

HIGHLAND

THE CONTINUITY OF A BLACK FAMILY

GRETA CHAPIN-MCGILL

March 5 - 26, 2022



For generations, Highland Beach has been a safe haven for Black Washingtonians seeking refuge from segregation. Its residents maintain their identity, an identity rooted in memories of Jim Crow.

Highland: the Continuity of the Black Family art exhibition seeks to take you on a journey of history and nature; of beauty and peace, the reflection of the Black family.

The summer of 2021 was a time of uncertainty worldwide. A time when we all looked for a safe haven, a place of peace and tranquility where the pandemic could not touch us. Where the fear of losing loved ones did not exist. The country was divided into factions we never thought would return so violently and visibly.

My art is my story...the times of my life. In that short summer so much changed within me. Given the opportunity to a residency with renowned artist, Lilian Thomas Burwell in Highland Beach.

Life gave me much to contemplate during those days. It was as if time had stopped in Highland Beach and returned to a gentle breeze of kindness; providing time to walk the beach alone, watch the boys floating lazily in their red kayaks on Walnut Creek just as they had for decades.

To pass the Frederick Douglass house in the early morning and have history wash over me; porch life carried on as neighbors I had never known became friends and family with talks of grandchildren, fishing, and barbeque.

Highland eased me through many life changes during my time there providing deep and meaningful conversations with Ms. Burwell, helping me to navigate a new season in my art and in my thinking. - *Greta Chapin- McGill*

The exhibition is meant to allow the viewer to experience the color, the feel, the sounds of a life experience, an experience continuing as it has for generations of a place where the essence of what it means to be comfortable in the skin the universe granted to me is celebrated in just the act of waking up.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO:

Stephanie Elizabeth Marie McGill

Sukari Juanita McGill

Solei Ivy Marie Somerville

SPONSORED BY

Greta Chapin McGill is an artist, leader, and visionary. In her work, Greta depicts Black history and personal experiences with great sensitivity, scholarly research, and creative expression. I am honored to have featured her work at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Our museum aims to promote and support innovative and community-minded artists of African descent in Maryland, like Greta. Her work brings people together and inspires important dialogue around womanhood, Black history, and social justice.

Chanel Compton
Director
Maryland Commission on African American
History and Culture
and Banneker-Douglass Museum

