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**15TH ANNUAL WATER VALLEY ART CRAWL SET FOR OCTOBER 14, 2023**

***A NIGHT OF ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES & WATER VALLEY HOSPITALITY  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WATER VALLEY MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION***

**Water Valley, MS** – The Water Valley Main Street Association proudly announces the fifteenth annual **Water Valley Art Crawl** on October 14th, 2023 in Water Valley, MS. The immersive event is a culmination and celebration of all things art; featuring poetry readings, artist discussions, exhibition viewings, musical experiences, mural & installation stops, and featured speakers with host locations at historical Water Valley homes and businesses near and on the Historic Downtown Main Street District. Many businesses and restaurants will be open for perusing. The night will feature a kick-off event at Dancing Bear Sanctuary, a Silent Auction of one-of-a-kind work from featured artists, and a post-host celebration at Magnolia Coffee Co. Any proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit The Water Valley Main Street Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for our residents and creating an inviting space for tourists.

Hosted by Water Valley Main Street Association in collaboration with local homeowners and businesses, the Art Crawl kicks off with a tour of the Dancing Bear Sanctuary, Cosmic Space Walk, and Rocket Mural. Situated at the beginning of the Main Street locations, attendees can view over twelve art installations, learn about and interact with the Cosmic Space Walk, and listen to a poetry reading by a University of Mississippi MFA student. The festivities continue through the evening along and near Historic Main Street for the official Art Crawl that includes

a Silent Auction, located at the Salt N Light Building (610 N Main Street), where attendees will have the opportunity to bid on donated art pieces from some of the local artists and an inaugural commissioned & signed rendition of the Art Crawl map. The Art Crawl also features a discussion, brought to you by The Mississippi Humanities Council, showcasing Quaye Dottie Chapman Reed, author of Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County, and moderated by Alysia Steele, Journalism & New Media Associate Professor at The University of Mississippi. Quaye and Alysia will be joined by a panel of women featured in Outstanding Black Women of Yalobusha County and the conversation will be paired with a documentary trailer filmed and produced by The Valley Imagery & Productions. With this presentation, we want to broaden participation at the Art Crawl. This exemplary public humanities project places Black Water Vallians at the center of the humanities experience, something long overdue for the Art Crawl. The evening ends with our Post-Host Party at Magnolia Coffee Co featuring small bites, wine, and the musical stylings of Andrea Staten, local Blues musician.

This is a free public event made possible by Water Valley Main Street Association, Mississippi Humanities Council, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, Violet Valley Bookstore, The Simmons House, and The Valley Imagery & Productions. Additional information can be found at **[mainstreetwatervalley.org](http://mainstreetwatervalley.org)**.