will have the chance to either take their pieces home or allow the Heart Gallery to auction them off with the non-profit Art with a Heart receiving 25% of proceeds.

Grand Reopening

Experience the ribbon cutting of the Baltimore Heart Gallery on April 18th. Walk through the heart gates and add your name to the heart mural projector. Enjoy interactive activities such as the weekly scavenger hunt, the heart lab, and community exhibition. The Saturday following the grand reopening will be a free day for the public to explore our newest features.

Global Love Day

Join the Heart Gallery staff on May 1st for Global Love Day and participate in activities that show love to the Baltimore community. Hosted by the Bmore Art magazine, activities include a mural design contest, workshops on creating sustainable art, interactive lessons on diversity in the art field, and more. Pick up heart-shaped cookies and treats at the bake sale. Proceeds will be sent to the non-profit, One Heart at a Time.

First Friday of the Month

The Baltimore Art Gallery believes everyone should have a chance to encounter art. For this reason, the board decided to allow the first Friday of the month to be an all-access day for everyone. This includes access to the newest exhibits Global Love: Art & Sustainability, Community Mural and Inclusivity > Diversity.

Children's Programs

Children get to experiment in the Heart Lab, where children have the chance to make their crafts and discover the playground. The Heart Gallery also offers weekly educational workshops and story times according to the weekly theme.

Sponsors

The Baltimore Heart Gallery's free public programming is made possible by the Baltimore chapter of the Society Design of Arts (SODA) and the generous support of its members. For volunteer and career opportunities at the Heart Gallery visit the website: bmaheart.com

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For Immediate Release

Heart Gallery Celebrates Global Love Day with Guest Speaker Brené Brown

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (February 28, 2022) — The Heart Gallery and Bmore Art magazine will collaborate to present an immersive experience full of love for its visitors in honor of Global Love Day, with featured researcher and author Dr. Brené Brown. Over 500 visitors are expected to attend the celebration of love and explore the spacious gallery.

The schedule begins with a *Guard Your Heart Ted Talk Series* with guest speaker and author of “Atlas of the Heart: Mapping meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience,” by Brown. The first Ted Talk will focus on themes of forgiveness and compassion. Post-workshop, audiences from the auditorium will participate in an open dialogue and Q&A.

“Dr. Brené Brown brings refreshing insight on how forgiveness is released and how it can be a form of closure yet the beginning of a healing journey,” said Kathleen Diaz, mayor of Baltimore County.

To further celebrate Global Love Day members will collaborate by creating an exhibition that delves into themes such as self-love and inner healing. The exhibition will include a 20-foot mural painting where the audience may vote on the mural’s design and color palette.

Cara Ober, editor and founder of the Bmore Art magazine commented, “We’re so excited to have Dr. Brown and acknowledge Global Love Day in such a meaningful way. We know our attendees are going to love it!”

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B M A

heart gallery

don't miss a beat of what's coming



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Art & Sustainability

Mingle with four Baltimore artists championing sustainability on May 3.

Community Mural

Missed out on the first community mural? Join the next collaboration on May 4.

Inclusivity > Diversity

Join our upcoming virtual program featuring Ramon Tejada on May 5.

Global Love Day Recap

On May 1 the Heart Gallery and Bmore Art Magazine partnered to celebrate Global Love Day, with featured researcher and author Dr. Brené Brown. About 600 visitors attended the event, which surpassed the expected attendance.

Dr. Brown opened the event with a workshop on compassion and forgiveness. Audience members participated in conversations regarding conflict communication and how art can be an outlet to express one's emotions.

Furthermore, community members participated in creating a 20-foot mural painting. The mural was divided into numerous sections representing the Baltimore region.



Grand Reopening

Experience the ribbon cutting of the Heart Gallery

Be the first to walk through the heart gates this Monday, April 18 at 4:00 pm. Enjoy interactive activities such as the weekly scavenger hunt, the heart lab, and the community exhibition.

Founder and lead curator Janine Flores opened the One Heart, Many Connections exhibit in an effort to create a safe space for people to use their creativity to build community and connection. The heart of our framework is the gallery's personality, defined into four traits: innovation, collaboration, empathy, and inclusion.

Every week a theme will be discovered, and audiences will have the chance to build their creative pieces that will be featured in a week-long exhibit. Members will have the chance to either take their pieces home or allow the Heart Gallery to auction them off with the non-profit Art with a Heart receiving 25% of the proceeds.

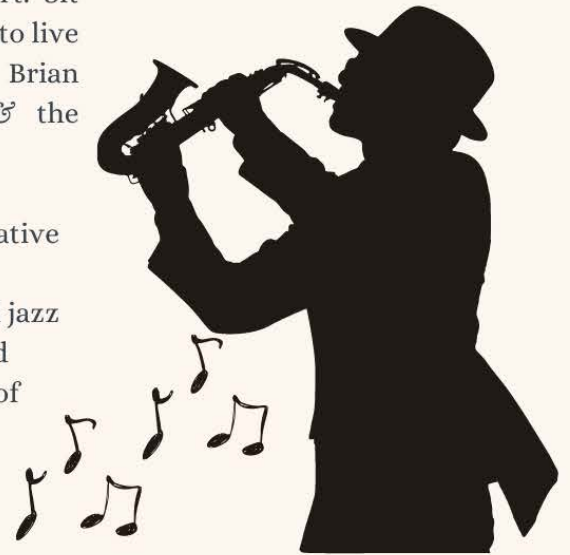
Free Funk Friday — **Enjoy live music and free admission at the Gallery. On Friday, May 6.**

Families, children, and learners are encouraged to explore fun educational activities.

Including, the unveiling of our newest exhibit "Revisiting the Harlem Renaissance" and an accompanying Q&A panel featuring known Baltimore Creatives. Listen to panelists as they reveal their stories of how they found political

empowerment through visual art. Sit outside the courtyard and listen to live jazz performances from Brian Culbertson and Cory Henry & the Funk Apostles.

End the day by attending the Creative Processes Workshop hosted by contemporary double bassist and jazz virtuoso, Esperanza Spalding; and photographer of Sweet Flypaper of Life, Roy Decarva. For more information head to Bma.heartgallery.org.



BTS with curatorial artist for upcoming exhibition: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities

It's opening reception night at the Baltimore Heart Gallery. The crowd nonchalantly grabs their refreshments and chatter as they anxiously await the unveiling of the Heart Gallery's newest exhibition, *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities* curated by New York-based multimedia artist, Mickalene Thomas. By the end of the night, Thomas had captivated many hearts with her avant-garde work.

Being born and raised in Camden, New Jersey, Thomas innately enjoyed art. She mentions how her profound admiration for her mother served as an inspiration for her work. "It all goes back to my mother and her charisma, most of my inspiration started from thinking about women like her," said Thomas.

"I want to celebrate black femininity and sexuality, in a different way, by claiming the space that seemed to be void for a while," Thomas continued, "when I started thinking about art history and looking at iconic European-inspired paintings... I thought, why isn't the image of a black woman held up to that same light?"

In *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities*, Thomas expands upon themes such as Black femininity, sexuality, beauty, and power. The exhibition presents a documentary, handmade collages, photographs, coupled with a makeshift living room where the audience may interact with the art and with each other.

Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities is an ongoing exhibit at the Baltimore Heart Gallery and will remain open until November 31, 2025.

Behind the Scenes with Curatorial Artist: Mickalene Thomas

April 20, 2025 | Jasmine Mendez-Paredes, *Marketing and Communications Director*



Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, September 8–December 31, 2017. Photo: Dusty Kessler.

It's opening reception night at the Baltimore Heart Gallery. The crowd grabs their refreshments and chatter in a nonchalant fashion as they anxiously await the unveiling of the Heart Gallery's newest exhibition, *Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities* curated by New-York based multimedia artist, Mickalene Thomas. By the end of the night, Thomas had captivated many hearts with her avant-garde work.

So, who is Mickalene Thomas, and what makes her work so special?

Being born and raised in Camden, New Jersey, Thomas innately enjoyed art. She mentions how her profound admiration for her mother served as an inspiration for her work. "It all goes back to my mother and her charisma, most of my inspiration started from thinking about women like her," said Thomas.

Thomas moved to Brooklyn, New York to study at the Pratt Institute and received her B.F.A. in 2000. Then she received her M.F.A. from Yale University School of Art, in 2002. Meanwhile, studying art history and iconic works like Édouard Manet's *Olympia* (1863), which depicts a white woman lounging in bed attended by a Black maidservant; Thomas wanted to create her own interpretations where African American women become the protagonist of the artwork.

“I want to celebrate black femininity and sexuality, in a different way, by claiming the space that seemed to be void for a while,” Thomas continued, “when I started thinking about art history and looking at iconic European-inspired paintings... I thought, why isn’t the image of a black woman held up to that same light?”

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The living room is a homage to the domestic environment of her childhood. Rikki Byrd, professor of fashion and race at Washington University said, “For Thomas, [the living room installation] is reflective of the communal spaces where the mentors in her life — her mother, her aunts — once gathered.” Not to mention, the lounge features a mini collection of African American Literature including Maya Angelou’s, *Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now*.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Founder and Lead Curator Janine Flores to be Awarded the ARTrenpreneur Award

Baltimore, Md. — ARTrenpreneur will host an award ceremony to honor the founder of the Baltimore Heart Gallery, Janine Flores Thursday, May 26, 2022. A Q&A session will take place after the ceremony.

WHAT: The ARTrenpreneur foundation would like to award Janine Flores the ARTrenpreneur Award for being a distinguishable entrepreneur and artist in the Baltimore community. The Ceremony will be followed by a Q&A panel hosted by Cara Ober, founder and lead editor of Bmore Art magazine.

WHO: Janine Flores is a Baltimore-based visual artist and founder of the Heart Gallery. Her distinctive work focuses on Latinx representation and draws inspiration from her experience as a Guatemalan-American. Flores is known for juxtaposing her Guatemalan and American identity as well as her use of textiles. In 2021, she created an interactive exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). Due to high demand and popularity, Flores collaborated with the BMA to create the Baltimore Heart Gallery, a permanent space where creativity may flourish.

WHEN: *Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7:30-8:30 pm.*

WHERE: Conference Room C of the Baltimore Heart Gallery. 10 Art Museum Dr, Baltimore, MD 21218

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7 THINGS TO DO AT THE HEART GALLERY



Curate pieces for next week's community exhibition.



Visit our interactive Children's Heart Lab.



Join the conversation in our community dialogue room.



Attend our innovative Creative Workshops.



Explore our newest exhibitions.



Grab a snack from our Sweet Stand & support "Art With a Heart."



Listen to live music at the Gallery's courtyard and take a guess of this week's theme!



Find more art-related content at:

HEART.BMA.ORG

Heart Gallery Radio Spots
Jasmine Mendez-Paredes



Baltimore Heart Gallery 4/5/24

:60

“Free First Friday at Baltimore Heart Gallery”

(“You are the Sunshine” Stevie jingle plays in the background for :7 seconds)

DON'T MISS A BEAT THIS WEEK, JOIN US THIS FRIDAY AND ENJOY FREE ADMISSION AT THE BALTIMORE HEART GALLERY. FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND LEARNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE FUN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE UNVEILING OF OUR NEWEST EXHIBIT “REVISITING THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE” AND AN ACCOMPANYING Q&A PANEL FEATURING KNOWN BALTIMORE CREATIVES. LISTEN TO PANELISTS AS THEY REVEAL THEIR STORIES ON HOW THEY DISCOVERED POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH VISUAL ART. SIT OUTSIDE OUR COURTYARD AND LISTEN TO LIVE JAZZ PERFORMANCES BY BRIAN CULBERTSON AND CORY HENRY AND THE FUNK APOSTLES. ATTEND CREATIVE PROCESSES WORKSHOP HOSTED BY CONTEMPORARY DOUBLE-BASSIST AND JAZZ VIRTUOSO, ESPERANZA SPALDING, AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF SWEET FLYPAPER OF LIFE, ROY DECARVA. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXPERIENCE. ONLY THIS FRIDAY AT THE BALTIMORE HEART GALLERY. INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT BMA.HEARTGALLERY.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS.

(“Do I do” Stevie jingle plays in the background for :7 seconds as an outro)

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Baltimore Heart Gallery 4/5/24

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