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**California African American Museum Presents  
*Giving you the best that I got* at Art + Practice**

**Group Exhibition Examines Images and Narratives of  
Black Motherhood in Contemporary Art**



(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) and Art + Practice (A+P) are pleased to announce *Giving you the best that I got*, a group exhibition featuring twenty contemporary artists. This multimedia exhibition illuminates the many ways that Black women embody motherhood, as nurturers, muses, and cultural anchors, featuring significant artworks by Kwame Brathwaite, Bisa Butler, Calida Rawles, Carrie Mae Weems, and others. The exhibition will be on view at A+P in

Leimert Park from October 11, 2025 to March 7, 2026.

## Participating Artists

Derrick Adams	Ashley January	
Kwame Brathwaite	Shaniqwa Jarvis	Jamel Shabazz
Bisa Butler	Jill Knox	Ferrari Sheppard
Karon Davis	Lex Marie	Shefon N. Taylor
Kenturah Davis	Helina Metaferia	Sydney Vernon
Lanise Howard	Calida Rawles	Ciarra K. Walters
February James	Harmonia Rosales	Carrie Mae Weems

*Giving you the best that I got* highlights images and narratives of Black mothers, from pregnancy through the lifelong journey of raising, guiding, and inspiring future generations, while continually redefining what it means to be a mother. The sacred relationship between mother and child has shaped many artistic expressions throughout history, yet the nuanced experiences and attitudes around Black mothers in contemporary art remains underdocumented. This exhibition features artists who make work that intentionally foregrounds Black women and matrilineal histories, and includes others whose work shows an appreciation for them through themes of nostalgia, care, and cultural inheritance.

CAAM Executive Director Cameron Shaw said, “Each CAAM presentation at A+P speaks to important histories and narratives that impact the Leimert Park community, while being part of broader contemporary art and cultural conversations. This exhibition and the twenty artists included bring perspective, understanding, and reverence to the idea and lived experience of Black motherhood. The result is a multifaceted homage to the Black matriarch in her many forms.”

Exhibition curator Dominique Clayton said, “My own motherhood journey sent me on a path of discovery around the personal, social, and political aspects of the role. With the help of a phenomenal group of artists, this exhibition deepens those learnings. It gives us a more expansive view of what it means to be a Black mom.”

*Giving you the best that I got* is curated by Dominique Clayton, independent curator and founder of Dominique Gallery, and is co-presented by the California African American Museum and Art + Practice as part of CAAM at A+P, a five-year collaboration.

## [Exhibition Press Kit](#)

## **Related Programming**

Tuesday, October 14 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ Art + Practice

### **In Conversation: Dominique Clayton and Select Exhibiting Artists**

## **About the California African American Museum**

CAAM explores the art, history, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the West. Chartered by the State of California in 1977, the Museum began formal operations in 1981 and is a state-supported agency and a Smithsonian Affiliate. In addition to presenting exhibitions and public programs, CAAM houses a permanent collection of more than 5,000 works of art, artifacts, and historical documents, and a publicly accessible research library. Admission to CAAM is free.

Museum hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closed Mondays (except MLK Day), Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. CAAM is located in Exposition Park at the corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition Boulevard, west of the 110 (Harbor) Freeway. Exposition Park parking is available for \$20 (daytime) at 39th and Figueroa Streets. The Metro Expo line Expo Park/USC station is a five-minute walk through the Exposition Park Rose Garden to the Museum.

## **About Art + Practice**

A+P is a private operating 501(c)3 foundation based in the neighborhood of Leimert Park in South Los Angeles. A+P supports the local needs of transition-age foster youth and children experiencing displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe through its collaborations with nonprofit providers First Place for Youth and Nest Global. A+P also provides Angelenos with access to museum-curated art exhibitions and diverse public programs, organized by CAAM. Admission to A+P is free.

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and select national holidays. A+P is located in historic Leimert Park Village at 3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles, with a space for public programs across the street at 4334 Degnan Boulevard. There is metered parking on Degnan Boulevard and W. 43rd Place. Free street parking can be found in the neighboring residential area with a two-block walk to A+P. Bus lines that stop nearby are 40, 102, 210, 705, 710, and 740. A+P is also serviced by the Metro K Rail Line. The station is Leimert Park.

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## **Image**

Jamel Shabazz, *A Mother's Love*, Brooklyn, NYC, 1987. Digital Photograph. 16 x 20 in. Courtesy of Jamel Shabazz