

THE TICKET

Things to do around Boston this weekend and beyond

By **Globe staff** Updated April 28, 2022, 3:37 p.m.



From left: Marcus Paul James, Jalen Harris, Elijah Ahmad Lewis, Harrell Holmes Jr., and James T. Lane of "Ain't Too Proud," which runs through May 1 at Citizens Bank Opera House. EMILIO MADRID

Emma Limperis, and Makayla Garrett. *April 30. \$15. Mass Motion Dance, Brighton.*
www.pantosprojectdance.com

KAREN CAMPBELL

Visual Arts

DAWOUD BEY: NIGHT COMING TENDERLY, BLACK Bey, long celebrated as a portrait photographer whose deeply empathetic pictures helped bring Black American life into the mainstream art world, has recently turned to landscape photography as a means to excavate buried American historical narratives. Recently installed in a round gallery at the MFA, Bey's recent images of Northeastern Ohio — an unassuming farmhouse behind a picket fence, an expanse of Lake Erie shore — are so dark as to be only barely visible. It's a metaphor both for the cover of night required for Bey's protagonist, an imagined enslaved person, to escape and gain freedom, and the murk of collective memory that threatens such stories' continued existence.

Ongoing. Museum of Fine Arts Boston. 465 Huntington Ave. 617-267-9300,
www.mfa.org

A PLACE FOR ME: FIGURATIVE PAINTING NOW The obituary for figurative painting has been written so many times in the past 100 years, it's tempting to consider any exhibition of it to be something of a séance. The truth is quite the opposite: Despite the decades-long shunning by art world cognoscenti of such millennia-old forms as portraiture and landscape painting, it never went away, and in the last 20 years in particular has gone through an ebullient renaissance. This show makes a case yet again that should hardly need to be made: that human hands pushing

paint to portray human beings is as elemental to our species' culture as walking and breathing. *Through Sept. 5. Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, 25 Harbor Shore Drive. 617-478-3100, icaboston.org*

BARKLEY L. HENDRICKS: MY MECHANICAL SKETCHBOOK His graceful life-size painted portraits may be the work for which he's known, but Hendricks had a less-seen parallel current to his art-making that used photography in surprising and innovative ways. When Hendricks called it a "mechanical sketchbook," he was barely exaggerating. This exhibition collects dozens of his photographs in concert with paintings and drawings that show an active, creative mind rarely at rest. It's just one part of a Hendricks renaissance — the Brooklyn Museum is working on mounting a major career retrospective right now — that the artist, sadly, did not live to see. He died in 2017 at 72 just, it seemed, as his career was getting started. *Through July 24. Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham. 781-736-3434, brandeis.edu/rose*

MURRAY WHYTE

SAVAGE CONFESSIONS BY LIU WA AND YANG BAO Studio 170, the Goethe-Institut's 2022 artists-in-residence program, kicks off its exhibition season with this video, sound, and painting installation by Liu Wa and Yang Bao. The artists visited nuclear reactor sites in China and Washington state and observed radiation's effects on the aging process of nomadic plants at both sites — tumbleweeds and camel grass. The plants take center stage here, in works that question man-made boundaries. *May 2-10. Goethe-Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St.*

www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/bos/ver/stu/22st/liu.html

CATE McQUAID



Liu Wa and Yang Bao, from "Savage Confessions." COPYRIGHT © YANG BAO, LIU WA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

EVENTS

Comedy

EMMA WILLMANN The Maine native says her mother has always been a combination of uptight and progressive. “I remember one time in high school I came home and I said, ‘Mom, I’m gonna kill myself,’ and she said [gasp] ‘Not in the house! I have book club night in the house!’” *April 29 at 8 p.m. and April 30 at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. \$25. Off Cabot Comedy and Events, 9 Wallis St., Beverly. www.offcabot.org*

TRACY MORGAN The “Last O.G.” star teared up on the “Conan O’Brien Needs a Friend” podcast in March talking about returning to stand-up after the 2014 car accident in which a Wal-Mart tractor-trailer smashed into his limo, leaving him in a coma. But he has a sense of humor about it, too. “I’m out there on the Turnpike looking for [an] Amazon truck now,” he said. *April 30 at 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. \$65.*

SAM TROTTEBERG

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