



For Immediate Release

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**Intisar Abioto's "Black Legend, Black, Oregon" to be exhibited
in the Governor's Office Feb. 4 – March 29**

Salem, Oregon – Portland artist Intisar Abioto will exhibit "Black Legend, Black, Oregon" in the Governor's Office of the Capitol Building in Salem from Feb. 4 to March 29.

"Black Legend, Black, Oregon" explores the lore and living legend of black presence in Oregon through photographs of artists, elders, poets, historians, luminaries and beloved community members. Works in the exhibition include images from the artist's ongoing photographic endeavor and exploratory blog The Black Portlanders as well as photographs taken around Oregon for the Urban League of Portland's "State of Black Oregon" 2015 publication. She has been photographing and writing about people of African descent in Oregon since 2013.

Abioto is an artist engaged in dancing, photography and writing. Her work is united by a form of story inquiry that takes as its subject the authentic stories of people within the global African diaspora. Abioto has shown her photographs of people of African descent in Oregon at venues including at Multnomah County Public Library, Powell's City of Books, University of Oregon White Box Gallery, Portland State University Littman Gallery and Ori Gallery. Her publication "The Black Portlanders" documents the stories and experiences of black people in Portland alongside photographs of the interviewees. She was a contributing photographer to "MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora" (2017). Abioto presented her work at TEDx Portland in 2016. She was selected in 2018 for Oregon Humanities' fellowship program Emerging Journalists, Community Stories. Abioto has a degree in dance and has performed at Paragon Gallery, Portland Art Museum and Disjecta Contemporary Art Center. The Art in the Governor's Office Program honors selected artists in Oregon with exhibitions in the reception area of the Governor's Office in the State Capitol. Artists are

nominated by a statewide committee of arts professionals who consider artists representing the breadth and diversity of artistic practice across Oregon, and are then selected by the Arts Commission with the participation of the Governor's Office. Only professional, living Oregon artists are considered and an exhibit in the Governor's office is regarded as a "once in a lifetime" honor. Artists whose work has previously been shown in the Governor's office include Henk Pander, Michele Russo, Manuel Izquierdo, James Lavadour, Margot Thompson, Gordon Gilkey and Yuji Hiratsuka.

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at: www.oregonartscommission.org.