**Bio Lavett Ballard**

Lavett Ballard is an Mixed media Visual Artist, Educator, Author and Curator based in New Jersey. She holds a an MFA in Studio Art from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Ballard’s art has been commissioned as a cover for *Time Magazine* special Woman of the Year double edition released March 2020. Among her accolades is a Yaddo fellow Artist residency in 2021, a Pew Foundation residency nomination in 2018 and in 2018 she was named by Black Art in America as one of the *Top 10 Female Emerging Artists to Collect*. Mrs. Ballard’s work has been in film productions like “*The Photograph, Redline on CBS & Chicago PD* Her celebrity collectors include Roxanne Gay, Hill Harper & Grant Hill among many others. Her art has been exhibited at galleries and museums nationwide, and been acquired by prominent collections such as the Barnes Museum, African American Museum of Philadelphia, the Colored Girls Museum, the U.S. Art in the Embassies, the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection, Syracuse Universities Community Folk Arts Center, and Jule Collins Smith Fine Art Museum at Auburn University Collections.

**Lavett Ballard Artist Statement**

Ballard views her art as a re-imagined visual

narrative of people of African descent. Her use of imagery reflects social issues affecting primarily women’s stories within a historical context. The fusion of wood and photography offers work that both explores her southern roots, & visually speaks to continuing themes within her community.

Ballard has spent hours compiling a photographic catalog of images of the African diaspora. The photos are collaged, painted, destroyed and reborn to create a re-imagined history portrayed In her work. The use of fences is a symbolic reference to how fences keep people in and out, just as racial and gender identities can do the same socially.