



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 11, 2019

Contact: Alison Croney Moses  
Director, School & Community Partnerships  
617-524-3313 x13 • anorman@eliotschool.org

## **L'Merchie Frazier to Show at Galatea Fine Art on Themes of Public Monuments**

L'Merchie Frazier has long been investigating questions about public monuments. What icons do we want in our public spaces, to honor the people and values we want to remember? Her newest body of work is a collaboration with Boston teens through an artist's residency at the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts.

Her work, **"New Urban Monuments: Stand Up Inside Yourself!"** will be on view at Galatea Fine Art, a cooperative gallery in Boston's SoWa District, from October 2–27. She and the teens will give a talk about their collaborative work, at the gallery, Sunday, October 20 at 3pm.

Frazier undertook this residency at a time when public monuments, specifically around racism and its history, are much in the news. Last month, a Virginia judge blocked efforts to remove a Confederate general's statue that was at the center of the 2017 tragic fatality in Charlottesville. And this summer acclaimed Boston artist Steve Locke withdrew a proposal for a memorial evoking an auction block at Faneuil Hall, named for a man who built his fortune trading and owning slaves.

With participants from Teen Bridge at the Eliot School, Frazier created an installation that includes representations of close-knit communities and larger-than-life shadow-drawings of the teens themselves, many of whom are personally touched by legacies left behind by slavery and colonialism.

Frazier says, "Monuments stand to materialize memorial practices that shape the American landscape. Recent calls for the literal destruction of certain public monuments respond to ideals for American democracy. Why do these hard relics, which represent a divided America and frame challenges to democratic possibilities, remain to shape public memory in our neighborhoods and parks? How do we create new monuments that engage new ideas emerging from our communities?"

The Galatea exhibition includes the installation along with other work by Frazier.

At the Eliot School, Frazier led Eliot School's Teen Bridge artists through an intensive process of collaborative design, community engagement and art making. Teen Bridge artists include Anita Adiukwu, José Benavides, Rose Gelin, Marieliza Manigat, Isaac Madera-Cepeda, Vladimir Mesidor and Jasyrah Rosier. Through surveying communities, conducting hands-on workshops, discussions and developing this installation, the group concludes:

"As 21st Century people, our voices are monumental and part of the Maker-revolution to produce monuments going forward. Can we call for the creation of new monuments? 'Of course we can!'"

– 30 –

*Images available upon request.*

## About L'Merchie Frazier

L'Merchie Frazier, a public fiber artist, innovator, poet and holographer, is Director of Education and Interpretation for the Museum of African American History, Boston/Nantucket, engaged in highlighting and curating the Museum's collection/exhibits, in providing place-based education and interdisciplinary history programs, projects and lectures, most recently promoting STEM / STEAM education pedagogy, and in managing the successful Faculty/ Teachers' Institutes and its extension, The Cross Cultural Classroom, a benefit marketed to independent education entities, municipalities and corporations. She is currently Creative Engagement Director of Transformative Action Project, a Violence Transformed and PHAI initiative at Northeastern University.

She is adjunct faculty for Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts and Bunker Hill Community College, Charlestown, Massachusetts. She has served the artistic community for over twenty years as an award winning national and international visual and performance artist and poet, with residencies in Brazil, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Africa, France, and Cuba. As a lecturer and workshop presenter. Her audiences include youth and adults. She is former Board member of CityLife /Vida Urbana and serves on the advisory board of Paige Academy and is an Art Commons Boston AppLab Board Member.

L'Merchie is a member of Women of Color Quilter's Network. She is resident artist of African American Artists in Residence Program (AAMARP) at Northeastern University and at Fairmount Innovation and Southend Technology Center, MIT FabLabs in Boston. Her fiber works serve to document history and memory, and often include innovative technology. These artworks are featured in a series entitled *The Quilted Chronicles*. Selected works are included in several art publications and in the permanent collections of the Museum of Art and Design, the Smithsonian Institute and the White House.

Frazier was chosen as part of the 3-artist launch group for the City of Boston's AIR artists (Artist-in-Residence). She recently received the New England Foundation for the Arts Creative City individual artist grant and the Northeastern University Law Lab Stable Ground artist residency. She is Artist-in-Residence for the Eliot School of Fine Arts and Applied Arts and is Resident Artist/ Historian for Castle of Our Skins. L'Merchie serves on the Massachusetts Council on History and Social Studies advisory commission for public schools.

## About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

The Eliot School inspires lifelong learning in craftsmanship and creativity for all. It sends artists and artisans to teach visual arts and woodworking to young people in schools and community centers throughout Boston, and offers classes for all ages in its two Jamaica Plain locations. Artisans' talks, an annual artist's residency, a multi-year teen program and family events round out its programs. For more information, visit [eliotschool.org](http://eliotschool.org) or follow @eliotschool on Twitter and Facebook.

## About Galatea Fine Art

Galatea Fine Art is a contemporary cooperative art gallery located in the heart of Boston's SoWa neighborhood in the South End. Its members include painters, sculptors, photographers and mixed media artists with both established and emerging careers.

The artists' cooperative was founded in 2009 by former Director, Marjorie Kaye, with the help of her partner, George Shaw. Galatea Fine Art's mission continues to mobilize the diverse energies and skills of our artists as well as to enrich our local art community and contribute to the contemporary arts discourse.

The Eliot School exhibits work twice a year at Galatea Fine Art, showcasing its Artists in Residence and its faculty.

Photo credit: Craig Bailey/Perspective Photo

