



KEARNY STREET WORKSHOP

The Bay Area's hub for Asian Pacific American arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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** PRESS RELEASE **

KEARNY STREET WORKSHOP'S 'CELEBRATE YOUR BODY' FASHION. FUN. EMPOWERMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 17th, 2017

A Body-Positive Fashion Show & Expo Featuring Designers and Stylists of Color

****High resolution images of Celebrate Your Body 2016 available at**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kearnystreet/albums/72157683325626296>

For one night only, Kearny Street Workshop will transform [SOMArts Cultural Center](#) into an enduring celebration of our bodies and ourselves. Hosted by **Janae Johnson** (2015 National Poetry Slam Champion), Celebrate Your Body's body positive, gender inclusive runway will entertain and inspire featuring a lineup of fierce models showing off a dazzling array of looks provided by this year's roster of fashion forward designers and stylists who are set out to prove all bodies are worthy of celebration. Attendees will also be treated to a small local vendor and artisan expo, along with a performance by desi pop/electronic artist, **Kohinoorgasm**.

"Kearny Street Workshop has been putting on Celebrate Your Body since 2013 because we wanted to join in on the call for radical self-love," said Jason Bayani, KSW Artistic Director, "As an Asian Pacific American arts organization we understand what is to be subject to what my good friend Sonya Renee of The Body is Not an Apology calls the "hierarchy of bodies", how we view which bodies are deserving of value and how this systemic belief harms all of us. This year we're embracing the idea of self-love as a form of resistance to actively reject any notion that some bodies should be celebrated more than others."

Here are the seven designers whose work will be featured at Celebrate Your Body:

[LivExquisite](#)'s hand made jewelry designs uses crystal and mineral rocks to honor ancestral lineage.

[Rocket Ready Designs](#) draws inspiration from retro-futurism and creates designs that ship you away from the mundane present, and beam you down to the supernatural future.

Sugardope's designs pays homage to Filipino, hip-hop, and Bay Area culture.

[HiM](#) features real streetwear that is simply unapologetic by combining edgy and rugged qualities with clean looks.

[Proud Mary Fashion](#) is a small indie boutique that offers plus size vintage and custom wear

[Ricees Pieces](#) Designs aims to use fashion as empowerment and expression, allowing each diva to embrace their true selves

[Kwill Design](#) focuses on accentuating what their clients love about their bodies and builds a style that truly compliments them

For several years now KSW has invited local designers and stylists to showcase their innovative looks on a unique runway that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and how good we can look in any body. In 2015, [Project Runway All Star Kini Zamora](#), showcased some of his latest designs at the event and KSW honored actress [Lynn Chen](#) for her work confronting body image in Asian American communities through her website, [Thick Dumpling Skin](#).

This year's theme is "Radical Celebration". Celebrate Your Body's runway has always centered people of color and marginalized groups and year after year, this event has fostered the belief that we are valued, we are not disposable. How does this celebration of our bodies and our selves turn into meaningful action? This is the question Kearny Street Workshop wants to pose to the Celebrate Your Body community.

Bios

Janae Johnson is a black queer poet, community organizer, teaching artist, and full-time educator. Hailing from California, she is the 2015 Women of the World Poetry Champion as well as a 2015 National Poetry Slam Champion. She is also the Co-Founder of both: The Root Slam poetry venue in Oakland, California, and The House Slam poetry venue in Boston, MA. Janae's poetry has appeared in outlets such as ESPN, PBS Newshour, Blavity, and Kinfolks: A Journal of Black Expression. Her work aims to address the intricacies of black masculinity while balancing her love for her family, Motown music, and women's basketball. Janae holds a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, and facilitates writing and performance workshops for all ages. She currently resides in Berkeley, CA.

Kohinoorgasm (one word: ko-hee-noor-gasm) is the experimental pop music project of Josephine Shetty. As a mixed race, queer, desi artist, she seeks to expand the dialogue around multidimensional identity-based experiences by visualizing and performing reflections on complex histories and emotions. She has performed at universities, museums, festivals, and DIY spaces across the United States. Josephine is from Los Angeles, CA, and now resides in the San Francisco Bay Area.

About Kearny Street Workshop

Kearny Street Workshop's mission is to present, produce, and promote art that empowers Asian Pacific American artists and communities. We envision a more just society that fully incorporates Asian Pacific American voices informed by our cultural values, historical roots, and contemporary issues.

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Calendar Editors

WHO:

KEARNY STREET WORKSHOP (KSW) is the oldest Asian Pacific American multidisciplinary arts organization. Offering an array of workshops, presentations, and events, KSW nurtures creative spirit, offers an important platform for new voices to be heard, and connects artists with community.

Hosted by **Janae Johnson** and featuring designs and styles by **LivExquisite, Rocket Ready Designs, Sugardope, HiM, Proud Mary Fashion, Ricee's Pieces Designs, Kwill Design.** Performance by **Kohinoorgasm.**

WHAT: Celebrate Your Body 2017: A Body-Positive Fashion Show & Expo Featuring POC Designers and Stylists. Since 2013, KSW has invited local, upcoming designers and stylists to showcase their innovative looks on a unique runway that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and how good we can look in any body.

WHEN: Saturday, June 17th, 2017 | 7:00 - 10:00pm

WHERE: SOMArts Cultural Center 934 Brannan St., San Francisco, CA 94103

TICKETS & INFORMATION: PRE-SALE: bit.ly/2017cyb | \$15 Early Bird (Before May 26), \$18 General Admission - Presale (After May 26), \$20 General Admission - Door, \$40 VIP Admission - Includes reserved front row seating and drink ticket!

PHOTOS: Large, high-resolution (300dpi) images available:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kearnystreet/albums/72157683325626296>

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