



BAM 50 State Initiative Art Project—a partnership with For Freedoms—activates civic engagement through art work creation, Saturday, Oct 20

Free public event will be led by Brooklyn visual artist Katherine Toukhy

Oct 5, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) has partnered with For Freedoms in an afternoon of civic engagement on Saturday, Oct 20 from 1–3pm at the South Site Plaza (Lafayette Ave, corner of Flatbush Ave). Attendees will participate in an art-making project, led by Brooklyn visual artist Katherine Toukhy, to create and share social and political statements with the community. Images of finished artworks will be photographed and displayed on BAM’s outdoor digital signpost on the corner of Flatbush Ave and Lafayette Ave—running on a loop until the mid-term elections in November.

BAM’s VP of Education and Community Engagement Coco Killingsworth said, “We’re excited to join with For Freedoms and Katherine Toukhy in gathering community members for this creative civic activation. We hope this event inspires all of us to use our voices to engage in the democratic process.”

For Freedoms started in 2016 as a platform for civic engagement, discourse, and direct action for artists in the United States. Inspired by Norman Rockwell’s 1943 painting of the four universal freedoms articulated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1941—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear—For Freedoms seeks to use art to deepen public discussions of civic issues and core values, and to clarify that citizenship in American society is deepened by participation, not by ideology. For Freedoms is part of a rich history of artists employing means of mass communication to provoke political discourse. For Freedoms believes art, and artists, play an important role in galvanizing our society towards a more representative and transparent government. This year, For Freedoms launched its *50 State Initiative*, a new phase of programming to encourage broad participation and inspire conversation around November’s midterm elections.

Katherine Toukhy is a visual artist based in Brooklyn. She makes figurative cut-outs, installations, paintings, and social sculptures that are explorations of cyclical violence and transformation. Her position as a US-born Egyptian woman of the Coptic diaspora shapes the work she does. Select shows include: “Incision” at the Project for Empty Space, NJ (2018); “Truth” at BRIC, Brooklyn (2017); “Shehrezade’s Gift” at the Center for Book Arts, NY (2016); “Creative Dissent” at Alwan for the Arts, NY (2016); and “Artificial Romance,” a solo show at Five Myles Gallery, Brooklyn (2014). She has also presented her work at the Arab American National Museum and Charles Wright Museum of African American History in Michigan, among others.

In 2017–2018, Toukhy was an artist-in-residence at BRIC and The Project for Empty Space, and a Pollack-Krasner fellow at Vermont Studio Center. She was also accepted to the Bronx Museum AIM cohort. In 2017, Toukhy was invited by the Laundromat Project to co-present on the theme of “Sanctuary” at Lincoln Center’s Rubenstein Auditorium for her work on “The

Khayamiya Monument,” an alternate war monument of the herstories of African and Arab women im/migrants and female US veterans. In 2016, she was a fourth-time recipient of a Brooklyn Arts Council grant. Her work has been supported by the Rema Hort Mann Foundation ACE Grant and the Puffin Foundation. Toukhy’s works are included in private collections in Brooklyn, Cairo, and the Yuko Nii Permanent Collection of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Society.

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, opera, and film. Its mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Winter/Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world’s most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Rose Cinemas features new, independent film releases and BAMcinématek—a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added a third venue, the Richard B. Fisher Building, to its campus, providing an intimate and flexible 250-seat performance venue—the Fishman Space—as well as the Hillman Studio, a rehearsal and performance space.

BAM serves New York City’s diverse population through community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational and family programs. BAM, America’s oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 750,000 people each year. The institution is led by President Katy Clark and Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo. Visit BAM.org.

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