**PARRISH ART MUSEUM**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“4 LITTLE GIRLS” FILM ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND LIVE AFRICAN DANCE/DRUMMING AT THE PARRISH ART MUSEUM**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2PM FREE FOR CHILDREN**

***As the film tells the tragic story of the 1963 Atlanta church bombing, 36 dancers and drummers perform to 1960’s protest songs and spoken word***



  Film still from *4 Little Girls: Moving Portraits of the American Civil Rights Movement*. Courtesy of the artist.

**WATER MILL, NY 2/7/2019**—The Parrish Art Museum presents a special Saturday Family program featuring a screening of *4 Little Girls: Moving Portraits of the American Civil Rights Movement*, accompanied by an interpretive performance of African dance and drumming. The immersive program, on Saturday, February 23 at 2pm, is presented in collaboration with the Edge School of the Arts and co-presented with the Hampton United Methodist Church (UMC), to recognize Black History month and Family Month at the Museum. The performance is free for Parrish Members, children, students, and Hampton UMC Members; and for adults with Museum admission. Reservations are recommended.

“I am delighted to partner with Hampton UMC and Kerri Edge to present this incredibly moving and cathartic performance, which is an artistic act of resistance in the face of horrific acts of hatred and racism then and now,” said Corinne Erni, Senior Curator of ArtsReach and Special Projects.

*4 Little Girls: Moving Portraits of the American Civil Rights Movement* is an experimental narrative film that infuses historical authenticity and contemporary dance movements (tap, modern dance, hip hop, ballet, and African), to recant the horrific story of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley—the young black girls who were violently murdered by the Ku Klux Klan when a bomb exploded in the basement of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 15, 1963. During the 45-minute performance, the story unfolds on screen and on stage through imaginative interpretations inspired by 1960s protest songs and spoken word. Thirty-six young performing arts students from the Edge School of the Arts (ESOTA) in Queens, NY, will move throughout the Museum’s Lichtenstein Theater—through the aisles and in front of the screen—creating a full, rich experience for the audience. Following the performance, ESOTA Artistic Director Kerri Edge and several performers will participate in a conversation with the audience.

The program was conceived by Edge, who challenged her students to revisit history and recreate the moments leading up to what Martin Luther King Jr. described as, “one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity.” An artivist who uses dance and film as vehicles to shed light on issues of social injustice and commemorate the achievements of African Americans, Edge’s mission at ESOTA is to bring the art and discipline of African American dance to young aspiring artists, the community, and international audiences.

*4 Little Girls: Moving Portraits of the American Civil Rights Movement* is supported by Queens Council on the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs through awards made by Council Members Adrienne Adams (28th District), I. Daneek Miller (27th District), and Donovan Richards (31st District)

**FAMILY MONTH PROGRAMS**

Friday, February 15, 6 pm

**Circus Performance with the National Circus Project**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2 PM

**FILM & LIVE PERFORMANCE:**

**4 LITTLE GIRLS: MOVING PORTRAITS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**WORKSHOPS/COMMUNITY DAY**

Saturdays, February 9, 16 and 23; March 9, 11 am–12:30 pm

**Open Studio for Families**

February 18-22

**Winter Vacation Art Workshops**

($40 | $30 for Members per session. *Advance registration and payment required)*

Friday, March 1, 6pm

**LEGO Night:** 6–7pm **Robotic Bee** (For Children 5-7)

7:15–8:15pm **Grumpy Bird Launcher** (For 8 and older)

Sunday March 3, 2 pm

**Bilingual Family Gallery Talk and Art Workshop**

Sunday, March 10, 10 am–5 pm

**COMMUNITY DAY:** Ongoing activities 12-3pm

**About the Parrish Art Museum**

Inspired by the natural setting and artistic life of Long Island’s East End, the Parrish Art Museum illuminates the creative process and how art and artists transform our experiences and understanding of the world and how we live in it. The Museum fosters connections among individuals, art, and artists through care and interpretation of the collection, presentation of exhibitions, publications, educational initiatives, programs, and artists-in-residence. The Parrish is a center for cultural engagement, an inspiration and destination for the region, the nation, and the world.