

A VISUAL ARTS PROJECT

New *Freedom*



CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD, ARTIST



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The Visual Art of Ancestral Memory



Top: Garden Flowers, New Freedom Series, informed by images from the Penn Center Archives.

Left: Images from Minniefield Family Archives.

ABOUT THE WORK & WHY

My work invokes the power of the ancestors. By creating visual road maps from the past to the present, paved by the history and stories, love and heartache, success and failures of the ancestors, it celebrates the **Ancestral Memory** in us all. I believe that by reclaiming the stories of our ancestors and by praising and committing to their memory, we will better understand ourselves as a society and our collective potential.

VISUAL SHRINES

As a visual artist, I seek images of loving women who embody leadership and power. I reclaim their power by correcting the too common portraits of them as objects of servitude and submission. I then enshrine these images, presenting them as what they

were/are for me - sacred symbols which guide my footsteps today forward. I believe in their wisdom. I only pray to make them proud by holding dear their legacy in my own life.

IMAGES OF OUR FREEDOM

"New Freedom" is a series which celebrates female strength from post emancipation to after the turn of the century. This project works to capture the determination of a people committed to forging their place within newly forming societies. This body of work, presents freed women as sacred symbols, in "shrine paintings" of monumental scale, celebrating the past, acknowledging the present in order to inform our path to mutual respect and understanding in the future.

"The work of Charmaine Minniefield is full of the joy of life. She takes the viewer into the spiritual realm and holds them there. Her work addresses the process of ritual and the accompanying oral history gleaned through stories handed down. Her work converses with the ancestors and they guide her brushes as she examines the visceral elements that are so important in navigating through life. There are many lessons to be learned from this gifted artist. Her work is magic."

Artist, Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier

Artist & Administrator CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD

ARTIST

Charmaine Minniefield draws from indigenous traditions as seen throughout Africa and the Diaspora and her personal connection to women who have played a major role in her life. Through acrylic on canvas and mixed media site specific installations she celebrates her ancestors and the strength and

mysterious power of women. Her portraits of gargantuan women, often painted in bold colors and patterns, are influenced by her relationship with her grandmothers whom she remembers as being larger than life.

ADMINISTRATOR

With a degree in Fine Art from Agnes Scott College, Charmaine Minniefield has served the Atlanta area as an arts administrator, program coordinator and independent consultant for nearly 20 years, holding positions with some of the nation's most noted nonprofit cultural and service organizations. As a member of the programming staff of the National Black



The Carrier

civic leaders and social activists in Atlanta's King Historic District on Auburn Avenue. As a producer and consultant, her company, Ori Productions, continues to present arts and cultural programming including major concerts, festivals and conferences throughout the region. Charmaine Minniefield continues to produce and present community-based arts programming in and around Atlanta while focussing on her own artwork and while raising her 3 beautiful daughters.

Festival, Ms. Minniefield employe over 1500 artists, serving countless community centers around the metro Atlanta area while realizing over a million in attendance to the annual multi-million dollar event. In her role as the Producer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Summit for over ten years with Hands On Atlanta and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, she engaged over 100,000 volunteers in a citywide annual King Holiday leadership training celebration while hosting some of the world's most recognized artists,



Shy Grace



Arts

SACRED SYMBOLS OF *Freedom*



Sacred Symbols

Most indigenous traditions around the world hold sacred the veneration and respect of their ancestors. This practice remains evident throughout history whether consciously performed or not. Symbols of cultural value systems decorate walls, grace the faces of currency, educating the children of societies past and present. Symbols are often branded with the names or images of someone's ancestors, those that societies hold dear and whose legacy continues to inspire. Today streets are named after war generals, past presidents and civil rights leaders. Mountains are hewn with images of those once empowered. It is these symbols, often displaying images of those passed on, that continue to inform the ethical systems of today. This "ancestral memory", however mundane or profound, remembers with respect, hoping that others will join them in doing so.

The *NEW FREEDOM Project* celebrates newly freed African Americans -

specifically women. This project recognizes the achievement and strength of a people who although most recently affected by slavery, somehow created a place for themselves within the shifting American landscape.

This project seeks to reclaim the "ancestral memory" of the African American experience by engaging audiences in their own journey through history, asking them to remember their ancestors and to find and retell their stories - the American story.

Freedom.

The word is my prayer.

-Gullah-

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Purpose of The *NEW FREEDOM Project* is to:

- Celebrate African American history and culture,
- Facilitate community engagement and outreach,
- Create and acquire new work for the host organization/community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *NEW FREEDOM Project* will include the following components

- Artist Residency
- Commission and Acquisition
- Community Outreach
- Public Presentation

As an Artist-in-Residence, The artist will research the history of the host community, gathering images from formal archives, private individual collections and historical organizations. The Project will engage audiences by inviting families to contribute original materials and images. This research and community-based residency will then inform new work to be presented by the host organization or venue. The project will culminate with a full exhibition. The exhibition period will include an artist talk and/or lecture. At least one piece of artwork, distinct to the community, will be acquired by the host organization for its permanent collection or placement.

PROJECT COMPONENT



Charmaine Minniefield standing with recent work, "Amazing Grace"

Community Partners

New Freedom is designed to encourage collaboration by working with multiple host organizations within a community.

- Galleries and Museums
- Colleges and Universities
- Libraries and Government Centers
- Boys & Girls Clubs, School Systems, Art & Cultural Organizations
- Historical Societies

Target Audience

This project will engage new audiences by reaching underserved and minority participation goals and interests of the host organization.

- Underserved Communities
- Minority Communities
- The Cultural & Artistic Community
- Higher Education & Researchers
- Youth and Families

Timeline

The project is designed to adjust to the needs of the host organization and its partners

- 30-60 Day for Residency and Research; 3-6 visits, 2-3 days each
- *Includes at least 2 outreach activities
- 45-120 Days for Exhibition
- *Includes an opening reception and artist talk.

ARTISTIC PROCESS & PROJECT COMPONENTS

Artist Residency

The project requires accommodations for the artist. This should include access to work space or a studio. The artist will travel to the host community at least 3-6 times over the course of 30-60 days, staying 2-3 days each visit in order to research and gather images and objects that might inform the creation of new work. NEW FREEDOM is currently over 22 painted images on canvas and on fabric. Work created during this residency will be incorporated into the full series and the final exhibition. The exhibition will include an installation element as well which might utilize the space according to the work presented.

Community Outreach

While in residence the artist will work directly with the host organization to access

community organizations and civic associations in order to gather original images and materials that will inform a new body of work. As the images and materials are gathered, the artist will also work to record the stories of the contributing families or organizations. These records will be captured for the purpose of documentation and archiving with a designated civic organization within the community (i.e. local library, church, community center, museum, historical society, etc.).

Public Presentation

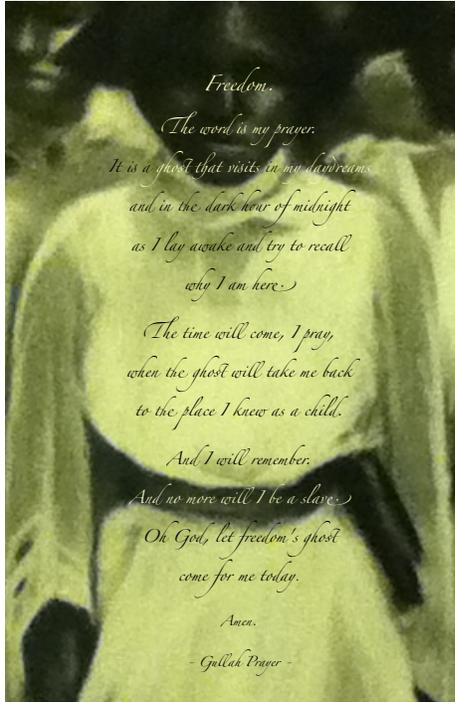
The final exhibition will include an opening reception as well as a separate artist talk or lecture for public dialogue around the work. The lecture might also engage local historians or speakers knowledgeable of African American or women's history.

Commission and Acquisition

From this residency the artist will create new work that is informed by the African American history (or otherwise) within the region or area. From the new work created, the artist will offer at least one work to the host organization for its permanent collection or placement. This project will make possible the creation of new work and will provide for a purchase by the host organization.



New Freedom



NEW FREEDOM & OTHER IMAGES by Visual Artist CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD

PRESENTED BY THE AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH LIBRARY
MARCH 1-APRIL 28, 2013 – CARY-MCPHEETERS GALLERY – ATL., GA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 1, 2013

CONTACT: Ori Productions, 678-832-5520
CharmaineMinniefield@gmail.com
www.newfreedomimages.wordpress.com

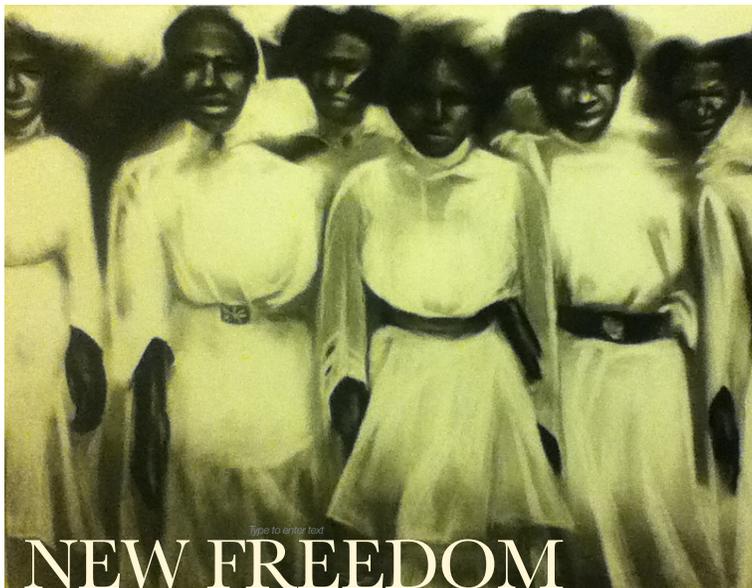
“Charmaine Minniefield takes the viewer into the spiritual realm and holds them there. Her work converses with the ancestors as they guide her brushes...There are many lessons to be learned from this gifted artist. Her work is magic.”

Visual artist, Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta, Georgia

- Exhibition Dates: March 1-April 28, 2013
- Opening Reception: March 7, 2013, 5-8pm, during First Thursdays Downtown Artswalk

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on American Culture and History presents “New Freedom: Images of Women in Early African American History” by visual artist, Charmaine Minniefield at 101 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303, March 1-April 28, 2013. Her work and other works by the artist will be presented during the 10th Bi-annual Conference of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), taking place March 13-16, 2013. The CAAR conference is hosted by Agnes Scott College which is an official community partner.



NEW FREEDOM

and other works by visual artist

CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD

March 1 - April 28, 2013

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History, Cary-McPheeters Gallery

Opening Reception
March 7, 2013, 5-8pm
101 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303



“New Freedom: Images of Women in Early African American History” is a recent series of works by visual artist, Charmaine Minniefield on canvas, fabric and paper which celebrate female strength and leadership from post-

emancipation to after the turn of the century. In honor of Women’s History Month, Minniefield will present a new image which draws from the Selena Sloan Butler papers, a special collection of the Library.

Charmaine Minniefield’s work explores African and African American ritual from a feminist perspective. Her images draw from “ancestral memory” or indigenous traditions as seen throughout the Diaspora.

For more information on these and other works by the artist, please visit www.newfreedomimages.wordpress.com

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NEW FREEDOM

RECENT WORK BY
CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD

“Charmaine Minniefield takes the viewer into the spiritual realm and holds them there. Her work converses with the ancestors as they guide her brushes...There are many lessons to be learned from this gifted artist. Her work is magic.”

Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier

VIEWING & RECEPTION at the home of

MALIKAH BERRY

10/26/12

834 GILBERT ST. SE
ATLANTA, GA 30316

6:30-9P

Directions: Travel South on Moreland from I20. Turn right onto Delaware. 834 Gilbert is on the corner of Delaware and Gilbert on the left.

New Freedom Project Cost

EXPENSES

Artist's Fee/Honorarium.....	\$11,000.00
• Artist commission and production	
• Residency	
• Internship (paid intern as assistant \$1500)	
Materials.....	\$8,000.00
• Framing	
• Fabrication	
Printing.....	\$7,500.00
• Catalogue	
Shipping	\$5,000.00
Documentation	\$4,000.00
Travel and Accommodations (based on a 30 day residency).....	\$4,500.00
• Flights (3 flights x \$500)	
• Lodging (10 days x \$200/night)	
• Per Diem (10 days x \$100)	
TOTAL.....	\$40,000.00



Image provided by the Fuqua Family Archives

CHARMAINE MINNIEFIELD

the NEW FREEDOM Project

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