

For Immediate General Release
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This is the age of reinvention. Halima Taha has taken the art to a new level. With professional credentials, a full bank of experiences and honed skill sets, Taha is initiating a new journey into tested, yet uncharted territories. Defined by one of the greats as "A true ambassador for African American art" (Jacob Lawrence, American painter, 1917 - 2000), Dr. Taha accepted the position of adjunct professor at Bloomfield University, where she is teaching African American Art History. Concurrently, she is the Consulting Director of Educational Leadership for *Diversity Prep* magazine, a teen publication that addresses diversity and multicultural issues within independent schools

In the course of her career as an educator, art advisor, appraiser, author, and professional speaker, "I find myself drawing heavily upon my experiences. Collectively, my academic, professional and personal background taught me how to look beyond the superficial, to work independently and within a team, as well as have the courage to pursue my vision, said Taha. "There are many carryover skills and sensibilities from my various professional spheres of interest that instill confidence in being able to serve my clients, students, and the art community well."

People who interact with her describe her as welcoming, supportive and gracious to a diverse constituency of students, faculty, collectors, arts professionals, corporate partners and neophytes. Her disposition is engendered from her diverse African, Eastern European, and Ogallala Sioux ancestry, along with her Muslim faith. These combined sensibilities shaped her well-rounded philosophical and ethical commitment to providing a safe and accepting environment for the expression of culture, religion, and lifestyle, as reflected in the diverse cultural mosaic of this country.

Halima affirms, "My own experience as a Muslim woman in America, offers profound insight into the ways in which diversity enriches creative, academic and social environments, as well as in the challenges that the larger society presents to those who do not reflect mainstream standards of culture, beauty, belief, politics or family composition." Being an art professional enables me to nurture the development of active inquisitive minds toward self-discovery and development through meaningful and personal experiences with art.

But this is far from the end of the story. Halima is just laying the foundation upon which she intends to build. Described by Benny Andrews, American painter, (1930 - 2006) as "A quiet fire with great vision," Taha will soon pen a delightful and insightful perspective of her journey -- from dancer and model, to credentialed art expert, wife, single parent, as an African American Muslim woman. Her ultimate objective is to participate in the development of several multimedia projects that will garner the opportunity to share her perspectives on art and life with a much broader audience. Truly a woman to watch. For more information, visit www.halimatahaproarts.com. For interviews please contact E. Joyce Moore, jemiltd@gmail.com.