



ALMA | LEWIS

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## **ALMA | LEWIS and The Frick Pittsburgh Announce Open House and Artist Talk with Joint Artist in Residence Addoley Dzegede**

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 20, 2023 – On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., ALMA | LEWIS and The Frick Pittsburgh will welcome the public to meet Addoley Dzegede, the organizations' inaugural joint artist in residence. The open house will take place in Ms. Dzegede's studio, located in the historic playhouse on the Frick's campus. The talk will take place immediately afterwards in the museum's Grable Visitor Center.

Ms. Dzegede is a Ghanaian-American interdisciplinary artist whose work explores themes of identity and authenticity. The recipient of a 2022-2023 Fulbright award in Craft to the Netherlands, her numerous other grants and awards include a 2018 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grants; a 2018 Great Rivers Biennial award from the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis; a MICA alumni award; a St. Louis Regional Arts Commission Artist Support Grant; and a Creative Stimulus Award from Critical Mass for the Visual Arts.

Ms. Dzegede's work has been exhibited throughout the US, Europe, and Africa. Her previous artist residencies include AiR Green in Noresund, Norway; Loghaven in Knoxville, Tennessee; the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, Florida; Osei Duro in Accra, Ghana; Thread: a project of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Senegal; Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris; and The University of Kansas. She received a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, and a MFA degree in Visual Art from Washington University in St Louis.

In Pittsburgh, Ms. Dzegede's residency marks a deepening of the collaboration between the two East End cultural organizations that are jointly hosting the artist. ALMA | LEWIS – incorporated in 2017 and opened in 2021 in its current location, in the X-Factory on Lynn Way in North Point Breeze – offers, as one of its signature programs, three-month residencies for Black visual artists that include studio space, living space, an honorarium, access to classes and specialized artmaking facilities, and a stipend for food, transportation, and supplies. In addition to hosting open houses at the beginning and end of each residency, visiting artists participate in a select number of public programs.

"I love museums and stories, and The Frick Pittsburgh is filled with stories: about objects, history, people, Pittsburgh, the Gilded Age, and the Frick family. ALMA | LEWIS is dedicated to the stories and voices—both old, through the Black Archive, and new, through exhibitions and residencies—of Black artists," remarked Addoley Dzegede. "It means so much to me that Pittsburgh has such a welcoming and supportive arts community. It's not something I expected moving here. Given this time and space, I'm excited to see which direction my work takes, and I feel this experience will be great for building community, learning more about my city, and continuing my career as an artist."

"My and the Board of Directors' vision for ALMA | LEWIS' collaboration with The Frick Pittsburgh is to be experimental, forward-thinking, and rigorous with care," said A | L founding executive director and chief curator Kilolo Lockett. "We want to explore meaningful ways to truly learn from one another through shared programming and resources, and provide greater exposure and understanding to a wider audience about the history and expansiveness of Black arts and culture. This unprecedented and exciting collaboration will demonstrate to the philanthropic, corporate, and non-profit entities in the Pittsburgh region that disparate cultural institutions like ours can join forces to make genuinely equitable and impactful changes that are seriously needed right now," said Ms. Lockett.

The Frick has periodically hosted resident artists, including Vanessa German (2020-2025), Elise Adibi (2017), and Vik Muniz (1999). "By joining forces with ALMA | LEWIS," observed Frick executive director Elizabeth Barker, "the Frick can benefit from the discerning eye and unrivaled network of [ALMA | LEWIS Founding Executive Director and Chief Curator] Kilolo Lockett, activate a formerly little-used space on our campus, and share opportunities for our visitors to engage with leading contemporary visual artists. We couldn't be more excited about the transformational opportunities this collaboration will make possible."

In addition to the joint artist residency, ALMA | LEWIS and the Frick will collaborate on co-presenting the lecture series **By Any Means**, launched by Ms. Lockett in 2016. Featured speakers for 2023-2024 will include, Art critic and writer Jessica Lynne (Saturday November 11, 2023), gallerist and bestselling author Michael Findley (Saturday, January 20, 2024), Curator, educator, and social justice activist Dr. Kelli Morgan (Saturday, March 23, 2024), and sculptor and mixed-media artist Martha Jackson Jarvis, sculptor and mixed-media artist (Saturday, May 11, 2024). Lectures will take place in The Frick Art Museum auditorium from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. followed by a brief reception. Tickets will be available beginning later this fall via the Frick website.

## ABOUT ALMA | LEWIS

ALMA | LEWIS (A | L) is an experimental, contemporary art platform for critical thinking, constructive dialogue, and creative expression dedicated to Black culture. Formerly incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 2017, A | L established a physical space in the fall of 2021 in the East End of Pittsburgh. A | L creates supportive artist residencies that encourages the rigorous artistic practice of visual artists; curates world-class exhibitions to present exciting, provocative work from emerging and mid-career artists; provides access to the Black Archive — a non-circulating collection of unique books, exhibition publications, ephemera, and artwork connected to and about Black arts and culture; and presents **By Any Means**, a contemporary art series that examines the significant influence of Black culture and art in society and aims to create a forum where artists, cultural workers, and writers share knowledge and

resources, connect with the larger community of the art world, and ensure that Pittsburgh's cultural institutions truly reflect the diversity of our city in their assets, stakeholders, and decision makers.

Learn more about the work of ALMA | LEWIS at [www.almalewis.org](http://www.almalewis.org).

## **ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH**

The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore collections of fine and decorative arts, vehicles, historic objects, and buildings – including Clayton, the Frick family home and only intact Gilded Age mansion remaining from Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row – left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Helen Clay Frick, daughter of noted industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Alongside these treasures, the Frick offers an active schedule of temporary exhibitions and programs on our 10-acre garden campus in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Manager, at [KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org) or 412-342-4025, and [hello@almalewis.org](mailto:hello@almalewis.org).

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