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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY CLUB

presents

Matter and Spirit

Paintings by April Sunami

October 29, 2018 – December 14, 2018

Columbus artist April Sunami will present a collection of paintings titled *Matter and Spirit* at The Ohio State University Faculty Club. The solo exhibition will be on display from October 29 through December 14, 2018. An opening reception in Ms. Sunami's honor will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please call 614-292-2262 or email the club at facultyclubosu@yahoo.com for more information or to RSVP.

April Sunami's mixed media paintings start with a foundation of oil for each piece's face and flesh and acrylic for background. Three-dimensional elements are then layered on and consist of a wide variety of materials including paper, beads, fabric, wood, stones and shells, mirrors, shattered glass, and found objects. These items add depth, texture and richness to Sunami's artistic compositions. Each portrait, rich with embellishments, presents an image of African-American women that is strong and sacred, powerful and resplendent.

Of her work, Sunami states, "For over a decade I have considered myself a cultural producer, contributing to the ongoing conversation of race, identity and representation through the creation of paintings that place women of color front and center as the subject of my work. I deliberately create images of strong, spiritual women as a means of proclaiming my personal identity and providing a different lens for the social perception of black women. Many of my works are titled after West African queens and deities forgotten or ignored by Western historians. Through excavating these names, I feel I am remembering a marginalized past."

A native of Cincinnati, who now calls Columbus her home, April Sunami is a graduate of The Ohio State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History. She then went on to receive a Master of Arts degree from Ohio University. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums including the Columbus Museum of Art, National African American Museum and Cultural Center and the Southern Ohio Museum. Ms. Sunami's work is also represented in private collections throughout the country and is currently on display at the National Theater in Accra, Ghana.

Established in 1923, The Ohio State University Faculty Club is located at 181 South Oval Drive on the Columbus campus of the university. The art exhibition program features the work of selected Ohio State University faculty, staff, students and alumni. Exhibitions are held throughout the year. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Faculty Club at 614-292-2262. For images of April Sunami's artwork featured in the current exhibition or a photo of the artist, please contact lisa@ohio-statefacultyclub.com