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CONTACT: Precious Blake: Arts Every Day

Phone: 410-685-1172

Email: precious@artseveryday.org

Website URL: www.artseveryday.org



**ARTS EVERY DAY HOSTS 10X10 PORTRAIT SHOW
Exhibition Reception on January 18, 2017**

January 5th, 2016 (Baltimore, MD) – As a part of a year-long series of events celebrating its tenth year anniversary, Arts Every Day will be hosting a 10x10 Portrait Show featuring over two hundred student and teacher artworks from fourteen Baltimore City Public Schools. The exhibition will be on view at the Motor House from January 6-31, 2017 with a reception on January 18, 2017.

Inspired by local artist Stephen Towns' portraits, students and teachers from Baltimore City Schools were invited to create 10x10 inch portraits from found objects and materials that celebrate themes of identity, family heritage and culture. Mr. Towns curated the resulting portraits exhibited in the show. After it's run at the Motor House, the exhibition will be displayed at Arts Every Day's tenth anniversary celebration at the Baltimore Design School on March 10-11, 2017.

Part of Arts Every Day's mission is to connect Baltimore's thriving art community to the creative youth in the city. When Arts Every Day approached Stephen about the project, he was ecstatic

about the opportunity to work with city students and teachers to elevate their art work. “Baltimore City is full of so many talented youth. It’s exciting to see what they are creating when given the opportunity to tell their stories. I’m happy that Arts Every day has provided a platform to highlight them.”

When teachers visited Stephen’s solo show ***Take Me Away to the Stars***, they were inspired by his use of illustrative multi-layered paintings and quilts to explore how violence against the black body is processed through escapism, religion and myth. One Arts Every Day teacher, Laura Lynn Emberson, used those concepts to guide classroom discussion and their artmaking. “The show prompted emotional responses from students because many of us have lost loved ones, and many of our family traditions are based on honoring those that have died. Students worked on making portraits after sharing their stories and we felt that the project brought us closer together because of the impact our stories had on one another.”

The exhibition reception will be on Wednesday, January 18th from 5-7 PM at the Motor House on 120 W. North Ave. The reception will feature performances by local spoken word artists from **Dewmore Baltimore** with remarks from Mr. Towns, participating teachers, and students. It is a free event and you can RSVP at 10x10portraitshow.eventbrite.com.

About Stephen Towns

Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Stephen Towns is a mixed-media artist and muralist currently based out of Baltimore, Maryland. Towns works primarily in oil and acrylic and draws much of his visual inspiration from Medieval altarpieces, impressionist paintings, and wax cloth prints. His new works, “Take Me Away to the Stars” is on view at Galerie Myrtis from November 5, 2016 – February 18, 2017. stephentowns.com

About Arts Every Day

Arts Every Day (AED) is proud to be a driving force in building and sustaining a Baltimore City that values public education through creativity, art, and culture. A 501(c) 3 founded in 2006 as one in only eight organizations originally funded by the Ford Foundation, AED works to ensure all Baltimore City Public Schools students have access to the arts every day through arts education, arts programming, and arts-integrated instruction. Arts Every Day works toward this goal through the forging of partnerships with schools and the arts and cultural community over the long-term to inspire lasting change.

2016 marks Arts Every Day’s 10th anniversary. After a yearlong series of events, AED will be celebrating its tenth anniversary in a culminating two-day event at the Baltimore Design School on March 10-11, 2017. The celebration kicks off with the Arts Every Day Awards Reception on

Friday, March 10th and with a day-long symposium on Saturday, March 11th, ***Envision. Create. Transform: Baltimore Youth Through the Arts.*** The celebration will convene a cross-section of teachers, administrators, artists, philanthropists, and civic leaders to recognize the progress of arts education in the city and how we can prepare for the next generation of creative thinkers in the city. For more information, go to www.artseveryday.com/anniversary.

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