



The Michael C. Carlos Museum celebrates the exhibition *Indigo Prayers: A Creation Story* and the launch of the Praise House Project at Emory

[Atlanta, Georgia, August 8, 2022]— The exhibition [Indigo Prayers: A Creation Story](#) at Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum, is presented in conjunction with Atlanta artist Charmaine Minniefield's ongoing Praise House Project, in which she recreates the small, single-room structures used for gathering and worship. The project grew out of the artist's research on the Ring Shout, a full-body, rhythmic movement and prayer, whose West African origins predate enslavement.

The Carlos exhibition features seven large-scale paintings, which Charmaine created during a 14-month residency in the Gambia, West Africa during the pandemic, executed in indigo, mahogany bark, and crushed oyster shell. For Minniefield, the paintings—self-portraits of the artist dancing the Ring Shout— function as totems that reassert Black identity and resilience.



On Sunday, August 28, a series of public events will take place to celebrate the closing of the exhibition and the launch of the Praise House Project at Emory.



[Movement Studies.](#)

Conversation and Dance Performance

At 1:30 p.m. in Emory's Cannon Chapel, join *Indigo Prayers* artist Charmaine Minniefield, Dr. Julie B. Johnson, chair of the Dance Department at Spelman College, and Tamara Williams, associate professor of dance at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, for a conversation about movement as medicine, embodied memory, and the Ring Shout as resistance.

The conversation will be followed by a performance of the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters from Darien, Georgia, led by seventh-generation shouter Griffin Lotson. The ten-member group has been performing professionally since 1980, educating and entertaining audiences around the United States with the Ring Shout, a compelling fusion of counterclockwise dance movement, call-and-response singing, and percussion. The program is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by the [Emory Office of Spiritual and Religious Life](#) and the [Program in Dance and](#)

Ancestral Feast

At 4:30 p.m. in Ackerman Hall at the Carlos Museum, join artist activist Charmaine Minniefield for a contemporary take on the traditional gathering, with [Chef Cleophus Hethington](#), a James Beard finalist for "Best Emerging Chef," renowned in Atlanta for his Ēbí Chop Bar pop-ups and his work at Lazy Betty. Feasting was a part of Praise House gatherings across the South. Break bread in honor of those who have come before as Minniefield shares her vision for the Praise House Project over the next two years, culminating with a Praise House on the Emory campus in 2024. Fee: \$60 for Carlos Museum members; \$85 for non-members. Space is limited and registration is required for this event. Visit [HERE](#) to register. Special thanks to [Stephen Satterfield](#) and [Whetstone Media](#) for assistance in organizing this event.



About the Michael C. Carlos Museum

Set in the heart of Emory's campus, the Michael C. Carlos Museum, is a dynamic, interdisciplinary center for study of art and culture, with collections from Africa; ancient Egypt; Nubia, and the Near East; ancient Greece and Rome; the Indigenous Americas; and South Asia; as well as American and European Works on Paper.

Through our permanent collection galleries, engaging special exhibitions, and innovative programs for audiences of all ages, the Carlos Museum connects the past with present and the campus with the community.

Curators and faculty develop original exhibitions, engage in interdisciplinary research and teaching, and host touring exhibitions that complement our collections and support the teaching mission of the university. The museum's conservators collaborate with staff, faculty, and students to conduct research and manage preventive care on the museum's varied collections. Museum educators reach across the museum, campus, and city to develop opportunities to engage the intellect and the imagination of university students and faculty, preK-12 students and teachers, and the larger Atlanta community.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: noon – 5 p.m. For more information, visit carlos.emory.edu/visit, call 404.727.4282, or follow [@CarlosMuseum](#) on social media.

carlos.emory.edu
#