

contemporary craft *news release*

Contact: Stephanie Sun, Marketing Manager
ssun@contemporarycraft.org
412.261.7003 x29
www.contemporarycraft.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contemporary Craft Works Toward More Diverse Museum Field *Doretha Murray Selected as the second Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprentice*



Doretha Murray and her painting, "Roots of Guidance and Pain" | Photo: Vanessa Murray

PITTSBURGH, PA – November 17, 2017 – There is a troubling underrepresentation of people of color in the museum field with only 4% of museum curators, conservators, and educators identifying as African-American.¹ The creation of the Emerging Black Arts Leader Apprenticeship program at Contemporary Craft (CC) is a direct response to promote diversity in museum employment and to provide a career entry point for people of color interested in working in the arts. CC's apprenticeship program addresses the staggering disparity by awarding a paid 10-month position to a talented emerging arts leader of color.

"We are committed to providing employment and mentoring opportunities for young individuals of color," says CC Executive Director Janet McCall. "By ensuring these emerging arts managers are prepared to successfully enter the leadership pipeline, we are promoting a future where the demographics of museum employees more closely match with the vibrant diversity of our society as a whole."

Doretha Murray, an artist and Native of Pittsburgh, is selected as CC's second Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprentice for 2017 - 18. This position builds upon established goals to enhance the development of future arts leaders of color through mentoring from CC's staff and artists, professional skill development, and networking opportunities within the regional arts community. Murray will be embedded within the day-to-day studio operations and artistic programming at CC throughout her apprenticeship.

- more -

“I wanted to participate in the Emerging Black Arts Leader Apprenticeship, because it would be a great opportunity for me to move further towards my dreams.” Says Murray, “I am excited about the new doors that have already opened up during my short time with CC and where those new connections will take me as an artist and as a leader.” Through on-the-job training in a professional arts organization, Murray will gain the hands-on experiences working directly with artists, maintaining an active studio, and obtain artistic and business skills required to succeed in a highly competitive field.

¹ Mellon Foundation Releases the First Comprehensive Survey of Diversity in American Art Museums. (2015, July 29). Retrieved November 03, 2017, from <https://mellon.org/resources/news/articles/Diversity-American-Art-Museums/>

ABOUT DORETHA MURRAY

Doretha Murray is a recent Alfred University graduate, who attended the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh. She has experience working for nonprofit organization in working with youth and in community outreach. Murray’s long-term goal is to one day own her own gallery to hold exhibitions featuring local and international artists. To Murray, the arts are outlets that help to give people a voice, especially those who have felt silenced. Therefore, she also hopes to start a non-profit organization that focuses on youth education and mentorship through the arts, especially making art available to children who otherwise may not have regular access to it.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY FUND

CC’s Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprenticeship program is generously supported by the [Opportunity Fund](#). The Opportunity Fund awards grants to organizations and initiatives that advance the arts, and social and economic justice. At least 75% of its grants are awarded to projects that benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community.

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, CC offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, CC offers meaningful art opportunities for 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists, filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community.

CC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Exhibition and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. Contemporary Craft is committed to making its exhibitions, programs, and services accessible to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us. For more information, visit <http://www.contemporarycraft.org> or call 412.261.7003.

###