Bklyner
Look Up – Let Freedom Ring At BAM Feb 12-15
Salma Elazab
11 February 2021

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Jasmine Wahi x For Freedoms "On Visibility" 2020 for BAM Let Freedom Ring Vol. 1 displayed in January.
The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is bringing back its Let Freedom Ring project in celebration of Black History Month and President's Day.

The public project, curated by BAM's Larry Ossie-Mensah, features artwork by seven artists, both established and emerging, exploring one question: "What does freedom mean?" and will be displayed on a digital billboard on the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Lafayette Avenue starting tomorrow, February 12th, until Monday the 15th.

Let Freedom Ring Vol. 2 follows up the BAM's billboard tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. that was displayed last month in the same location.

"After the first project's success, I felt it necessary to continue the conversation and reflect on freedom as the nation observes President's Day and celebrates Black History Month," said Ossie-Mensah. "Working on Let Freedom Ring has been a cathartic experience growing from a desire to ponder and imagine what freedom could look like in 2021 and beyond."

Let Freedom Ring Vol. 2 features the following artists:

Image: Laylah Barrayn by Barnabas Crosby.

Laylah Amatullah Barrayn is an Emmy nominated documentary photographer. She is co-author of MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora and is currently working on a book featuring contemporary Black photographers. You can learn more about her projects here.

Image: Jordan Casteel by David Schulze.

Jordan Casteel is a painter, who based on photographs of people and places she captures, composes her own artistic pieces. You can view some of her paintings on her website.

Image: Kevin Claiborne, courtesy of the artist.

Kevin Claiborne examines identity, the social environment, and mental health within the context of the Black experience in America. Visit his website to scroll through some of his photography and writing.

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Image: Lizania Cruz by Manolo Salas.

Lizania Cruz is an artist, curator, and designer focused on portraying human migration and how it affects identity through her work. Her projects include photography, writing, as well as panels and workshops depicting the minority experience.

Image: Deborah Roberts by Jasmine Archie.

Deborah Roberts challenges perceptions of “ideal beauty” through mixed media art. Her work has been displayed in various museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art as well as overseas.

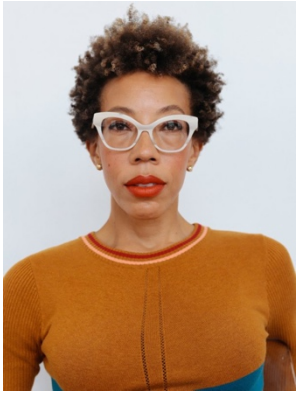

Image: Amy Sherald by JJ Geiger.

Amy Sherald was the first woman and African American to win first prize in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition from the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. The painter’s work explores racial identity.
Jasmine Wahi by Dario Calmese.