



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE

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SPOTLIGHT AWARD RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION

The Santa Cruz County Parks Department is pleased to announce the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission's 2024 Spotlight Award recipients: Angelica Glass (photography), Brenda Leach (bodypaint), and Vivien Bassouamina (dance/choreography). A First Friday opening reception will take place August 2 from 5-7 p.m. at the County Governmental Center, 701 Ocean St., 5th floor.

Angelica Glass is a photographer, social worker, and longtime Santa Cruz resident. Her photography focuses on the things she experiences during her long, meandering walks. The exhibition of her work at the Government Center will include a set of photos titled "Ice Pics" and a set of photos taken at the worksites of her son, Kita Glass, who is a local building contractor specializing in natural building processes.

Brenda Leach has been working on a series of body paintings informed by the people they are painted on. Photos of the painted people are then printed on canvas for display. Small blurbs about the meaning of each piece provide insight into someone else's world. Many of these pieces are in the theme of body acceptance in the face of physical challenge and offer a chance to reexamine cultural standards of beauty.

Vivien Bassouamina is a Congolese Traditional and modern Master Dancer. He has lived in Santa Cruz for over 15 years, here in the diaspora to share his culture. He teaches at the Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center and hosts an annual dance conference. He is currently working on a performance called *Reborn*. Vivien believes that life, no matter how hard and difficult, gives one the opportunity to be reborn. He wishes to share his traditions, skill, and art for others to thrive and be their best artist self.

The Spotlight Award recognizes individuals who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their work, but who have not received widespread acknowledgment of their talent. For more information, please visit <https://scparks.com>.