**ARTIST’S BIOGRAPHY**

**Lydia A. Douglas** has been a fine art photographer since 1979 and more recently an independent filmmaker since 1997.  She studied photography at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, receiving a BFA degree and received her MFA degree in film from Howard University.  *Nappy,* her thesis film, is a pioneering film that directly addresses the “politics” of black women’s hair.

Douglas uses photography and film to document the culture, contributions and history of African people.  She uses her photography to create images of people of African Ancestry that are honest.  Her photography has been exhibited and published nationally and internationally, The Face of Our Past:  A History of Black Women From Colonial Times to the Present, and Reflections in Black: A History of African American Photographers, 1840 – Present; to-name-a-few.  During the segment “In the Spirit”, her photograph, Ife and Raven, a portrait of a mother and her young daughter on the beach, was displayed on the Oprah Winfrey Show.  Exhibitions of note include "Reflections in Black:  A History of African American Photographers, 1840-Present", at the Smithsonian InstituteCenter for African American History and Culture, in Washington, DC and “Africans in the Diaspora” at the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, MD.

Ms. Douglas is the recipient of a number of grants and awards, Honorable Mention from Foto Week DC, 2008, which was screened at National Geographic Magazine and most recently, the Lincoln Center Education’s Summer Forum 2017.

A fine art photographer true to the medium of silver gelatin image making, Ms. Douglas shoots and prints all of her own black and white film.  Her work distinguishes itself because it arrests the eye and spirit with its gentle, poetic quality that captures the essence of her subjects.

Ms. Douglas, now a semi-retired art teacher, is devoting her time to working as a full time fine art photographer and independent filmmaker. “My life’s work is to make work that makes people happy and empowered.

Currents projects include a 3-part collection of short films on family planning and an HBCU tour, re-release of *Nappy* as it celebrates its 25th anniversary year. *Nappy* was created for Black women and girls, however, women from many walks of life relate to being pressured to assimilate into the dominant Eurocentric culture.  *Nappy* is the winner of the Best Documentary Film prize from the "Jamerican Film and Music Festival", 2000.  *Nappy* distinguishes itself with its thought provoking and sometimes humorous interviews and its awesome cinematography.