

News Release

## Detroit interdisciplinary artist and Susan Beech Mid-Career Artist Grant recipient Tiff Massey joins ranks of Metal Museum *Tributaries* artists

*Her solo exhibit will be on display from July 24 to September 25, 2021*



Tiff Massey, *Everyday Arsenal (Steel Edition)*, 2018. Dimensions variable. Photo courtesy of Alessandra Ferrara.

**MEMPHIS (June 9, 2021)** – The Metal Museum is pleased to announce *Tributaries: Tiff Massey | Everyday Arsenal*, the next in an installment of exhibitions that highlights emerging and mid-career artists in the metals field.

Tiff Massey is an interdisciplinary artist from Detroit, MI. She holds an MFA in metalsmithing from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her work, inspired by African standards of economic vitality, includes both large-scale and wearable sculptures, music and performance. Massey counts the iconic material culture of 1980's hip-hop as a major influence in her jewelry. She uses contemporary observances of class and race through the lens of an African diaspora, combined with inspiration drawn from her experience in Detroit.

Among her many accomplishments, Tiff Massey is a 2015 Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellowship awardee, as well as a two-time John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge winner. She was the 2019 recipient of Art Jewelry Forum's Susan Beech Mid-Career Artist Grant. Massey has participated in numerous international residencies including Red Bull Arts (Detroit, MI), Ideas City (Detroit, MI; Athens, Greece; Arles, France) hosted by The New Museum of New York and with the Volterra-Detroit Foundation (Volterra, Italy.) Tiff Massey's work has been widely exhibited in both national and international museums and galleries. For her solo exhibition at the Metal Museum, she will create a site-specific installation in the Keeler Gallery, similar to the *Everyday Arsenal* series in which she reproduced jewelry on a monumental scale in steel.

“My work merges the regal aesthetics of traditional African fashion and hair-styling techniques with the grandiose bravado of 1980s hip-hop jewelry. Influenced by Detroit’s history of ostentatious fashion, my work examines how symbols of wealth in the regalia of African diaspora affect the viewer’s behavior and attitude, eliciting an experience whereupon the viewer may encounter an object and engage in thoughts and/or acts of vanity.”

–Tiff Massey

#### **Event Details:**

*Tributaries: Tiff Massey | Everyday Arsenal* opens on Saturday, July 24, 2021 and closes on Saturday, September 25, 2021. An exhibition reception and gallery talk with the artist will take place during the show; date and time TBA. The reception is free and open to the public.

#### **About the Tributaries Series**

The *Tributaries* exhibition series began in 2008 with the goal of supporting emerging and mid-career metal artists with solo exhibitions at the Museum. With over 40 *Tributaries* exhibitions completed or in the planning process, the Museum has celebrated some of the most talented artists who are shaping the metals field today. The Metal Museum actively collects the work of these artists to document the early and evolving stages of their careers.

#### **About the Metal Museum**

The Metal Museum is the only institution in the United States devoted exclusively to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. This mission is achieved through four primary program areas – exhibitions, collections, studio practice, and community education and engagement. Programs are facilitated on the Museum grounds and at locations across the Mid-South. Located on 3.2 acres of historic property overlooking the Mississippi River, the Museum grounds include the main Museum building as well as the Metalworking Facilities, Library + Resource Center, and private artist residences. Learn more about the Museum and its programs by visiting our website at [metalmuseum.org](http://metalmuseum.org).

The Museum receives operating support from ArtsMemphis and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Programming support is received from Hyde Family Foundations, the Windgate Charitable Foundation, and hundreds of corporate, foundation, and individual supporters.

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High-resolution images of artwork are available upon request. Please contact Kim Ward, Marketing Manager for the Metal Museum, at (901) 774-6380 or [kimward@metalmuseum.org](mailto:kimward@metalmuseum.org)