FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Announcement: *I witness you (for laure)*

Yétundé Olágbajú presents *I witness you (for laure)* as a part of their research project *an untitled rendering, after...*

**December 14, 2020, San Francisco, CA –** December 17, 2020 through January 30, 2021, Southern Exposure will present new work by Yétundé Olágbajú in the entrance gallery, safely viewable outdoors from Alabama Street. *I witness you (for laure)*, is a video and multi-media installation from Olágbajú’s ongoing research project *an untitled rendering, after...* honoring black femme individuals who modeled for paintings that are well-known in the white European art historical canon.

In their research into the lives of so many individuals who have been ignored by art history, and in coming to terms with the ways in which we have all been indoctrinated into the hegemony of whiteness through recognized European painting traditions, Olágbajú sought to find ways to uplift these unknown figures rather than othering them. This iteration of the project invites passersby to take the time to quietly
honor and celebrate the beauty of these black women who are often represented in servant roles and recognized by art historians as foils for normative beauty standards and symbols of the importance of capitalist patriarchal art collectors, rather than for their own beauty, presence, and lived experience.

This entrance-gallery project is the first of three solo installations by local artists emerging from the challenges of the past year to focus on relationships of care and honoring the beauty in our encounters with strangers.

PROJECT INFORMATION

What: I witness you (for laure)
A video and multi-media installation from Olágbajú’s ongoing research project an untitled rendering, after...honoring black femme individuals who modeled for paintings that are well-known in the white European art historical canon.

When: December 17, 2020 through January 30, 2021
Thursday – Saturday, 5:00PM – 9:00PM

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
Viewable from the sidewalk outside Southern Exposure on Alabama Street

ABOUT YÉTUNDE OLÁGBAJÚ

Yétundé Olágbajú is an artist and maker, currently residing in Oakland, CA. They utilize video, sculpture, action, gesture, and performance as through-lines for inquiries regarding Black labor, legacy and processes of healing. They are rooted in the need to understand history, the people that made it, the myths surrounding them and how their own body is implicated in history’s timeline.

They have shown work and projects with Oakland Museum of California, New Image Gallery, Pt. 2 Gallery, Southern Exposure, Guerrero Gallery, SOMArts Cultural Center, The New School, and Art Basel. They have collaborated with institutions such as San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Facebook, Museum of the African Diaspora, CounterPulse and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

They hold an MFA from Mills College and are the recipient of the inaugural Nancy Cook Fellowship, the Murphy Cadogan Awards, the Jay Defeo Award, and the Headlands Center for the Arts Graduate Fellowship.

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists’ work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.
For more information and images, contact Stevie Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 x102 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 12:00PM to 5:00PM. Please note that our office hours are limited and our gallery is currently closed in accordance with San Francisco’s shelter-in-place restrictions.

Website: soex.org.