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Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Events Ending in August

AUBURN, NY - The City of Auburn Historic and Cultural Sites Commission is still celebrating 200 years of Harriet Tubman. Amazing events since the beginning of the year that have brought people from all over the country. However, August 14, we have an exhibit and gallery concluding at the Schweinfurth Art Center, and the last chance for art summer camp.

On display since May 28, the "*Here/Hear: A solo exhibition by Quinn A. Hunter*," focuses on the erasure of Black culture and bodies. Hunter grew up in North Carolina where she encountered Confederate monuments and a school system that hid the history of slavery. She says, "*My work addresses what it means to carry the weight of 250-plus years of being Black into the 21st century*." When creating her works of art, she uses mostly hair and the African-American body as material. Hunter says through her art, she's re-inscribing Black women's labor to the heart of Appalachia, where the Underground Railroad once ran.

The exhibit, "*In God's Voice: A Celebration of the Spirituality of Harriet Tubman*," is a colorful work of fiber and quilts by Syracuse artist Vanessa Johnson. Johnson is known for telling autobiographical stories, traditional African and diaspora tales, and social justice movement stories through her fiber art. For Tubman's bicentennial celebration, she decided to reach into Tubman's faith and spirituality that helped guide Tubman and others to freedom. The exhibit is part of the Emerging Artists project and is on display in both the Schweinfurth Art Center and the Cayuga Museum of History & Art. Johnson is giving a **free Artist Talk/Performance at 5:30 p.m**. on **Friday, August 5**, for First Friday.

Excellence in Fiber VII can also be viewed until **August 14**. It's an annual juried exhibition from *Fiber Art Now* magazine as part of their publication and features fiber art from all over the world. The full exhibition, with works by 62 artists, appeared in print in the Spring 2022 issue. Selected artists are represented at the Schweinfurth with featured works of wall/floor works, sculptural works, vessel

forms/basketry, installation works, and wearables.

For parents looking to get their children involved in this year's bicentennial activities, Vanessa Johnson is hosting, *"Summer Art Camp: I am Harriet Tubman!"* for children ages 6 to 10 from **August 8 through August 12**, from 9 a.m. to noon. Johnson will teach Underground Railroad history through 7 Principles of the African American community celebration of Kwanzaa. Children can use paint, graffiti, photo transferring, quilting and collages to express themselves. For children ages 11 to 15, Johnson is hosting, *"Summer Art Camp: Harriet's Home"* from **August 8 through August 12**, from 1 to 4 p.m. Johnson will teach celebrating Harriet Tubman through art, storytelling and song using fabric, collage, painting, writing, and building soft sculpture figures with fiber to honor her life and community.

The Schweinfurth Art Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Cayuga Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A $15 joint pass is available for admission to both museums.

Media or press outlets looking to visit the Schweinfurth Art Center and Cayuga Museum, please contact Courtney Rae Kasper at courtney@auburndowntown.org or Lanaya Montague at lanaya@lalewpr.com.

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Equal Rights Heritage Center
The Equal Rights Heritage Center is the official welcome center and tourism hub for the City of Auburn, NY. It serves to shine a light on New York's equal rights heritage, as well as, the historical, cultural, and entertainment assets the City of Auburn has to offer in a welcoming and educational manner. Learn more: visitauburnny.com