



**CONTACT: Chene Koppitz, Communications Coordinator**  
Flint Institute of Arts  
P: 810.237.7387  
E: [ckoppitz@flintarts.org](mailto:ckoppitz@flintarts.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Women of a New Tribe* Exhibition Celebrates the Women of  
Flint's African American Community**

Flint, MI – Opening on Sunday, January 22, *Women of a New Tribe*, a photographic study by artist Jerry Taliaferro, celebrates the spiritual and physical beauty of women in Flint's African American community. What began as a single portrait for his own portfolio has evolved into a multi-decade, nationwide project, revealing what Taliaferro calls "the beauty and souls of black women." First exhibited at the Afro-American Cultural Center in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2002, the project has traveled across the United States and been presented in a variety of public spaces, including the Miami International Airport and Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus. For this iteration of the exhibition, the Flint Institute of Arts asked the community for nominations in January 2016 during its annual Community Gala. One hundred ten women were nominated and 50 participants were drawn from that pool at the 2016 Community Dialogue event. In the summer of 2016, Taliaferro traveled to Flint to photograph each woman and learn her story. The 49 portraits that appear in the exhibition reflect women from all stages and walks of life: mothers, daughters, artists, professionals, and community activists. Taliaferro believes that the heart is as essential as the eye for seeing true beauty, noting, "It is with our hearts that we see courage, compassion, love, and sacrifice."

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and the Flint Institute celebrate the opening of *Women of a New Tribe* with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Gala on Saturday, January 21, starting at 6 p.m. A fundraiser in service to FIA programming and exhibitions, the gala features a conversation with artist Jerry Taliaferro, during which he will discuss the origins of the project and his experience photographing the women of Flint. Following his talk, attendees may view the exhibition and enjoy a reception with live music, a strolling supper, and a cash bar. Pre-event tickets are \$40 per person for FIA Members and \$60 per person for Non-Members. Tickets will be available at the door the night of event as well, with tickets priced at \$55 per person for FIA Members and \$75 per person for Non-Members.

*Women of a New Tribe* opens to the public on Sunday, January 22 at the Flint Institute of Arts at 1 p.m. A fully illustrated catalogue featuring images from the exhibit will be available for purchase throughout the exhibition. *Women of a New Tribe* runs through Friday, April 15, 2017. To interview *Women of a New Tribe* creator Jerry Taliaferro or any of the women featured in the FIA exhibition, please contact Chene Koppitz at 810.237.7387.

**ABOUT JERRY TALIAFERRO**

Jerry Taliaferro was born in Brownsville, Tennessee. After graduating high school in May 1972,

he joined the Army. His real interest in photography began in 1981 when he was posted to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for Special Forces training. While serving in Germany, his fascination with photography continued to grow and, in 1985, he was published for the first time when a Munich magazine purchased the rights to one of his images

#### **ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Fri 12-5 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun 1-5 p.m. Admission to the FIA is free to members and children under 12; Adults are \$7; Senior Citizens and Students with ID are \$5. Saturdays are free thanks to Huntington Bank.

For more information, please visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org).

###