

## **PRESS INQUIRIES**

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## **Art Center Sarasota's New Exhibitions: March 14-April 20**

### **Natasha Dikareva: "Through Sorrow into Light"**

**Artist Talk on Thursday, March 28, 5:30-7 p.m.**

*A new body of freestanding and wall-hanging ceramic sculptures that expresses the Ukrainian-born artist's perspective on the current sociopolitical climate.*

### **Angela Pilgrim: "Rooted in Spirit"**

**Artist Talk on Saturday, March 16, 5:30-7 p.m.**

*Celebrating the complex inner worlds of Black women through printmaking, painting and mixed media.*

### **"Michael Kinsey: Views from the New Horizon"**

**Portraits from Sarasota Magazine's "Listening to Black Voices" Series**

**Panel discussions with leaders in the Black community:**

**Wednesday, March 20, 5-7 p.m.**

**Thursday, March 21, 11 a.m-1 p.m.**

**Artist Talk on Thursday, April 4, 5:30-7pm**

*Featuring ethereal black and white photographic portraits of leaders in the local Black community.*

### **Juried Show: "Great Artists Steal"**

**Juror Critique with Alecia Harper: Friday, March 22, Time TBD**

*An open, juried exhibit that encourages artists to create works inspired by their favorite artists and artworks.*

**The opening reception for all exhibits is Thursday, March 14, 6-8 p.m.**

(February 15, 2024) Art Center Sarasota's 2023-2024 exhibition season continues with four exhibits, March 14-April 20. Natasha Dikareva's **"Through Sorrow into Light"** features a new body of freestanding and wall-hanging ceramic sculptures, expressing the Ukrainian-born artist's perspective on the current sociopolitical climate. (*Artist Talk on Thursday, March 28, 5:30-7 p.m.*) In **"Rooted in Spirit,"** Angela Pilgrim celebrates the complex inner worlds of Black women through printmaking, painting and mixed media. (*Artist Talk is Saturday, March 16, 5:30-7 p.m.*) Michael Kinsey's **"Views from the New Horizon"** features ethereal black and white photographic portraits of leaders in the local Black community taken for Sarasota Magazine's "Listening to Black Voices" series. (*Panel discussions with leaders in the black community: Wednesday, March 20, 5-7 p.m.; Thursday, March 21, 11 a.m-1 p.m. Artist Talk is Thursday, April 4, 5:30-7p.m.*) "Great Artists Steal" is an open, juried exhibit that encourages artists to create works inspired by their favorite artists and artworks. (*Juror Critique with Alecia Harper: Friday, March 22, time TBD.*) **The opening reception for all four exhibits is Thursday, March 14, 6-8 p.m.** All works on display are available for purchase. *Art Center Sarasota, 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. For information, visit [www.artsarasota.org](http://www.artsarasota.org) or call 941-365-2032.*

In **"Through Sorrow into Light,"** **Natasha Dikareva** showcases a new body of freestanding and wall-hanging ceramic sculptures that expresses her perspective on the current sociopolitical climate. Born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine, Dikareva feels

deeply affected by the ongoing war there. “This exhibit delves into the depths of our shared human struggle,” says Dikareva. “Within the somber hues of blue, my sculptures stand as silent witnesses to our world's discord and destruction. Like guardians of a shattered realm, they remain standing among the wreckage, punctured with holes that speak of both vulnerability and resilience. Amidst their melancholy, there is a quiet whisper of hope—a call to embrace empathy, love, and light. These sculptures reflect our endurance in the face of adversity. They remind us that even in our darkest hours, there exists a path toward enlightenment.” The artist adds: “These sculptures are not just artifacts of war; they are beacons of transformation, inviting us to confront the darkness within and emerge into the light of healing and renewal.”

Dikareva started creating at a young age and her passion for the visual arts led to pursuing a BFA in graphics at the Kiev State Academy of Art and Design. The narrow standard of approved art of Soviet realism inadvertently pushed Dikareva to develop her own symbolic language. Dikareva immigrated to Minneapolis and received her MFA from the University of Minnesota in 2004. After graduating, she moved to San Francisco where she lived and worked for 15 years. In 2020, she relocated to the East Coast. She now splits her time between Newmarket, NH, and Sarasota. Dikareva's work has been featured in various publications, including *500 Prints on Clay* and *New Ceramics European* magazine, and garnered several prizes, such as the Grand Prize at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in 2012. She exhibits locally and internationally, and her work is held in public and private collections. Recently, she has been featured on public radio and television, where she has spoken about her artistic process and her reflections on the latest events in Ukraine.

Drawing on a skillful fusion of printmaking, painting, and mixed media, **Angela Pilgrim** imbues each work in “**Rooted in Spirit**” with a sense of depth and dimensionality, presenting each subject as an essential living, breathing entity. The collection centers on depictions of friends and family, immortalizing their essence and lives like memories marked onto paper. The spirits of these subjects run deep - carrying importance essential to document further visualizing stories around identity, faith, and resilience. Multilayered prints reflect complex dimensions of existence – how we love ourselves, find spirituality, and carve spaces of rest. “My work explores the Black female gaze through figurative imagery of the body,” states Pilgrim. “I investigate themes of beauty, spirituality and reflection. By creating visual stories that invoke critical thinking processes regarding interiority, my work aims to reverse and rebuild how Black women see themselves, both within their communities and expanded to a much larger world-view.” Pilgrim's art has been featured in several prestigious publications, including The Creative Independent and The Getty Archives. She is actively engaged in guest residencies and lectures across the nation, and her work is held internationally in both public and private collections, including the Newark Public Library, Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Pilgrim serves as a board member of Frontline Arts in Branchburg, NJ. Her contributions to the artistic community have been recognized through numerous grants and awards, including the Newark Artist Accelerator Grant in 2020 and the 2023 Creative Catalyst Grant from Newark Arts. Pilgrim currently resides and works in New Jersey.

**Michael Kinsey’s “Views from the New Horizon: Portraits from Sarasota**

**Magazine's "Listening to Black Voices" series** features an intimate selection of ethereal black and white portraits. These portraits capture leaders in the Black community, brought to life under Kinsey's unique lens. Kinsey is a portrait photographer, filmmaker and content creator based in Sarasota. Kinsey highlights the journey of these individuals, who faced adversity due to their skin color but have emerged with transformed perspectives. He aims to amplify the message of Black voices, asserting their presence and identity, stating: "My work on 'Listening to Black Voices' has simply tried to echo the message of Black people since the Civil Rights movement. I've tried to say with every photo, 'We are here. See us for who we are.'"

Kinsey has a diverse artistic background spanning nearly four decades. Initially recognized for his paintings, Kinsey transitioned to photography due to his involvement in the music industry. Embracing digital technology, he ventured into filmmaking with his first work "Killer Date Night" in 2019, which garnered attention in film festivals, including the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles. Kinsey established his photography studio in 2020, and his photography has received national recognition and prestigious awards. Kinsey received a national scholarship to Ringling College of Art and Design in 1985 and is a founding member of Westcoast Black Theater Troupe, working there as a premier actor and performer since 1994. He's shot for *Rolling Stone* and his work has been featured in *Inc. Magazine* and *The Washington Post*. In 2020, Kinsey began working on Sarasota Magazine's "Listening to Black Voices" series for which he has photographed over 50 individuals. The American Society of Magazine Editors recognized Michael's portrait work in the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine as the Cover of the Year in 2022. "Views from the New Horizon" is sponsored by the Frank

and Elsie Bushroe Charitable Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

The open, juried exhibit, “**Great Artists Steal**” encourages artists to create works inspired by their favorite artists and artworks from contemporary art and art history. The juror is Alecia Harper, who teaches art history at State College of Florida. She has written about art for many publications and has served on the board of local community radio station WSLR and is a Wednesday morning deejay at the station. Harper received her BA from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her MA in Applied Art History and certification in Museum Management from the University of South Carolina at Columbia. She worked for the Center for the Study of the American South and Duke University Press as the Managing Editor of *Southern Cultures*; at Harpeth Gallery of Nashville; and for Vanderbilt University Creative Services. Harper is docent emerita for Sarasota’s Ringling Museum of Art, and has worked with the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art, the Art and Culture Museum of Hollywood, and the Old Davie School Historical Museum.

*Art Center Sarasota’s exhibitions are paid for, in part, by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues and the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.*

## **Photo captions**

### **Natasha Dikareva**

- “You Are in My Heart” (2024; stoneware, stains, glazes and glass)
- “Right Hand” (2022; stoneware, stains and glazes)
- “Quest for Balance” (detail) (2024; stoneware, stains and glazes)

### **Angela Pilgrim**

- “Dreaming in the color between the budded path and my verdant yearning” (2024; transfer print, silk aquatint, decorative paper collage, colored pencil and screen-print)
- “Aunt Eva in Her Reflection Room” (2024; transfer print, decorative paper collage, paint, colored pencil)

### **Michael Kinsey**

- “Henry Hunter” (Digital photography)
- “Gale Fulton Ross” (Digital photography)
- “Barbara Langston” (Digital photography)

### **About Art Center Sarasota**

Founded in 1926, Art Center Sarasota serves as the first and oldest visual arts organization in Sarasota. Art Center Sarasota is admission-free and open to the public; our mission is to bring together creatives and the broader public to increase understanding of our human condition, support wellbeing, and build community connection through the universal language of art.

### **Art Center Sarasota**

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[www.artsarasota.org](http://www.artsarasota.org)

### **Gallery Hours**

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: Noon-5 p.m.