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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### In-Person Press Preview and Virtual Panel Discussion for Portrait Collection by Formerly-Incarcerated Artist *Artist Residency in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Culminates*

#### September 30, 2020: In-Person Press Preview

**WHAT:** **In-Person Press Preview of *Points of Connection* Collection**  
Mural Arts Philadelphia and Fair and Just Prosecution invite media to preview an installation of all of the portraits created during a first of its kind artist-in-residence program at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. The 10-month residency by formerly-incarcerated artist James "Yaya" Hough culminates with works of art that explore the human toll of incarceration and highlight the importance of creating alternatives to a punitive and incarceration-driven justice system. Hough will discuss the meaning of his collection alongside program partners, while viewing the installation on the windows facing City Hall.

**WHO:** **James "Yaya" Hough**, Lead Artist, Mural Arts Philadelphia  
**Larry Krasner**, Philadelphia District Attorney  
**Jane Golden**, Executive Director, Mural Arts Philadelphia

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 10:30 am ET

**WHERE:** Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, 3 South Penn Square (Across from City Hall)

#### October 2, 2020: Virtual Panel

**WHAT:** Media are also invited to attend the ***Points of Connection* Virtual Panel Discussion** via Zoom. Moderated by Mural Arts Philadelphia Executive Director Jane Golden, this conversation, featuring the artist, James "Yaya" Hough, District Attorney Larry Krasner, Fair and Just Prosecution Executive Director Miriam Krinsky, and Art for Justice Fund Project Director Helena Huang, will explore Hough's artistic process throughout the project, which raises the question: "What does justice look like?" To register, email Victoria Boyer at [victoria.boyer@muralarts.org](mailto:victoria.boyer@muralarts.org). The public is also invited to this virtual event.

**WHEN:** Friday, October 2, 2020, 5 – 6 pm ET

**WHERE:** Via Zoom

**DETAILS:** Artist James “Yaya” Hough was the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office (DAO), working to humanize the people who populate the criminal legal system by cultivating relationships and connections through his artmaking. To commemorate the residency, Hough’s portraits will be displayed in several contexts that underscore the theme of reimagining justice and the accessibility of the arts.

- All of the portraits are incorporated into a single large-scale vinyl print installed on the windows of the DAO.
- Smaller printed keepsake versions of the portraits will be packaged as a portable exhibition, available for free at special events and by postal mail, and delivered to municipal offices, criminal justice sites, and selected schools throughout Philadelphia.
- Additionally, several of the physical painted portraits will be installed at sites of art and justice throughout Philadelphia as a gesture to remind viewers of the power of storytelling and coalitions to change the way justice and art connect. For more information on locations and access, visit [muralarts.org/artworks/Points-of-Connection](https://muralarts.org/artworks/Points-of-Connection).

#### About the Artist

**James “Yaya” Hough**, a renowned painter, developed and augmented his artistic talents while serving a once-life sentence at Pennsylvania’s Graterford State Correctional Institution. While incarcerated, from the age of 17 in 1992, he took art classes and contributed to over 50 murals outside of the walls of the prison through Mural Arts’ Restorative Justice program. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that life sentences for juvenile offenders were unconstitutional in 2012, Hough was resentenced and released in 2019. Since his release and coming home to his native Pittsburgh, Hough’s work has been featured in museum exhibitions at MoMA PS1 and the African American Museum in Philadelphia. He also is committed to being a part of changing the prison system in Pennsylvania and abolishing life without parole through organizations Decarcerate PA! and Project LifeLines.

#### About the Partners and Funder

**Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP)** is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit the [website](https://www.fairandjustprosecution.org/) or follow on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](https://www.facebook.com/FairAndJustProsecution) and Twitter [@fjp\\_org](https://twitter.com/fjp_org).

**Larry Krasner and the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office** – As Philadelphia’s 26th District Attorney, Larry Krasner has garnered national acclaim for his ambitious and progressive efforts to reform Philadelphia’s criminal justice system, working fearlessly to shift the goals and dialogue around criminal justice towards a system that seeks to do justice, enhance accountability, and promote alternatives to incarceration and punitive responses.

*Points of Connection* is funded by the [Art for Justice Fund](https://www.artforjusticefund.org/), which is disrupting mass incarceration by funding artists and advocates working together to reform our criminal justice system. It makes direct grants to artists and advocates focused on safely reducing the prison population, promoting justice reinvestment and creating art that changes the narrative around mass incarceration. This groundbreaking project will be one of the Activating Art and Advocacy projects funded by Art for Justice.

**Mural Arts Philadelphia** is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For over 30 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating nearly 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." Follow along on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), phillymuralarts on [YouTube](#), and MuralArtsPhiladelphia on [Facebook](#). To stay up on the latest news on Mural Arts, please visit [www.muralarts.org](http://www.muralarts.org).

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: high-resolution images of the artist's work are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.**