



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FIA Opens 2019 with African and African American Art  
*Engaging African Art* and *Miracles and Glory Abound* celebrate  
Black visual expression, history, and the power of story**

Flint, MI – African and African American art are the focus of two-large scale exhibitions opening the 2019 calendar year at the Flint Institute of Arts. On Sunday, January 27, 2019, *Engaging African Art: Highlights from the Horn Collection* and *Vanessa German: Miracles and Glory Abound* both begin a multi-month run at Michigan's second largest art museum, just in time for Black History Month.

*Engaging African Art* features African artworks from the collection of Dr. Robert Horn, who began collecting African art more than 50 years ago. The collection, which contains objects from more than 60 African cultures, includes masks as well as small-to-medium-sized figures made of wood, bone, metals, clay, and beads, representing various spiritual, social, and ceremonial messages. The exhibition demonstrates the rich diversity of African visual expressions and cultures.

*Miracles and Glory Abound* investigates the power of stories - how tales transform with each telling and how alterations of truth affect our understanding of the past. Drawing from Emanuel Leutze's 1851 painting, *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (currently on view in New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art), German reimagines the iconic image using her own power figures to create a conversation about public memory and the rewriting of history through the lens of privilege. The exhibition surveys the complicated, nuanced history of the United States and the ways in which that history relates to our current suffering, through violence, hate, and materialism, as a nation.

*Engaging African Art: Highlights from the Horn Collection* and *Vanessa German: Miracles and Glory Abound* both open on Sunday, January 27, 2019. *Engaging African Art* runs through May 26, 2019 and *Miracles and Glory Abound* runs through April 20, 2019. On Sunday, January 27, exhibitions visitors can meet Vanessa German from 1:00-2:00 PM in the FIA's Hodge Galley. Museum admission on this day is free to all visitors, regardless of residency.

**ABOUT VANESSA GERMAN**

Vanessa German is a multidisciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is the founder of Love Front Porch and ARthouse, a community arts initiative for children in Homewood, the historic African American neighborhood in which German works and lives. In creating her art, she is actively involved in the community, using found objects brought to her or involving youth and adults in making parts of her sculptures, which she terms "power figures." German is also a performer and poet, often writing verse inspired by her artwork.

**ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Fri 12-5 PM; Sat 10 AM-5 PM and Sun 1-5 PM. Admission to the FIA is free to members and children under 12; Adults are \$10; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$8. Saturdays are free thanks to Huntington Bank. Saturday glass demonstrations are sponsored by McLaren Health Care.

For more information, please visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)