

# CLEMMONS FAMILY FARM IN VERMONT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (CORRECTED)

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## **Multicultural Artists in Fall Residencies at the Clemmons Family Farm**

*A first-ever showcase of African, Jamaican, Haitian, African-American/Native American  
and African-American cultures under one Vermont roof*

(Charlotte, VT) The Clemmons Family Farm is proud to host a first-ever multicultural Artists-in Residency showcasing the works of five artists who represent a plethora of cultures including African, Jamaican, Haitian, African-American/Native American and African-American under one roof. No other African American-owned Vermont farm has taken on an endeavor of this magnitude that demonstrates the diversity of the African diaspora, as well as the diversity of the arts at the Farm. The residencies are intentionally designed to showcase an eclectic collection of painting, music, poetry, film and even sound healing - all in an effort to expose primarily white Vermont communities to the accomplishments and talents of artists of color who are masters of their crafts. The residencies are a collaboration between the Clemmons Family Farm and Vermont's Artists of African descent through the *A Sense of Place* project funded by ArtPlace America.

### **Multicultural Residencies and The Five Artists (by date)**

Master Teaching Artist and musician **Michael Dyke of South Burlington, VT**, originally from Jamaica, will be in residency at the Clemmons Family Farm every Saturday at 10 AM **until Sept. 7**. Especially designed for children 6 - 9 years old, the Jamaican music and culture classes will offer A LOT of fun and learning about Jamaican music and culture. Dyke will inspire participants to put aside their digital devices and enjoy a musically immersive experience, mindfulness and fun, inspiring connections with the artist and with others. **For more details:** <http://bit.ly/CFFJamaicaMusicStorytelling>

A newcomer to Vermont, **Julio Desmont of Burlington, VT** brings a wealth of expertise in multicultural creative work on Sundays at 3 p.m. through **Oct. 13**. As part of the residency, the artist invites everyone of different skills and abilities to explore their creative energy through his "Art That Binds" community painting class. Desmont will create a "sense of place" for participants to enjoy a multicultural experience that pivots around learning and celebrating Haitian-American painting and culture while they also share their own stories of the connection between art, culture and life experiences. Experienced painters and absolute novices are welcome to engage in this hands-on multicultural community-building experience. **For more details:** <http://bit.ly/CFFArtBinds>

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Visual artists **Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees, of Hinesburg, VT** and **Mikahely Rakoto Razafy of Burlington, VT** will be in residence on the Clemmons Family Farm this **Sept. 8-15** to collaborate on their work-in-progress entitled *Falling into Language, A Travelogue*. The multi-media project is based on a series of paintings by TwoTrees, of African-American and Native American heritage, who will also serve as videographer and director of the co-creation project. Razafy, originally from Madagascar, is a composer, musician and sound engineer will create a musical score to accompany the paintings. Offering open studio hours for the community to observe the co-creation work in progress, ask questions and engage in brief discussions with the artists, the residency will give both artists the opportunity to have collaborative time to work on the project in a space where their respective POC communities have access to their process and feel welcome to engage with the work as it evolves.

**For more details:** <http://bit.ly/CFFFallingIntoLanguage>

Sound Healer **Amber Arnold of Brattleboro, VT** is the founder of Sacred Vibrations Sound Healing. She will join the Clemmons Family Farm from **Sept. 27-29** as an artist-in- residence, using her healing arts for creative placemaking and building a multicultural community. The community is invited to join Arnold at the Clemmons Family Farm for a series of talks and presentations on sound healing traditions in several cultures, and demonstrations of how sound and vibrations are used. She will also engage in questions and answers and a discussion with participants and will share samples of aromatherapeutic herbs, healing teas and minerals during socializing after the talk.

**For more details:** <http://bit.ly/CFFAmberHealingTalk> <http://bit.ly/CFFAmberHealingTalk>

#### About The Clemmons Family Farm

The 148-acre Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte, Vermont, owned by Jack and Lydia Clemmons since 1962, is now one of just 0.4% of African-American owned farms in the U.S. and is one of the largest African American-owned historic farms in the state that celebrates African-American and African diaspora history, arts and culture. The *A Sense of Place* project, funded by ArtPlace America, supports the farm's transition into an African-American Heritage and Multicultural Center with the overarching goal to improve community mental health, physical health and social well-being through creative placekeeping and African-American and African diaspora arts and culture programming. *A Sense of Place* is implemented in partnership with Champlain College, Burlington City Arts, and a growing number of Vermont-based organizations.

## Clemmons Family Farm Artists-in-Residency Photos



Master Teaching Artist and Musician **Michael Dyke**

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Master Teaching Artist **Julio Desmont**



Visual Artists **Mikahely Rakoto Razafy** and **Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees**



Sound Healer **Amber Arnold**