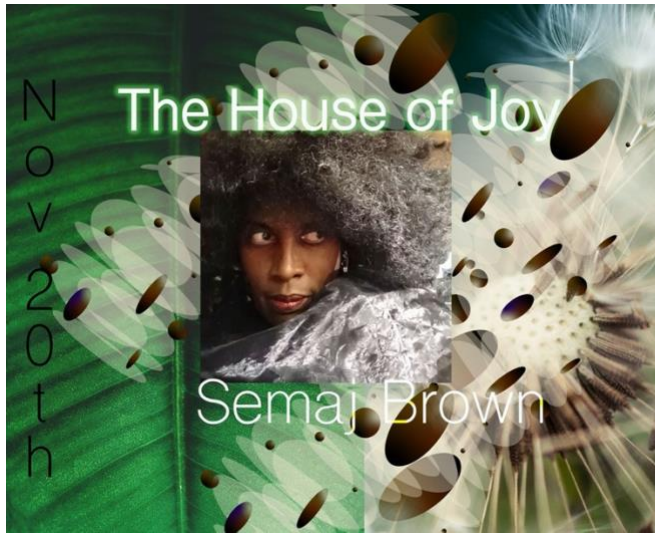


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*“Poetry advances the quality of life of citizenry when organized as a precious power tool...” -Semaj Brown*

Jasmine Murrell’s *The House of Joy* is very excited to invite Flint, Michigan Inaugural Poet Laureate and personal friend Semaj Brown to a nonlinear interview and performance surrounding their shared explorations of play, sisterhood, and joy; Brown will

examine “Bliss Beings and Dream” and other related concepts as they relate Murrell's current solo exhibition at The Ministry of Culture and Tourism. This event is free and open to the public.

\*Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nonlinear-interview-performance-semaj-brown-jasmine-murrell-tickets-463955883537>

For zoom link\*

Jasmine Murrell on Brown:

*“It gives me great honor and joy to present the magical, brilliant, imaginative, and powerful Semaj Brown. I have watched this Detroit Treasure transform her community through words. Water warrior and Flint, Michigan’s inaugural Poet Laureate, and the recipient of the prestigious Academy. of American Poets Poets Laureate Fellowship award, 2021. She will present some of her work and will join me in conversation after her performance.*

*This event is dedicated to all the people who worked most of their life in the pursuit of the American dream and died trying.*

*With each breath*

*you were loved”*

Semaj Brown is Flint, Michigan's inaugural Poet Laureate, and the recipient of the prestigious Academy of American Poets Poets Laureate Fellowship award, 2021. Ms. Brown is the author of the poetry/prose memoir, "Bleeding Fire! Tap the Eternal Spring of Regenerative Light," Broadside Lotus Press, 2019. Black Enterprise.com, in a recent article, noted the global recognition of the poet laureate's "Black Dandelion" poem via the Dear Poet Project, Academy of American Poets, <https://poets.org/dear-semaj-brown-2022>. Summer of 2022, AT&T, Dream in Black African American Futures Afro-futuristic platform licensed a powerful audio excerpt of "Black Dandelion" for a national television commercial in celebration of Black generational excellence. In addition to being a noted poet/educator, essayist, dramatist, and university lecturer, Ms. Brown is a thought leader, who deconstructs obsolete paradigms while synthesizing new philosophies, building educational installations in museums, Boys and Girls Clubs and more. Her civic initiative is the Poetry Pod Project (P3). P3 derives from her award-winning pedagogy, "Poetry as a Second Language (PSL): Passcode to Literacy through the Semajian Method" which is integrative, reflexive art/science programming that utilizes both left and right brain modalities. Semaj Brown is the creator of Black Dandelion: Convergent Voice, a multimedia youth platform launched at her Keynote lunch presentation for the Michigan Council of Teachers of English MCTE centennial conference to a standing ovation, October 2022. For additional information please visit website: <https://semajbrown.com>

Jasmine Murrell has exhibited nationally and internationally in venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Bronx Museum, the Museum Contemporary Art Chicago; the Whitney Museum, the African-American Museum of Art, the Wexner center for arts, the International Museum of Photography. Her work has been included in the book MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora, and The New York Times, Time Magazine, Hyperallergic, The Detroit Times and several other publications.