



For Immediate Release

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Introducing Artist-in-Residence Nicholle La Vann Giving a Voice to Rape Survivors

(ROCHESTER, NY – March 20, 2017) This spring Flower City Arts Center is proud to welcome artist-in-residence Nicholle La Vann to the Photography program for a 3-month residency.

Through activism and filmmaking La Vann works to ensure that the voice of under represented people are heard beyond narrow representations in today's popular culture by facilitating dialogues between people by challenging existing assumptions as well as searching for new ways of addressing current issues.

During her residency at Flower City Arts Center La Vann will be researching and developing her new film "Violated Women" which explores survivors of rape, the children they conceived, and how they manage to go on. She herself is a survivor of rape and has a child who was a result of that rape.

"My goal is to use my skills to assist less fortunate people that society has forgotten and give them a platform to build themselves up and make conscious decisions. My passion for this story is to lift the veil that covered my mind mentally and healing so other women can heal as well as myself." — Nicholle La Vann, 2017 Photography Resident at Flower City Arts Center

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center one in five women will be raped at some point in their lives and 81% report significant short-term or long-term impacts such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Nicholle La Vann will host a screening and discussion of her progress with ongoing new film "Violated Women" at Flower City Arts Center Saturday, May 27. Details to follow.

About Nicholle La Vann

Nicholle La Vann is an award winning filmmaker with a M.F.A. from The City University of New York. La Vann's film "Homicidez" packed over a 300 audience in Rochester, N.Y. March 2009. The film excited Rochester City Mayor, Robert Duffy giving La Vann a proclamation and make May 29th, "Nicholle La Vann Day" for her service to the families of the murdered victims by giving them a voice through her film. As an artist of visual culture, Nicholle is interested in the intersection between the digital environment and media social issues. La Vann continues to give back to her community by teaching at-risk youth photography and new media.

About the Photography Artist-in-Residency Program

The Photography residency program at Flower City Arts Center prides itself on bridging art and education through community engagement. Residency periods range from 6 weeks to 12 months. The program brings in 3-4 artists per year. For more information: photo.rochesterarts.org

About Flower City Arts Center

Flower City Arts Center is a community-based not-for-profit that educates, encourages and inspires all people to create and enjoy the visual arts. As a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the organization is committed to making high-quality arts education available to all.

Flower City Arts Center, formerly Genesee Center for the Arts & Education, has been operating since 1970. Flower City Arts Center is a darkroom and photography facility, a pottery workshop, and a printing and book arts center. Support of Flower City Arts Center benefits youth outreach programs and programs for the community. All of the money raised stays in Rochester and directly benefits members of the Rochester community. The Center uses its resources to provide youth programs in schools, offers over 140 classes to the general public, and rents space to artists and others interested in the visual arts. Internships, facilities for advanced area arts students and resource facilities for anyone interested in book arts, photography and pottery are also available. Three galleries in the building serve as exhibit space for local, regional and national artists.

For more information, contact the Flower City Arts Center Administrative Office at 585-244-1730, or visit our website at www.rochesterarts.org.