

MAG Contact: Rachael Brown, Director of Marketing and Engagement:
585.276-8937; rbrown@mag.rochester.edu



Frederick Douglass Bicentennial COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE



The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, St. John Fisher College and the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee Come Together to Honor Douglass

(February 20, 2019 – For Immediate Release – Rochester, NY—) The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester (MAG), the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, and St. John Fisher College announced today a joint partnership to help honor the life and legacy of the visionary African American Frederick Douglass, whose 25 years in Rochester resulted in some of the abolitionist and freed slave’s most important work.

In recognition of his accomplishments and ongoing inspiration, MAG will display a monument of Douglass as part of *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass*, a public art project, exhibition, and community-wide reflection commemorating the 200th anniversary of Douglass’ birth and his extraordinary work on behalf of human rights and social justice. To date, the project has installed 12 monuments at sites around Rochester with historical connections to Douglass. *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* is a collaboration between its lead partners, Rochester Community Media Center and Rochester Contemporary Art Center, and is realized in cooperation with the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, as well as with a wide range of other community members and organizations. *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* is organized under the auspices of the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee. This monument is sponsored by MAG and St. John Fisher College.

The Douglass monument, created by artist Olivia Kim, will be displayed at MAG simultaneously with the exhibition [*Lessons of the Hour—Frederick Douglass*](#), which features a 10-screen film installation by artist Isaac Julien inspired by episodes in the life of Douglass. Both the monument and the Isaac Julien exhibition will be on view at MAG from March 3–May 12, 2019.

“Frederick Douglass is a towering figure in our nation’s history and MAG is grateful to have the opportunity to help steward his legacy,” said MAG Mary W. and Donald R. Clark Director Jonathan P. Binstock. “For the last 2-1/2 years MAG has been working with artist Isaac Julien on a major media-art commission, a meditation on the life, words, and actions of Douglass. We are proud to partner with St. John Fisher College and the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee to showcase a monument from the *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* public art project.”

“Frederick Douglass is one of the great civic leaders in Rochester history and his impact continues to this day. I applaud the ongoing work of the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, and its efforts to keep Douglass at

NEWS

500 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14607-1484
585.276.8900 · mag.rochester.edu



the forefront of Rochester’s story. We are honored to partner with the Committee and MAG in celebration of this distinguished Rochesterian as we work together to move forward in this community conversation about race, equity, and inclusion,” said Fisher President Gerard J. Rooney, Ph.D.

A companion website for *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* may be found at DouglassTour.com. The website offers interpretive information, including a self-guided walking/driving tour map, biographical information, and other resources. The monuments that comprise this project, inspired by the Stanley W. Edwards statue of Frederick Douglass in Highland Park, incorporate a casting of the hands of Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., the great-great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass—an effort to help connect the past with the present, and to point the way to the future.

“Important issues raised by Frederick Douglass still resonate two hundred years since his birth; and perhaps discovering more about Douglass will help us discover more about, think more about, and do more about the things we still struggle with today,” said Carvin Eison, director of the *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* project. Eison, who is general manager of RCTV Community Media Center, and Associate Professor of Journalism, Broadcasting and Public Relations at The College at Brockport, is also a member of the board of directors of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives.

“This project reminds all of us that we continue to be inspired by Douglass—inspired by his legacy—and urges us to take a critical look at how we as a city, and perhaps more broadly as a nation, remember this remarkable man and his influence,” said *Re-Energizing the Legacy of Frederick Douglass* project co-director Bleu Cease. Cease is the Executive Director of Rochester Contemporary Art Center.

“We want to thank MAG and St. John Fisher College for their support, and for their recognition that this project has been widely embraced by our community, and has come to mean a great deal to a great many,” finished Eison.

Save the Date -- Public Discussion

The Memorial Art Gallery, St. John Fisher College, and the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration Committee will host a community conversation regarding Frederick Douglass and his legacy, public art, and how the ideas Douglass expressed in his life’s work resonate in today’s world. The public conversation will take place at MAG on Wednesday April 17 at 7:00 pm.

About The Memorial Art Gallery

The Memorial Art Gallery showcases visual art from antiquity to the present day, including an outdoor public Centennial Sculpture Park. In addition to its permanent collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of special exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, after-hours social events, and family activities.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, and until 9 pm on Thursdays and select Fridays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: \$15; senior citizens, \$12; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$6. Always free to members, University of Rochester faculty/staff and students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible in part by Monroe County. For more information, call 585.276.8900 or visit mag.rochester.edu.

###

Press contact: Meg Colombo 585.276.8934 | mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu



MAGRochester



MAGRochester



MAG_Binstock



magur



MAGRochester