

## **ACCESS: A Century After Women's Right to Vote**

(January 6, 2020) GLENDALE, CA—The year 2020 marks the centennial milestone when women gained access to the political process with the right to vote in the United States. Despite the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, women of color did not gain that right until much later and vast numbers of women remain disenfranchised and excluded from the political process. The latest exhibit at ReflectSpace gallery at the Glendale Central Library, *Access: A Century After Women's Right to Vote*, examines the past 100 years of women's rights through the work of several contemporary women artists, and considers women's roles today and their access to positions of power.

In partnership with the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women, *Access* will run from January 31 – March 15, 2020.

- Opening reception: Friday January 31, 2020 from 7-9 pm
- Artists in the exhibition include: Kim Abeles, April Bey, Joey Forsyte, Erika Rothenberg, and the Las Fotos Project.
- *Access* is curated by guest curator Ani Ohanessian and Ara and Anahid Oshagan.

**Kim Abeles** addresses gender issues head-on, using her body and an inter-generational sensibility to create new spaces of feminist discourse. Abeles' work in *Access* includes self-portraits and short videos related to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. She is a Los Angeles based interdisciplinary award winning artist-activist and her work has been exhibited in 22 countries. Ms. Abeles was a 2013 recipient of the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Artist and educator **April Bey** tackles issues of Black empowerment and feminism. Using oil paint, wax fabric, and epoxy resin, her bold and layered work challenges and redefines stereotypes about women and feminism and focuses on the resilience of women. For *Access*, she will be showing brand new work addressing the suffrage movement. A prolific artist, Ms. Bey is internationally exhibited and is a full time educator at Glendale Community College.

Filmmaker and artist **Joey Forsyte** is the founder and CEO of "A Band of Voters" (ABOV) which helps students and other marginalized citizens overcome systemic barriers to voting and access to their political power at the ballot box. Ms. Forsyte contributes a social engagement-based installation about voting to the *Access* exhibit.

**Erika Rothenberg** uses the seemingly innocuous format of greeting cards and various other forms to explore and examine social ills and political injustices of our time. Ms. Rothenberg describes her messaging as "passionately interested in exposing American hubris, corruption, privilege and prejudice in a humorous non-didactic way with an intersectional feminist edge." Her work is exhibited in major museums and galleries throughout the United States. Rothenberg's satirical greeting cards as well as a new interactive rendition of the Star Spangled Banner will be part of *Access*.

**Las Fotos Project** is a community-based nonprofit organization that inspires teenage girls through photography, mentorship, and self-expression. Teenage girls are equipped with professional cameras, instruction, and workshops to help develop lifelong skills through confidence building, leadership and advocacy skills. For *Access*, Las Fotos Project will contribute work from their "Migrant Mamas" project as well as Esta Soy Yo, a self-expression program for young Latina women that uses therapeutic photography methodologies to enable them to find their unique story-telling voices.