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Caron Tabb, Human Fabric, 2020 13'x11', fabric, leather, nylon, thread

Caron Tabb's second solo show addressing questions of social justice opens in November 2021

Caron Tabb: *Humanity Is Not a Spectator Sport*
November 5, 2021 – January 17, 2022
Beacon Gallery 524B Harrison Ave Boston, MA 02118

BOSTON, MA (October 13, 2021) – Beacon Gallery is pleased to present Caron Tabb's upcoming solo show, *Humanity Is Not a Spectator Sport*, opening November 5 and running through January 17, 2022.

The racial vitriol towards President Obama, the election of Donald Trump, the racial murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery and others, and the endemic issues surfaced by the Covid outbreak caused a profound reckoning for many, including Caron Tabb and her artwork. Tabb found herself spending significant time engaging in difficult conversations where she questioned her role, responsibilities, and culpability as a white woman. The people with

whom she had these conversations inspired and pushed her to the point of profound awakening and introspection.

A difficult conversation, or as Harvard's Robert Livingston calls it, The Conversation, can happen when one looks beyond norms and obvious answers to seriously explore and choose a new path. By challenging fundamental assumptions these difficult conversations are courageous because of the inherent discomfort they bring. They often force introspection as one must reconsider both oneself and others. If one is willing, these conversations can alter fundamental beliefs and understandings and lead to a new perspective, and sense of accountability, or commitment.

Humanity Is Not a Spectator Sport, Tabb's second exhibition at Beacon Gallery, stems from such introspection and offers a personal portrait as well as a communal call to action. The conceptual mixed media work in this show draws heavily from Tabb's deep Jewish identity while demonstrating we can encourage change in others through our own resilience and intentions.

In *Humanity is Not a Spectator Sport*, Tabb unflinchingly invites the viewer to both experience her own struggles with race, racism, and white privilege while also providing tools for others to take a similar look into their own lives.

While never seeking to preach, Tabb instead extends an invitation to engage. She allows the viewer glimpses of the innate goodness we all have inside of ourselves through portraits of courageous women and her own introspection. She endeavors to reveal our common bonds while breaking down the artificial barriers we create so easily.

Featuring all original never-before-seen works, Tabb aims to shed light on white privilege, systemic racism, and inequality, as well as our shared humanity. Even more important than the awareness she hopes to bring, Tabb seeks to challenge viewers and inspire difficult conversations. In addition, examples of successful community building leadership from her *Be The Change* series demonstrate that while words and visuals can bring awareness to an issue, true progress requires action.

Be The Change

Beyond her conceptual art installations, *Humanity Is Not A Spectator Sport* is words and concepts made manifest. This exhibition is the first iteration of Tabb's multi-city *Be the Change*: a public art and activism initiative taking its fledgling steps in Boston.

Inspired by the Jewish tenet of justice, and drawing its form from the ritualistic Jewish tzedakah box (traditionally used to keep loose change for charitable donations), *Be The Change* aims to inspire action through the honoring of Women of Valor who have embodied the elements of justice and social engagement in their own life.

Be the Change was originally inspired by a conversation between Boston-based artist Caron Tabb and Ruth Messinger, a NYC political activist and former President and CEO of the American Jewish World Service, a Jewish international development agency working to fight poverty and pursue justice around the world. Messinger was the person to whom the first Tzedakah Box made for Tabb's solo show *Humanity Is Not A Spectator Sport* was dedicated. The second Tzedakah Box is dedicated to Tina Chéry Brown, founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

In addition to featuring the artworks, there will be hybrid (virtual and in-person) *Be The Change* events at Beacon Gallery honoring the two Women of Valor. These two separate events (one for Messinger in early November, one for Chéry in January) will share the women's stories and accomplishments.

What Now; Making Space

In addition to the dedication of the tzedakah boxes, Tabb felt it important to lead by action rather than words. As part of her exhibition, Tabb will remove a symbolic piece of her artwork to make space for a featured series of artists and initiatives from November 15th onwards. Entitled *What Now; Making Space* and curated by artist and participant Meclina in dialogue with Caron Tabb, this 7-week exhibition-within-an-exhibition will feature a rotating series of artworks in the place of Tabb's.

What Now; Making Space not only features works by a variety of artists but gives an opportunity for networking career growth. Through a weekly artist blog feature and online artist talk, each will be highlighted and given the opportunity to more fully explain and engage with the Boston area community. They will also be able to engage with each other through an artist-only event formulated to offer a space for authentic and transparent conversations regarding the challenges of the art world.

Each of these artists has a unique vision of the world and a message they present through their artwork. Make sure to enjoy the works of each artist below either in person or via Beacon Gallery's blog, and don't miss a chance to meet each artist.

The list of artists featured in *What Now; Making Space* each week:

Week starting November 1st: Nayana LaFond

Week starting November 8th: Rob Gibbs

Week starting November 15th: Rob Gibbs

Week starting November 22nd: Kamil Peters

Week starting November 29th: Kamil Peters

Week starting December 6th: Ibrahim Ali-Salaam

Week starting December 13th: Quincy Harding

Week starting December 20th: Quincy Harding

Week starting December 27th: Janet Tan

Week starting January 3rd: Janet Tan

Week starting January 10th: Meclina

Closing events on 1/17: Meclina

Please join Tabb, Meclina as well as artists and community members for both in-person and online events and discussions at Beacon Gallery throughout November, December, and January. More information on events and how to participate is available online. For gallery hours, appointments outside of standard hours, virtual tours or more information, please contact the gallery.

About Caron Tabb:

Caron was born in apartheid South Africa, raised on a farm in Israel from the age of eight and, has lived in the US for the last 20 years. After years working in the nonprofit world, she turned her focus to art. These key biographical elements and her passion for social justice issues deeply impact her artistic practice. In addition to traditional painting and photography, she incorporates found objects and unconventional materials into her work. Her conceptual mixed-media and installation pieces address issues of social inequality, racial justice and, feminism as seen through the lens of her deep Jewish identity. When questioning her role as a Jewish, white woman, and a human being today, her goal it is to raise the level of discourse, increase empathy and engage people in difficult conversations about a just and equal society. Her art serves as a voice and a vehicle for conversations about what it means to be an American in this day and age.

Caron holds a B.A in Education and a M.A. in Nonprofit Management, both from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She is married to Dr. Kevin Tabb the CEO of Beth Israel Lahey Health Boston. They have two children, Shai (26) and Noam (22).

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For details on our COVID policies and procedures, to make an appointment to visit or for high resolution photos, please contact Christine O'Donnell at christine@beacongallery.com.