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### **Access: A Century After Women's Right to Vote**

(January 6, 2020) GLENDALE, CA—2020 marks the centennial of women's suffrage, a milestone in U.S. history when women succeeded in gaining access to the political process with the right to vote. Despite the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, it took decades for women of color to gain this basic right. Even today, vast numbers of women remain disenfranchised and excluded from the political process. The latest exhibit at ReflectSpace gallery at the Glendale Central Library, *Access: A Century After Women's Right to Vote*, examines the past 100 years of women's rights through the work of several contemporary women artists, and considers the role of women today and their access to positions of power.

In partnership with the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women, *Access* will be on exhibit from January 31 – March 15, 2020.

- Opening reception: Friday January 31, 2020, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
An artists' talk with April Bey, Joey Forsyte, Erika Rothenberg, and Las Fotos Project will explore the question, Have women achieved empowerment and access to power with the right to vote?
- Artists in the exhibition include: Kim Abeles, April Bey, Joey Forsyte, Erika Rothenberg, and the Las Fotos Project
- *Access* is curated by guest curator Ani Ohanessian, and Ara and Anahid Oshagan

**Kim Abeles** addresses gender issues head-on, using her body and an inter-generational sensibility to create new spaces of feminist discourse. Abeles' work in *Access* includes self-portraits and short videos related to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. She is a Los Angeles based interdisciplinary award winning artist-activist and her work has been exhibited in 22 countries. Ms. Abeles was a 2013 recipient of the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Artist and educator **April Bey** tackles issues of Black empowerment and feminism using oil paint, wax fabric, and epoxy resin. Her bold and layered work challenges and redefines stereotypes about women and feminism and focuses on the resilience of women. A prolific artist, Ms. Bey is internationally exhibited and is a full time educator at Glendale Community College. For *Access*, Ms. Bey will be showing brand new work addressing the suffrage movement.

**Joey Forsyte** is not only an amazing filmmaker and artist, but she is also the founder and CEO of "A Band of Voters" (ABOV). This organization helps students and other marginalized citizens overcome systemic barriers to voting and access to their political power at the ballot box. Ms. Forsyte contributes a social engagement-based installation about voting to the *Access* exhibit.

**Erika Rothenberg** uses the seemingly innocuous format of greeting cards and various other forms to explore and examine social ills and political injustices of our time. Ms. Rothenberg describes her messaging as "passionately interested in exposing American hubris, corruption, privilege and prejudice in a humorous non-didactic way with an intersectional feminist edge." Her work is exhibited in major



museums and galleries throughout the United States. Rothenberg's satirical greeting cards as well as a new interactive rendition of the Star Spangled Banner will be part of Access.

**Las Fotos Project** is a community-based nonprofit organization that inspires teenage girls through photography, mentorship, and self-expression. Teenage girls are equipped with professional cameras, instruction, and workshops to help develop lifelong skills through confidence building, leadership and advocacy skills. For Access, Las Fotos Project will contribute work from their "Migrant Mamas" project as well as Esta Soy Yo, a self-expression program for young Latina women that uses therapeutic photography methodologies to enable them to find their unique story-telling voices.

### **About ReflectSpace**

ReflectSpace is an inclusive exhibition gallery designed to explore and reflect on major human atrocities, genocides, civil rights violations, and other social injustices. Immersive in conception, ReflectSpace is a hybrid space that is both experiential and informative, employing art, technology, and interactive media to reflect on the past and present of Glendale's communal fabric and interrogate current-day global human rights issues. Read more on the ReflectSpace website: <http://bit.ly/GLACReflectSpace>

### **About The Glendale Commission on the Status of Women**

The purpose of the City of Glendale **Commission on the Status of Women** is to advance social justice and equity and ensure equality of rights and opportunities for all women and girls in Glendale by building new and strengthening existing bridges between the City's diverse groups, organizations, agencies and individuals; by increasing the level of knowledge in the community regarding women's issues and the status of women in our community; by encouraging and promoting participation and by increasing visibility of women in all spheres of life in Glendale. To learn more about the Commission, visit [www.glendaleca.gov/women](http://www.glendaleca.gov/women).

### **About Library Arts & Culture**

Glendale's Library, Arts & Culture Department includes the Central Library, six neighborhood libraries, as well as the Brand Library & Art Center. Our collections include over 500,000 books, DVDs, and CDs, digital resources including ebooks and audiobooks, streaming music and movie apps, extensive art and music resources, two art galleries, and community meeting rooms. For more information call Library, Arts & Culture at 818-548-2021, see our website [www.GlendaleLAC.org](http://www.GlendaleLAC.org), or search for the Library's mobile app from your device's app store.

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Exhibition Dates	January 31 – March 15, 2020
Address	222 East Harvard Street, Glendale, CA 91205
Opening Reception	Friday, January 31, 2020, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

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[www.GlendaleLAC.org](http://www.GlendaleLAC.org)