

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2024

Evanston Art Center 2024 Exhibition:

***Migrations in Black and White | 2.0***

**EXHIBITION DATES:** August 10–September 8, 2024

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Sunday, August 11, 5–8 pm

**GALLERY HOURS:** Monday–Thursday, 9 am–6 pm; Friday, 9 am–5 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 9 am–4 pm

*\*Registration is required. Visit [www.EvanstonArtCenter.org](http://www.EvanstonArtCenter.org) for more information.*

**THE EVANSTON ART CENTER (EAC) ANNOUNCES - MIGRATIONS IN BLACK AND WHITE | 2.0**

The Evanston Art Center (EAC) is excited to welcome the exhibition, ***Migrations in Black and White | 2.0*** to the public!

***Migrations in Black and White | 2.0***, featuring works by artists Cheryl R. Riley and Tracie D. Hall, explores the evolving theme of freedom since 2020, addressing urgent global issues through diverse artistic expressions. It confronts the complexities of migration crises, censorship through book bans, escalating food insecurity, the omnipresent threat of climate change, and seismic shifts in political landscapes worldwide, including the unprecedented attack on the United States Capitol and consequential U.S. elections.

"As curator, I believe these works not only capture the zeitgeist of our times but also contribute to a broader conversation about the complexities of freedom and social justice in today's world. By showcasing these diverse voices and narratives, 'Migrations In Black And White | 2.0' invites viewers to contemplate, question, and engage with the critical issues shaping our collective future."

- Makeba Kedem-DuBose

The art exhibition "Migrations in Black and White | 2.0" is a bold showcase of black and white artworks. With a thematic focus on the essence of freedom, it reflects recent global events while projecting into the future. The exhibition stands out for its unique approach to color theory, allowing only black and white. This iteration rethinks the inaugural exhibition, which drew inspiration from the Great Migration and addressed the lack of visibility for South Side Chicago-based Black artists in the city's northern stretch.

While artists have creative freedom in addressing disciplines, styles, subjects, and media, the goal was to strictly use pure black and white. However, given that the overarching theme of the exhibition is freedom, I was drawn to and compelled to acknowledge artists who insisted on their right to freedom of expression or interpretation of the theme, even if it meant mildly deviating from it. Tracy D. Hall, for example, introduces textiles and hair in varying textures and shades of black and tints of white in her mixed media freestanding sculpture, "Good Hair," reflecting upon the belief that hair contains and transports energy and also serves as a conduit for intimacy and the passing of cultural memories. Ladipo Famodu's wire sculpture uses silver instead of white, suggesting they are synonymous, and cleverly introduces metallic gray to play on the theme of balance. While Cheryl D. Riley introduces sound with piano accompaniment

by award-winning pianist Robert Irving III in her multimedia mural installation featuring walls covered in printed piano keys empowered with songs of freedom.

The exhibition encourages experimentation through sculptural design elements and texture. The title "Migrations in Black and White" reflects the striking graphic appearance of the works, limited to black and white, with no gray tones. While artists have creative freedom in addressing disciplines, styles, subjects, and media, they must strictly use pure black and white. The overarching theme of the exhibition is freedom, acknowledging artists who insist on their right to freedom of expression or interpretation of the theme.

Artists Shown: Mary Apikos, Pinar Aral, Sholo Beverly, Sheila Clay, Carisha Davis, Ladipo Famodu, Larissa Fardelos, Liz Gomez, Set Gozo, Felicia Grant Preston, Tracie D. Hall, Fran Joy, Pauline Kochanski, Tracy Kostenbader, Ennis Martin, Deborah Newmark, Nancy Pirri, Kat Pleviak, Adriana Poterash, Cheryl Riley, Marci Ruben, Cathy Schwalbe, Sung-hee Son, Stephanie Staton, Marcus Sterling-Alleye, Patricia J. Stewart, Ginny Sykes, Tamara Wasserman, Marvin Tate, Preston Thomas, Angela Williams, and FC Akuwa Xelup aka Fanta Celah.

***Migrations in Black and White*** | 2.0 will be exhibited in the First Floor Gallery of the Art Center. Opening reception is free and open to the public. This exhibition is partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the EAC's general membership. Opening reception is free and open to the public! This exhibition is partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the EAC's general membership.

Evanston Art Center, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, is dedicated to fostering the appreciation and expression of the arts among diverse audiences. The Art Center offers extensive and innovative instruction in broad areas of artistic endeavor through classes, exhibitions, interactive arts activities, and community outreach initiatives.

Evanston Art Center is located at 1717 Central St., Evanston, IL. Evanston Art Center Gallery Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 am–6 pm; Friday, 9 am–5 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 9 am–4 pm. First and second floor gallery spaces are accessible. Limited free parking is available.

For more information, please visit us online at [www.evanstonartcenter.org](http://www.evanstonartcenter.org) or contact Emma Rose Gudewicz, *Director of Development & Exhibition Manager*, at (847) 475-5300 or [egudewicz@evanstonartcenter.org](mailto:egudewicz@evanstonartcenter.org).

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