

# WING LUKE MUSEUM

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**From:** Wing Luke Museum

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## **Immersive Art Collaboration Celebrates Historical Black and Brown Solidarity at Wing Luke Museum**

**Seattle, WA:** Wing Luke Museum is excited to promote an incredible multimedia art installment produced in collaboration with Seattle-based arts collective, **Paradice Avenue Souf** (<https://paradiceworldwide.com/>), through an Afro-Asian Futurism lens. Titled ***Back Home: The Journey of Remembering***, the installation is an immersive combination of textiles, artifacts, painting, film, soundscape, and digital projection-mapping through which artists Harry Clean, Ari Glass, and Gavin Amos weave a story of cultural symbolism, mythology, and the interconnectedness of Black and Brown cultures in an age before European colonialism. Throughout human civilization, cross-cultural overlap and exchange was made possible by ancient oceanic trade routes, commerce, and migrations of people. *Back Home* tells a future story celebrating the rediscovery of ancient traditions and enduring ingenuity from generations past that are reclaimed and reinterpreted to inspire a new world.

In collaboration with Wing Luke Museum, the three artists embarked on an international journey in May 2022 that took them from Africa, to South Asia, and Southeast Asia to conduct research and find inspiration for the project. Through their travels, a larger picture about the interconnectedness of culture and people began to emerge - one that often goes untold - as explained by Glass, "The story that we're given in history is very limited and it's told through a lens of mostly through colonization, and not through the Indigenous perspective. So, what we are doing with this project and the story is telling it from a more ancient Indigenous perspective, something that connects us on a much deeper level than what you would find in a textbook, or your traditional way of understanding the connection between Africa and Asia."

The three artists collaborate and work out of their shop Paradice Avenue Souf, located across the street from Franklin High School, where they create art, clothing, and run a brand and marketing agency promoting local businesses. As artists who spent much of their lives in Seattle's South End, this project draws a broader connection to the rich and varied histories of Black and Brown communities and the many Immigrant communities that now reside in South Seattle as a result of housing exclusion and redlining. "I thought it was awesome. It was about Black and Brown solidarity. And that's a big thing for me, because I'm mixed, but I'm half Mexican and Puerto Rican. So, I grew up living in a two-culture, well, really a three-culture home. But seeing how we all related and connected and, and still had all these similarities, these basic similarities being that we're all people from Earth. Because what we're talking about, we're talking about indigenous people. And then having that be the basis of where we created family and loved each other," says Amos.

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Along with representing aspects of Afro-Asian exchange and diaspora, the creative team wants visitors to consider and form an appreciation for the connections between cultures that are often unspoken, yet critical to strengthening intercultural bonds that break down divisions. “We hope that people take away from this project that we share a common ground, we have the ability to write a new story, a new chapter, and history. We can write a chapter in the future, really, we can write our own stories, we can make our own books, we can make our own films, our own artworks, things that tell it from our point of view, from the indigenous point of view, and put the power back into the people's hands, who have been disenfranchised,” says Glass.

This collaboration also represents ways in which artists of color can be empowered and amplified at a time when racial equity in the arts is an ongoing struggle. For Glass, collaborations like this are important opportunities to celebrate stories that seldom see the light of day. “Collaborations like these are important because that's what we need. It's vital. The art world and the educational world have been skewed through a lens that isn't equitable and doesn't really tell the full story. So, with projects like this, we have a chance to tell the new story: the old story but in a new way, in the real way, you know, the true way, and do it in a way that's really fresh.”

This exhibit, which opened in October 2022, is **currently on display for an extended run through Sunday, June 25th, 2023**. More information about this exhibit and the artists can be found at <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-backhome>.

For visitors interested in meeting the creative team behind the installation, Wing Luke Museum is offering guided tours on **March 18th and 25th** with two different time slots on each day at **2 PM and 3:30 PM PST**. Tickets are available at <https://www.wingluke.org/museumtours> and include all-day admission to Wing Luke Museum's three floors of galleries. Space is limited and all tickets available on a first-come-first-served basis.

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The **Wing Luke Museum's** mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, National Park Service Affiliated Area, and the only pan-Asian American museum in the nation, The Wing Luke Museum is a national treasure, preserving and sharing the personal stories of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org)