



**PRESS RELEASE: July 10, 2018**

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**TACOMA ART MUSEUM CELEBRATES THE POWER AND RICHNESS OF BLACKNESS IN THE NEW EXHIBITION *TO SING OF BEAUTY*, OPENING JULY 21**

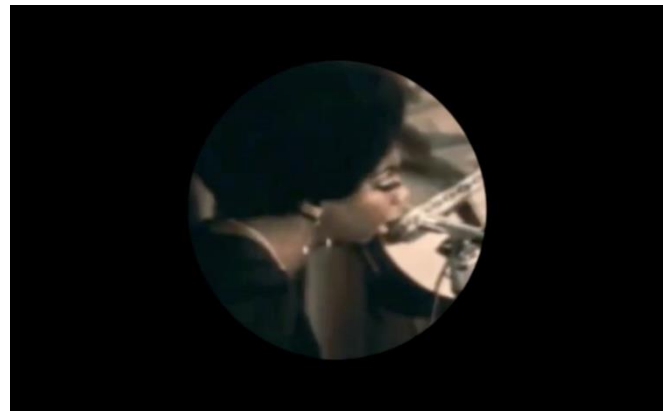


**Tacoma, WA** – Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) presents its summer exhibition [\*To Sing of Beauty\*](#), opening Saturday July 21, which focuses on the power, beauty, and richness of Blackness. *To Sing of Beauty* features video installations by Northwest artist C. Davida Ingram and Atlanta-based Paul Stephen Benjamin.

“We are thrilled to exhibit our new acquisition of Davida Ingram’s video,” shared David F. Setford, TAM’s Executive Director. “*To Sing of Beauty* brings together our exhibition and collection goals of representing our vital and diverse communities. Artists like Ingram and Benjamin demonstrate the highest accomplishments of regional artists.”

Both Ingram and Benjamin celebrate Black women artists in their new work. Employing the format of a video diptych, Ingram features her collaborators, composer and vocalist Hanna Benn and actress Rachael Ferguson, in *The Deeps: Go Away from My Window*. She pairs this with *Procession* that conjures a sense of the African American Northern Migration via railway with the shifting landscape of contemporary Seattle. For *Procession*, Ingram brought together her circle of artists and performers to enact the dream-like scenes that were filmed in Seattle’s King Street Station.

Paul Stephen Benjamin generates a musical round by reworking footage of Nina Simone’s rendition of the traditional song, *Black Is the Color of My True Love’s Hair*. He inserts a subtle audio shift to change Simone’s phrasing into “black is a color” that foregrounds the essence of Blackness—Simone wears a black dress



with black boots, sports an Afro, and plays a black piano while sitting on a black bench. Building from Raymond Saunder's seminal 1967 essay "Black Is a Color," Benjamin explores the intersection of aesthetics, power, and identity.



"Through the pairing of Ingram and Benjamin, we are able to illuminate the richness of these artists' visions and experiences, and open the possibility for exciting new experiences in our galleries," explained Rock Hushka, TAM's Deputy Director and Chief Curator. "These artists deftly employ strategies to activate the power of music, history, and personal experience."

The exhibition's opening day celebration is Saturday July 21 from 6-8 pm. Opening day activities include a dance interpretation by Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, lively music by Miz Floes & Jazzy Sol, words from prominent community leaders, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

**Cost:** FREE for Members; \$10 for Non-members. For event information visit:

<http://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/event/summer-member-celebration/>

For up to date information on the *To Sing of Beauty* exhibition visit:

<http://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/exhibit/to-sing-of-beauty/>

Images, top to bottom: **C. Davida Ingram**, *The Deeps: Go Away from My Window*, 2014. Video performance remnant from Genre Bender performance, Dimensions variable. Tacoma Art Museum, Museum purchase with funds from Greg Kucera, 2017.20. **Paul Stephen Benjamin**, *Black is the Color*, 2014. Looped video, salvaged televisions, and cords, Artist proof from an edition of 5, Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist. **Paul Stephen Benjamin**, *Black is the Color*, 2014. Looped video, salvaged televisions, and cords, Artist proof from an edition of 5, Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.

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#### **About Tacoma Art Museum**

Celebrating over 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader Western region, 25% which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2012, TAM received a gift of more than 300 works of western American art from the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier such collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub family also contributed \$20 million for an endowment and expansion completed in 2014. TAM is located in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District which consists of six museums including the Museum of Glass, a frequent collaborator.

**HOURS** – Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5–8 pm; Fourth Fridays 10 am–8 pm.

**ADMISSION** – \$15 Adult, \$13 Student/Senior (65+), \$40 Family (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18), Children 5 and under free, Children 18 and under free on Saturdays. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

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