



PART 1: JANUARY 31 - APRIL 11  
Part 2: April 25 - June 19

THE CARR CENTER

# EVERYDAY

# PEOPLE

DAYTON AND DETROIT  
N A A C P

COLLABORATIVE  
ART EXHIBITION

DOUBLE EXHIBITION

ONE & TWO



# EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Alexi Torres  
Andenuga John Opeyem  
Aaron Hazel  
Chiderah Bosah  
Christopher Hartway Sr.  
Dean Mitchell  
Eduardo Kingman  
Ernie Barnes  
Eyitayo Alagbe  
Floyd Strickland  
Gafar Oluwabori  
Ijania Cortez  
Kim Wiggins  
Lisa Mathews  
Mason Archie  
Nehemiah Edwards  
Reginald Baylor  
Richard Lewis  
Samuel Sowatey  
Sharon Sprung  
Tim Okamura  
Erin Smith  
Daniel Ayomide Emmanuel  
Robert Bmoore Moore  
Robert Peterson

THE CARR CENTER 15. E Kirby Street, Detroit, MI 49202

**T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S**

<b>ALEXI TORRES</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>ANDENUGA JOHN OPEYEM</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>AARON HAZEL</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>CHRISTOPHER HARTWAY SR.</b>	<b>10-12</b>
<b>DEAN MITCHELL</b>	<b>13-15</b>
<b>EDUARDO KINGMAN</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>ERNIE BARNES</b>	<b>18-20</b>
<b>EYITAYO ALAGBE</b>	<b>21-23</b>
<b>FLOYD STRICKLAND</b>	<b>24-26</b>
<b>GAFAR OLUWABORI</b>	<b>27-28</b>
<b>IJANIA CORTEZ</b>	<b>29-30</b>
<b>KIM WIGGINS</b>	<b>31-32</b>
<b>LISA MATHEWS</b>	<b>33-34</b>

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

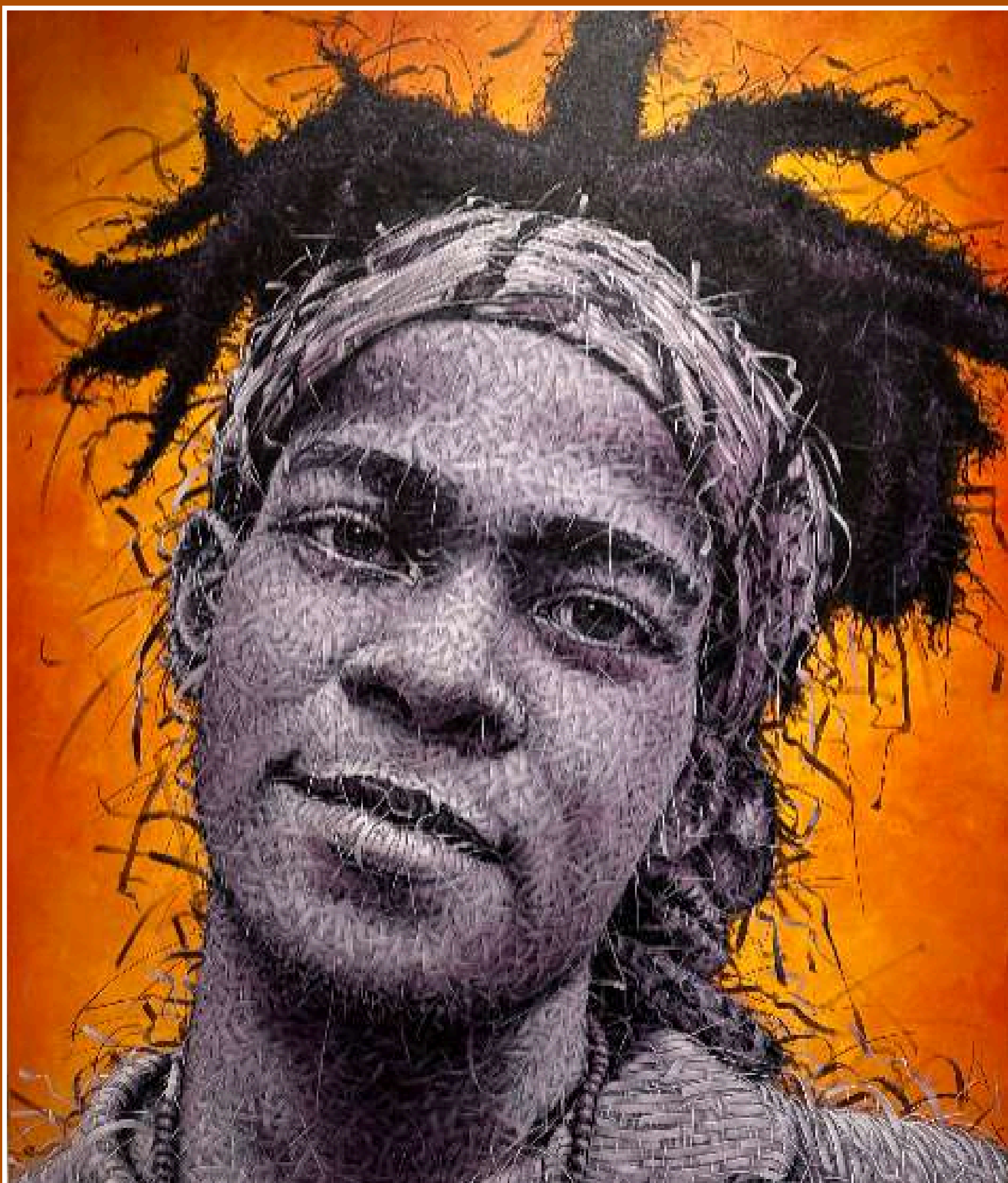
<b>MASON ARCHIE</b>	<b>35-37</b>
<b>NEHEMIAH EDWARDS</b>	<b>38-40</b>
<b>REGINALD BAYLOR</b>	<b>41-43</b>
<b>RICHARD LEWIS</b>	<b>44-45</b>
<b>SAMUEL SOWATEY</b>	<b>46-48</b>
<b>SHARON SPRUNG</b>	<b>49-50</b>
<b>TIM OKAMURA</b>	<b>51-53</b>
<b>ERIN SMITH</b>	<b>54-57</b>
<b>DANIEL AYOMIDE EMMANUEL</b>	<b>58-60</b>
<b>ROBERT MOORE BMOORE</b>	<b>61-64</b>
<b>ROBERT PETERSON</b>	<b>65-67</b>



## ALEXI TORRES 1976-

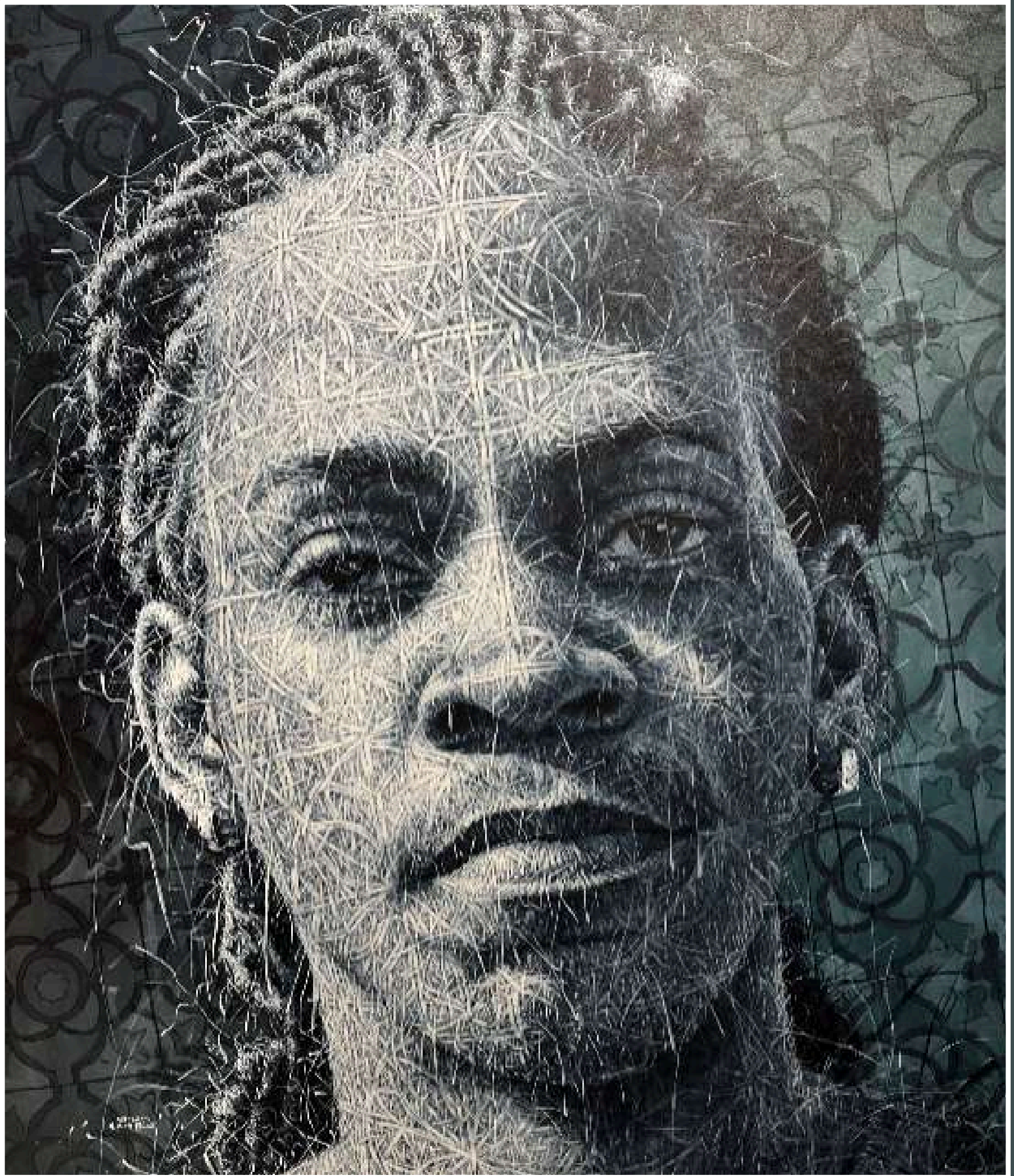
Alexi Torres is a Cuban-born contemporary artist whose work explores the relationship between humanity and nature, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living things. Born in 1976 in Bermeja, Cuba, Torres draws inspiration from his agrarian upbringing and the lunar patterns followed by his ancestors. Each of his intricate, multi-layered paintings is created as part of a ritualistic process, beginning and completing each piece during the waning moon, which he records with his signature on the canvas. His art taps into collective memory, reimagining portraits of everyday individuals, cultural icons, and symbols from popular culture through a unique visual language that challenges viewers to uncover deeper archetypal meanings. With themes that reflect on human behavior, environmental change, and the power of thought, Torres's work engages audiences in a dialogue on contemporary existence and the appreciation of the present moment.

Torres studied at the Escuela Provincial de Artes in Matanzas and the Escuela Nacional de Artes in Havana. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States and abroad, including UNIX Gallery in New York, the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art in Georgia, and DMoMA in Lausanne, Switzerland. His paintings are part of prestigious private and public collections, including those of Will Smith, Delta Airlines, and the Museum of Art Matanzas. Torres has also received accolades such as the 2017 top prize at ArtFields in South Carolina and the People's Choice Award at the Red Clay Survey in Huntsville, Alabama. Through his evocative and meticulously crafted works, Alexi Torres invites viewers to reflect on the interplay between humanity and the natural world while celebrating the universal threads that connect us all.



# PAINTING BASQUIAT

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
84X60 INCHES



# PAINTING YANCY

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
72X60 INCHES

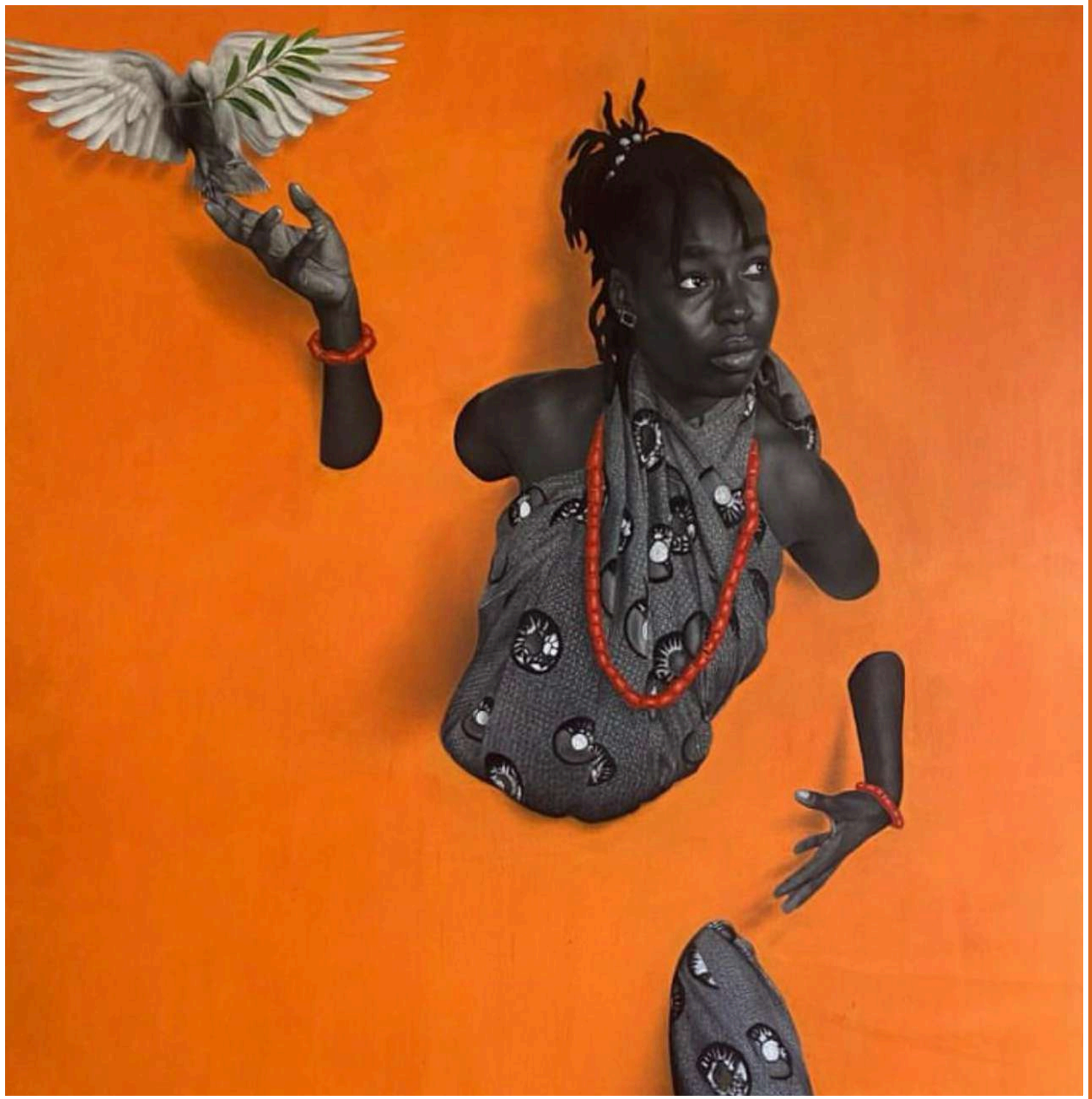


## ANDENUGA JOHN OPEYEM 1992 -

Hopex, a Nigerian hyperrealism artist born on November 8, 1992, uses his art as a vessel to amplify African narratives and express his wildest dreams. Raised in Nigeria, his love for drawing began as a child with pencils and paper as his closest companions. Encouraged by peers to explore portraiture, he discovered the craft's ability to infuse life, vibrancy, and color into the people and places that shaped his world. After earning a National Diploma in Purchasing and Supply from The Polytechnic of Ibadan in 2014, Hopex decided to fully pursue his passion for art in 2017. He went on to study Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Benin, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and began to develop his skills professionally.

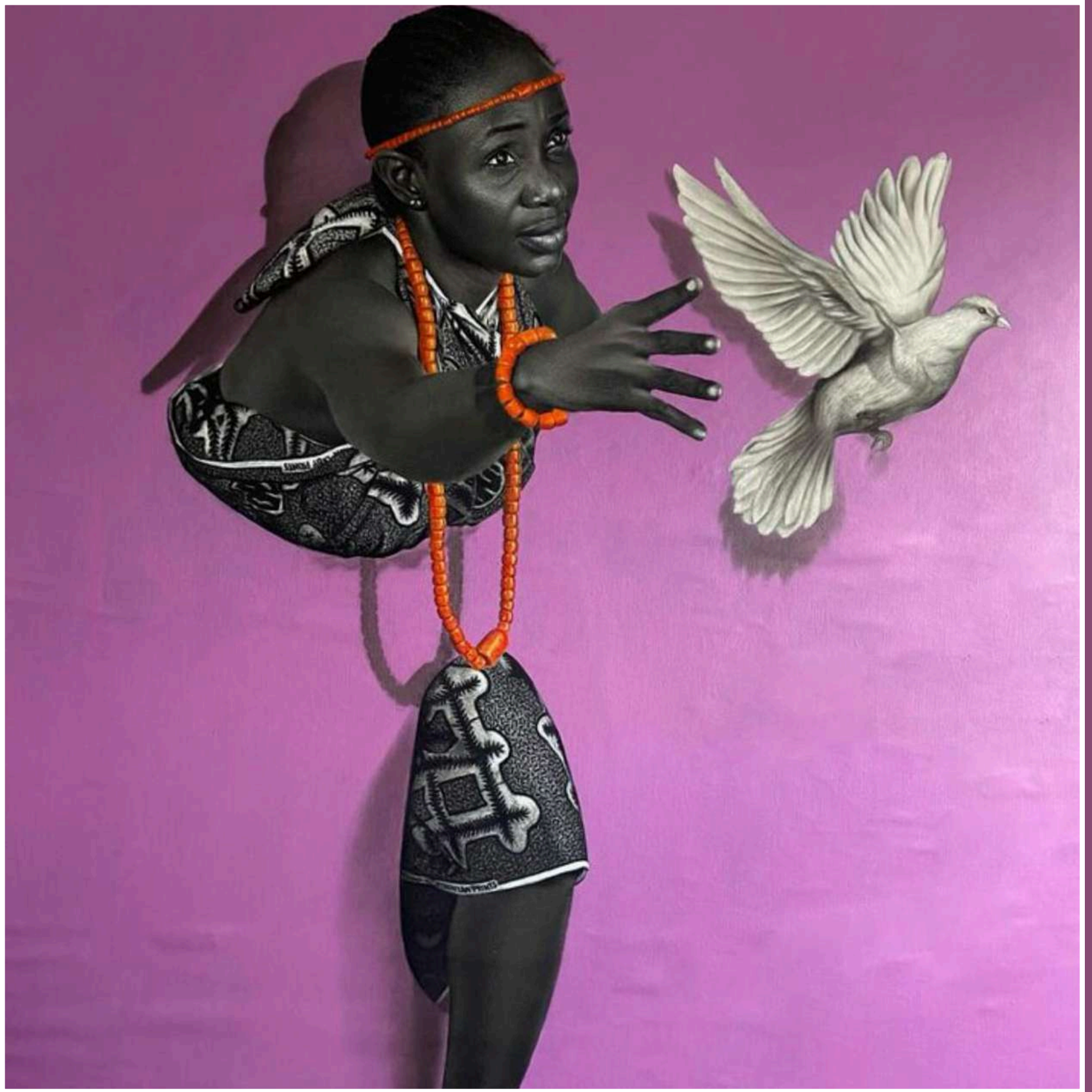
Hopex's work has been showcased in numerous exhibitions and competitions both within and outside Nigeria, including the Intergalactic Open 3 Juried Competition (2021), 13th Annual International Drawing Discourse Exhibition (2021), ViewPoint 54 (2022), and Mimesis Black Liquid Art (2023). His hyper-realistic style, which captures profound depth and emotion, has garnered attention from prominent platforms such as The Modern Met and TRT Afrika. Through his art, Hopex continues to celebrate African stories, elevate marginalized voices, and inspire audiences worldwide with his dedication to crafting intricate, thought-provoking works.





# LOVE

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
36X48



# PEACE

ACRYLIC ON CHARCOAL  
36X48



## AARON HAZEL 1988-

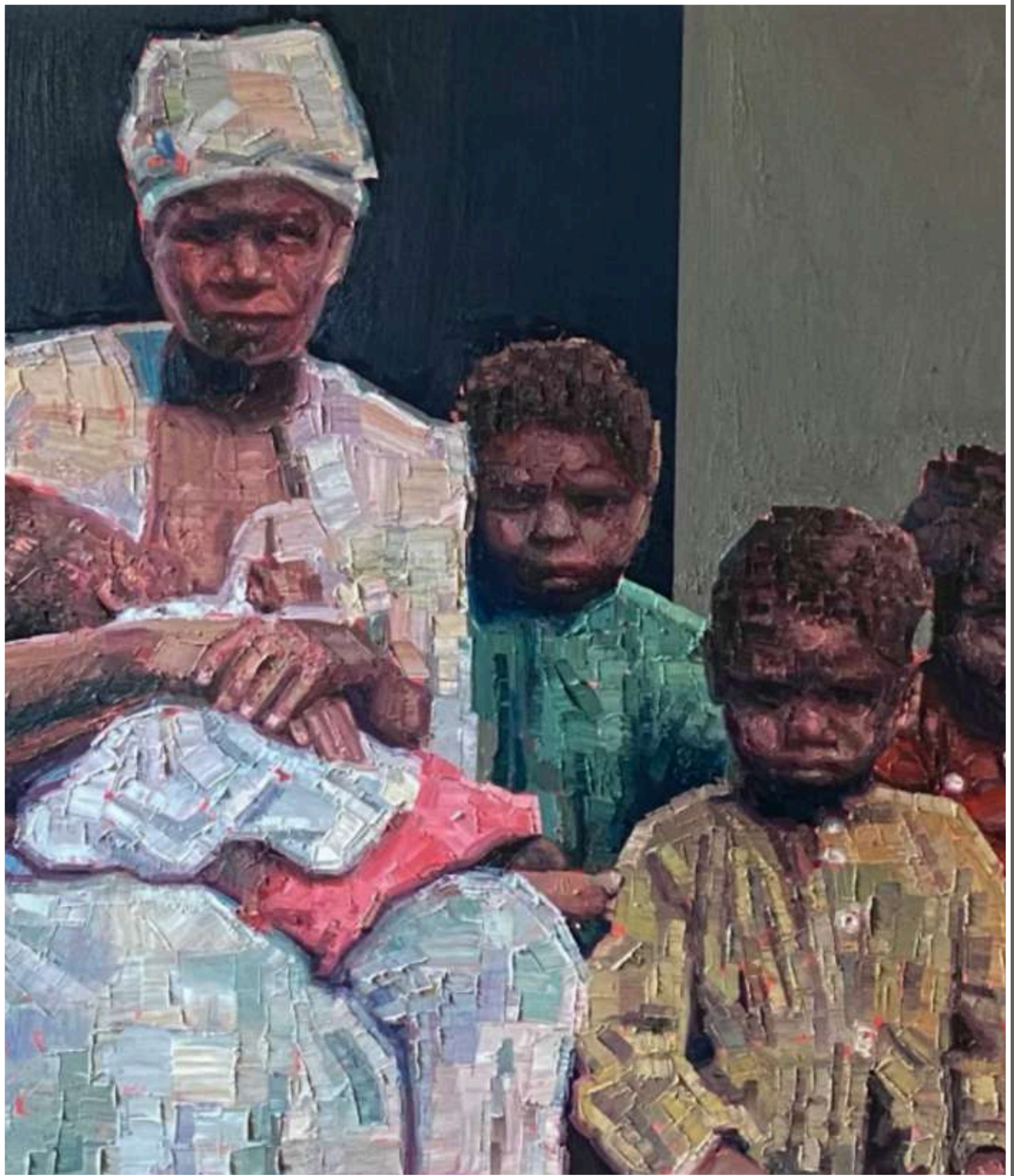
Aaron Hazel is a celebrated artist renowned for his captivating wildlife depictions and his dedication to exploring new subject matter. A graduate of Whitman College with a B.F.A., Hazel's artistic journey is as multifaceted as his talents; during his time at Whitman, he also excelled as a member of the basketball team. Combining a deep understanding of wildlife and their natural habitats with remarkable technical skill, Hazel creates visually stunning works that celebrate the beauty of the animal kingdom. His meticulous attention to detail and mastery of various mediums have earned him national recognition, with his art showcased in prominent publications and galleries.

Committed to continuous growth and artistic evolution, Hazel has studied under influential artists, including impressionist Robert Moore. This mentorship has allowed him to refine his technique and develop a distinctive style that sets his work apart. Through his dedication to learning and exploration, Hazel remains a leading figure in wildlife artistry, captivating audiences with his ability to bring the natural world to life on canvas.



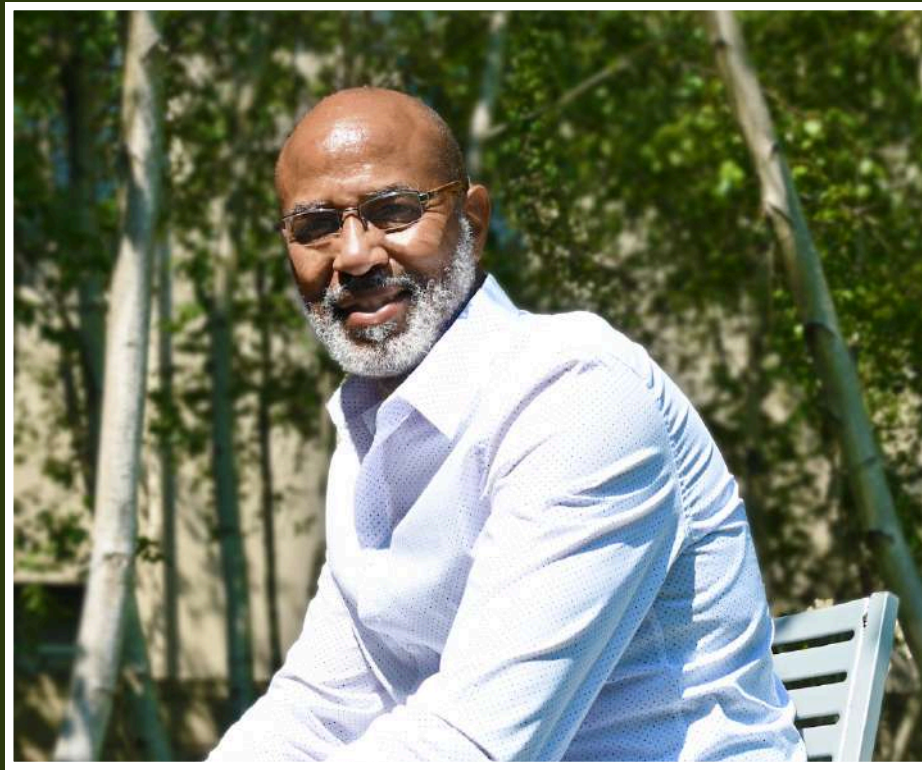
# NEWSPAPER TABLE CLOTH

OIL ON CANVAS  
48X48 INCHES



# THE LOVE THAT BIND US

OIL ON CANVAS  
48X48 INCHES



## CHRISTOPHER HARTWAY SR.

I am a self-taught visual artist based in Columbus, OH. My artistic journey began at a young age when I attended the CCAD youth program in 1974. Since then, I have acquired a rich and diverse background in the arts. After pursuing a career in graphic and video media production, I rediscovered my passion for visual arts which lead me to mixed-media sculptural design, and now dedicate my career to creating works that inspire, intrigue, and entertain my viewers. My art defies (metaphorically) gravity and challenges the imagination... each piece telling a unique narrative that spans time and imagination. Drawing inspiration from my African and Meso/Native American ancestry, my works reflect of cultural diversity and my personal experiences. Through my art, I aim to break down the barriers that define “Black” art as inferior in value and demand, and to help other emerging artists rise up to their callings.

My portfolio showcases a range of sculptures that are both visually striking and intellectually stimulating. My use of color, texture, light, and form creates a contextual depth and dimensionality that ignites engagement, elevation, encouragement, and emotion. With a unique perspective and dedication to my craft, my art is highly recognizable and makes a lasting impression on anyone who views or collects my works. For me, it’s not just art. It’s a movement.





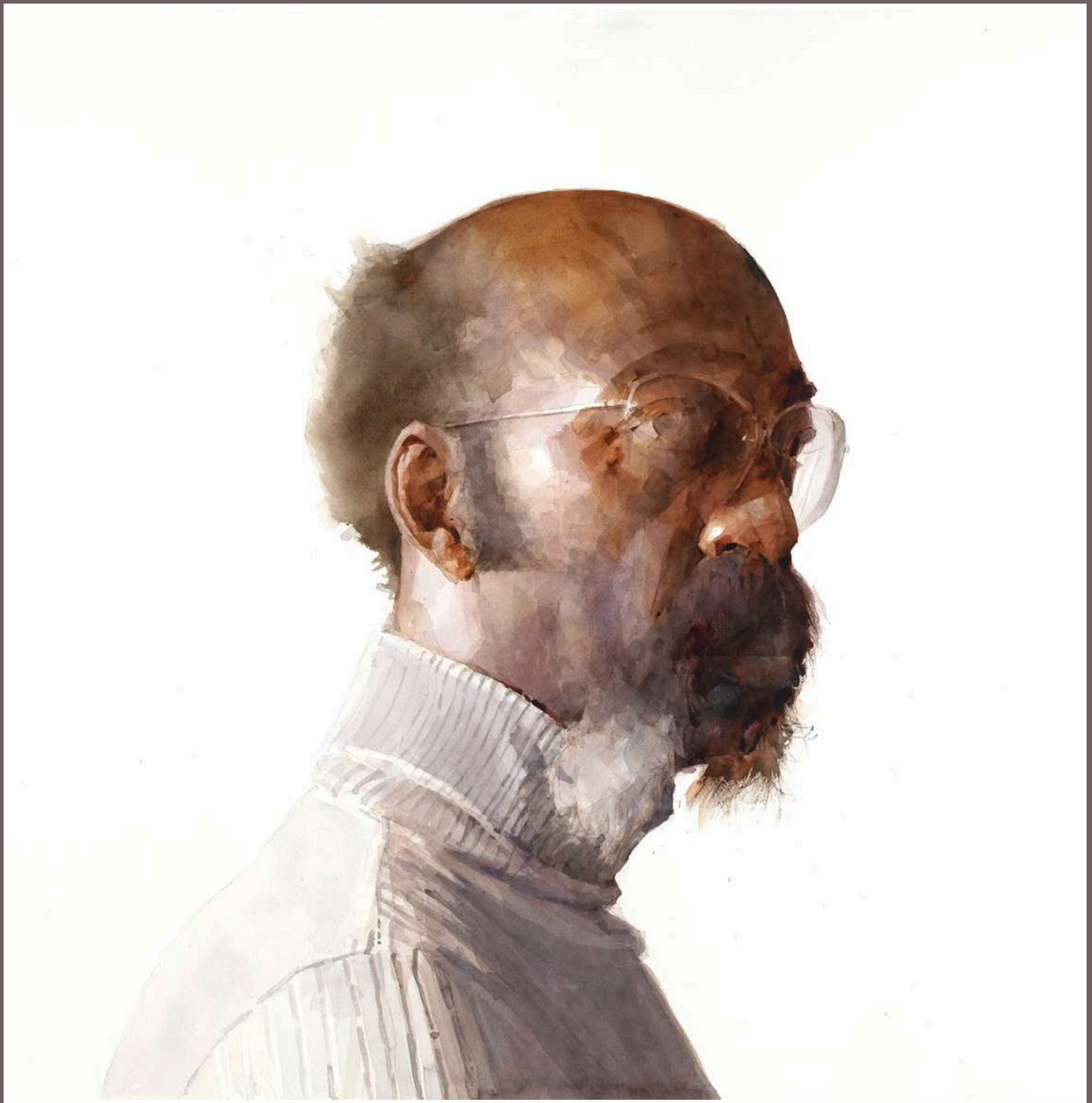




## DEAN MITCHELL 1957 -

Dean Mitchell, born in 1957 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Quincy, Florida, is a masterful artist renowned for his proficiency in watercolors, egg tempera, oils, and pastels. A graduate of the Columbus College of Art & Design, Mitchell's career spans over four decades, during which he has become celebrated for his evocative figurative works, landscapes, and still lifes. His art often explores themes of African American culture, capturing profound emotional depth and dignity in his subjects. Early in his career, Mitchell worked as an illustrator for Hallmark Cards before dedicating himself fully to painting in 1983. Hailed as a "modern-day Vermeer" by New York Times art critic Michael Kimmelman, Mitchell's work is lauded for its eloquent composition and ability to find beauty in the ordinary.

Mitchell's accomplishments include over 400 awards, such as Gold and Silver Medals from the American Watercolor Society and the T.H. Saunders International Artists in Watercolour Competition in London. His paintings are held in prestigious collections, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Mississippi Museum of Art, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. Featured in major publications like The New York Times, Southwest Art, Art News, and Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine, Mitchell's work has been praised for its ability to evoke a universal human connection. Through his timeless artistry, Mitchell continues to enrich the art world, merging technical mastery with profound storytelling.



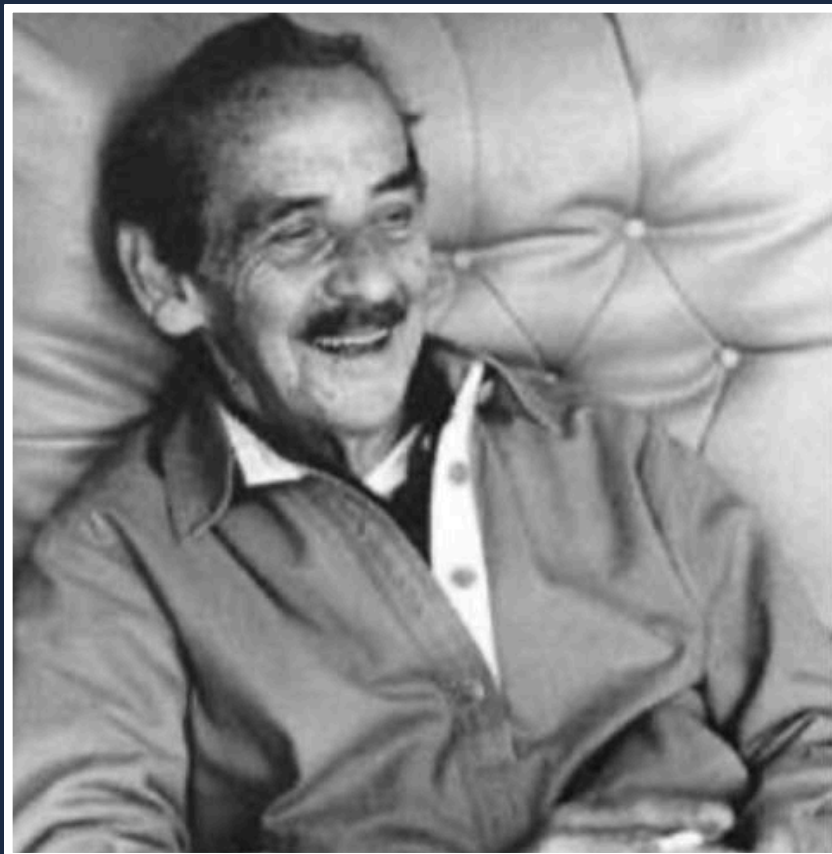
BING

ACRYLIC ON CHARCOAL  
30X40



# GYPSY

ACRYLIC ON CHARCOAL  
33X24



## EDUARDO KINGMAN 1918-1997

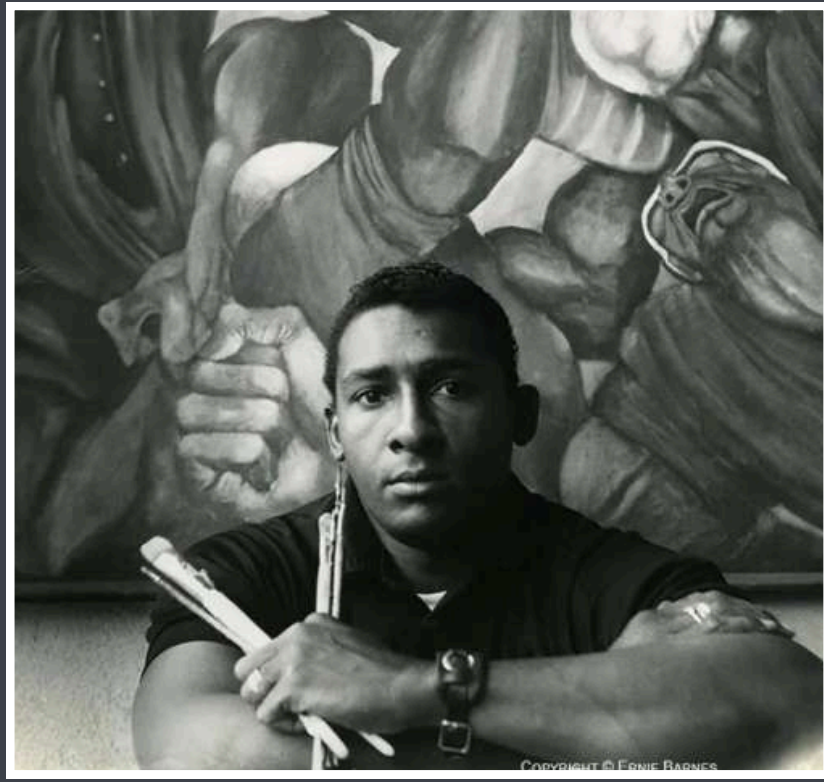
Eduardo Kingman was an influential Ecuadorian artist renowned for his powerful depictions of the social realities of Ecuador's Indigenous peoples. Known as "the painter of hands," Kingman's work emphasizes the struggles, dignity, and humanity of marginalized communities through paintings, lithographs, and woodcuts. His art gained international recognition in 1939 when he assisted Camilo Egas with decorations for the Ecuadorian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. Throughout his career, Kingman's work was exhibited in major cities such as Paris, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Mexico City, Caracas, and Bogotá. His pieces are part of prestigious collections at institutions like the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Beyond his artistic contributions, Kingman was a respected educator, serving as a professor and principal at Quito's Escuela de Bellas Artes (School of Fine Arts) and as Director of the Museo de Arte Colonial de Quito. In 1940, he founded the Caspicara Gallery in Quito to further promote Ecuadorian art. A social activist and writer, Kingman used his work to advocate for social justice and cultural preservation. In recognition of his contributions, his art was honored with a solo exhibition at the United Nations in New York near the end of his career. Kingman's legacy as an artist, educator, and advocate continues to resonate, reflecting his lifelong commitment to championing the voices of Ecuador's Indigenous peoples.



# PRAYING HANDS

OIL ON CANVAS  
30X40 INCHES



## ERNIE BARNES 1938-2009

Ernie Barnes was an American artist celebrated for his unique figurative style, which captured the dynamism of human movement and the essence of cultural life. Born in Durham, North Carolina, Barnes credited his college instructor, sculptor Ed Wilson, with shaping his artistic approach by encouraging him to draw inspiration from his own life experiences. A former professional football player, Barnes used his time as an athlete to observe the human body in motion, an influence evident in his elongated and expressive figures. He sold his first painting, *Slow Dance*, in 1959 at the age of 21. Throughout his career, Barnes framed his paintings with distressed wood as a tribute to his father, a hardworking man who inspired Barnes' dedication and artistic ethos.

One of Barnes' signature elements was his portrayal of subjects with closed eyes, which he explained as a reflection of humanity's blindness to its interconnectedness and potential. His iconic series *The Beauty of the Ghetto* challenged societal perceptions and highlighted the overlooked gifts and strengths within marginalized communities. Barnes' work resonated with audiences across the globe, influencing numerous artists and earning a place in major collections and cultural discussions. His ability to blend his lived experiences with universal themes of identity, resilience, and connection solidified his legacy as one of the most impactful artists of his generation.



# THE GRADUATE ABOVE IT ALL

OIL ON CANVAS  
24X48 INCHES



# STREET HUDDLE

OIL ON CANVAS  
36X42





## EYITAYO ALAGBE 1997 -

Eyitayo Alagbe is a Nigerian multimedia artist whose work blends inborn talent, lifelong practice, and modern education to create captivating pieces that reflect his deep artistic heritage. A native of Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Alagbe spent his formative years in his hometown before relocating to Ibadan, where he currently lives and works. His artistic journey began in childhood, leading to formal training at Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo, where he earned a Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) in Fine and Applied Arts, specializing in painting and graphics, in 2019. During his studies, Alagbe honed his craft through a one-year Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at Stevcent Art Gallery in Ogbomoso, further refining his skills and artistic perspective.

Now a practicing professional artist, Alagbe is pursuing a degree in Fine and Applied Arts at Adeyemi University of Education in Ondo, affiliated with Obafemi Awolowo University. His work explores multimedia techniques, demonstrating a keen ability to merge traditional and contemporary styles. With a dedication to continual growth and a foundation rooted in his cultural and educational background, Eyitayo Alagbe represents a rising voice in the Nigerian art scene, offering a dynamic perspective on the evolving landscape of modern art.



## COMFORTABLE WITHIN

ACRYLIC, PASTELS AND INK ON CANVAS

152X121 CM

2023



## “AFTER A LONG DAY”

ACRYLIC, PASTELS AND INK ON CANVAS  
48X60 INCHES  
2023



## FLOYD STRICKLAND 1984 -

Floyd Strickland is a multi-disciplined artist from Los Angeles, CA. Strickland's works are a reflective critique of aspects of American culture, through the lens of black and brown children. Drawing inspiration from his childhood environment, Strickland often juxtaposes realistic figures with aspects of American cultural figures, creating ethereal figurative paintings. Strickland garners inspiration from Kerry James Marshall, famed Birmingham-born, Chicago-based contemporary artist exhibiting works since 1981, and his all-time favorite artist Aaron Douglas, the most prominent Harlem Renaissance artist-illustrator dubbed the "father of African-American art," highly active in the 1920s.

The unconventional path that brought Strickland to the art world contributes to the uniqueness of his work. After building and renovating elementary schools throughout the country, Strickland noticed the lack of confidence in many black and brown children, which he struggled with as a child. To combat this, Strickland began painting large-scale figurative oil paintings depicting the beauty, strength, and potential of these children. Strickland's children are often the focal points of his pieces, expressing that his best works feature them because that immense care and emotional attachment for them comes through. He wants his children to see themselves as larger-than-life figures and hopefully understand how much he loves them. Strickland currently works and lives in Los Angeles.



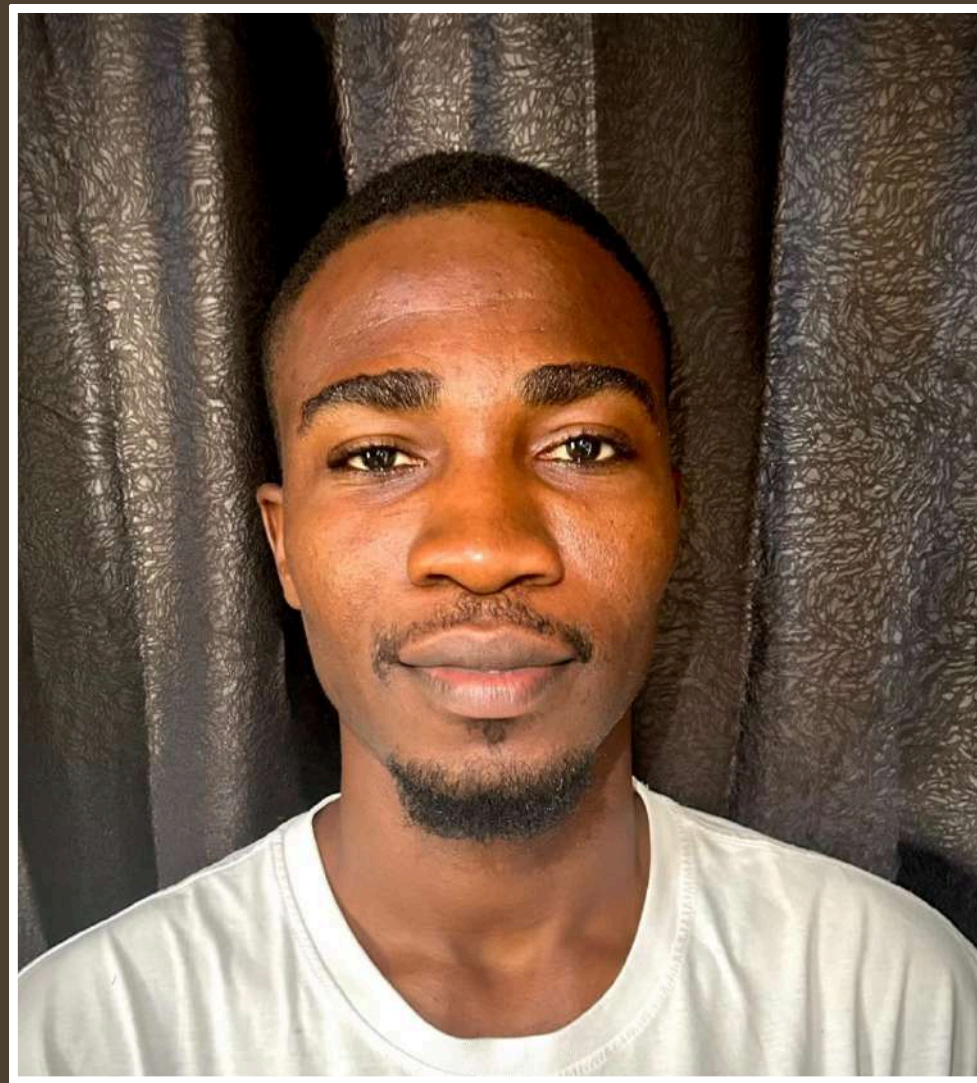
# GET READY

OIL ON CANVAS  
30X30 INCHES



# HOLD YOUR GUARD

OIL ON CANVAS  
30X30 INCHES



## GAFAR OLUWABORI

Gafar Oluwabori born and working in Nigeria, the acrylic on canvas portraits of Gafar Oluwabori are nothing near insipid. His inquisition of attempting to sought various approaches of altering human forms into abstract arrangements. Oluwabori creates both colourful and vibrant renditions of women's faces, with equally pulsating backgrounds.

Playing very close to the peripheries of flatness and adding dimensionality through his depictions of facial features, the portraits of Oluwabori take the form of, or one could even say mimic the colour by numbers structure of kids and adult colouring and painting manuals and books. The portraits are made up of band like abstracted forms that can be regarded as to portray a dissection or express how multifaceted the physical, genetic and chemical makeup of human beings.



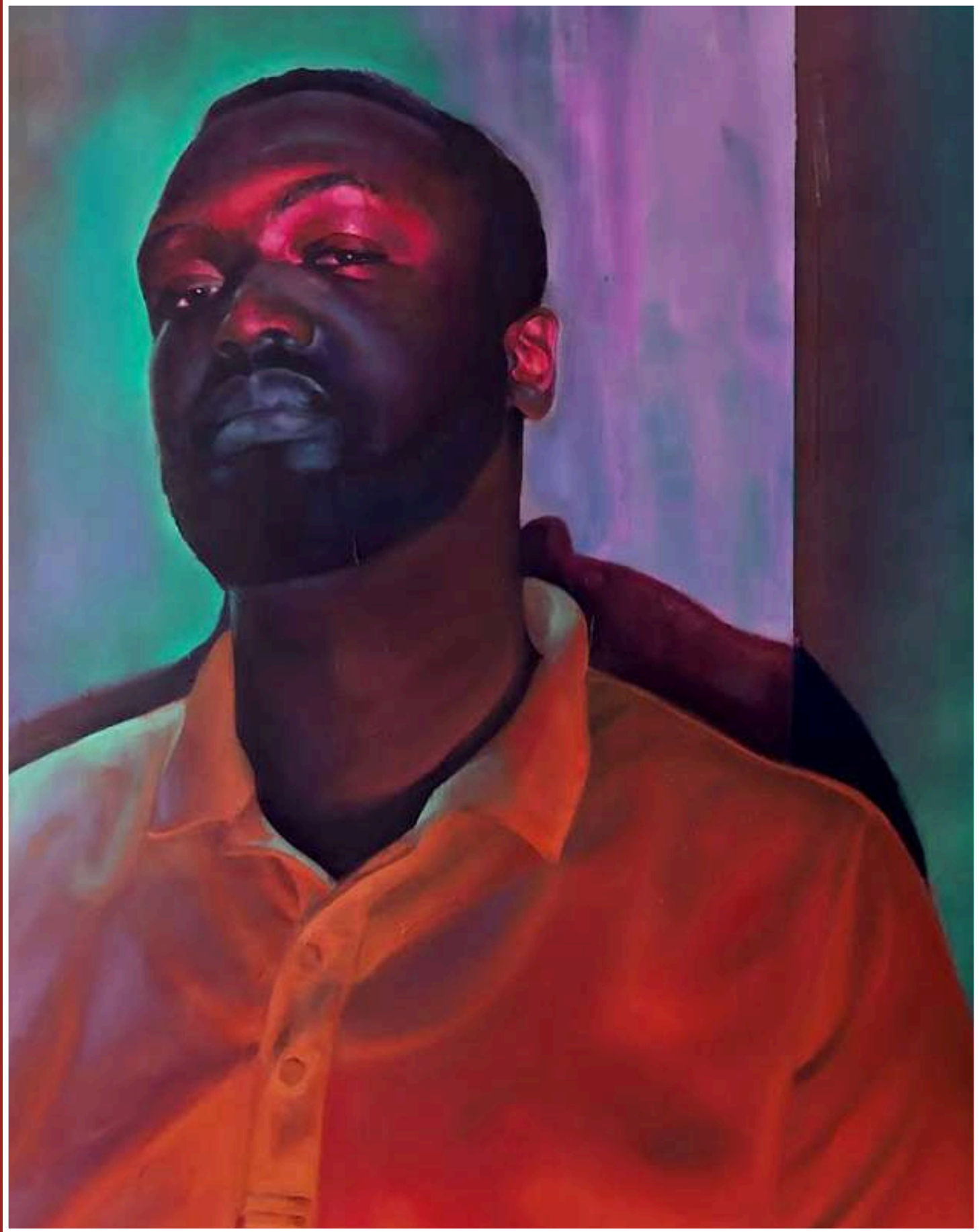




## IJANIA CORTEZ 1990 -

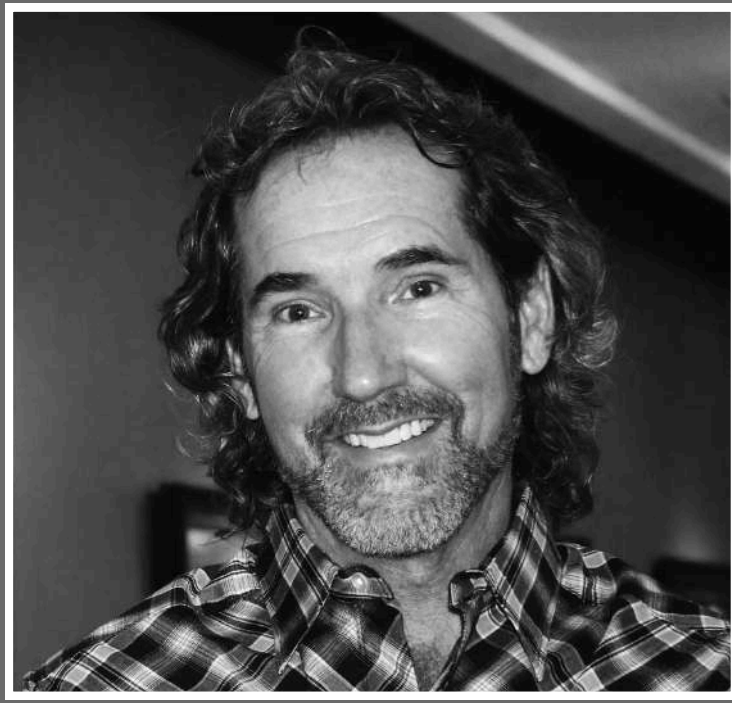
Ijanía Cortez (b. 1990, Detroit, MI) is a self-taught fine artist whose work centers on painting, murals, and mixed media. Based in Detroit, Cortez draws inspiration from her modest upbringing in the 1990s and her deep connection to the city's residents. Her vibrant portraits exclusively depict Black men from inner-city communities, using neon colors to capture the essence of the modern era. By situating her subjects in contrasting, often unnatural settings, Cortez examines the constructed conditions of urban life, presenting her figures as natural and central. Her work invites dialogue, exploring themes of beauty, vulnerability in masculinity, and resilience in the face of adversity.

In July 2017, Cortez debuted her first solo exhibition, *A Summer Nativity*, which showcased her distinctive storytelling through visual art. Her striking use of color and her ability to weave complex narratives through her work have earned her recognition as an emerging voice in contemporary art. With a practice that celebrates the beauty and humanity of Black men while challenging societal perceptions, Cortez continues to create compelling works that foster meaningful connections between painting and viewer.



## AIRED REGARDS

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
48X36



## KIM WIGGINS 1959 -

Kim Wiggins is a modernist painter from New Mexico whose distinctive style and innovative vision have made him one of the most recognizable artists in the American West. A creative forerunner of the New West or Modern West Movement, Wiggins is a prominent speaker in the art world, advocating for innovation within the Western art tradition. Growing up on a ranch, he was discovered in 1972 by a Scottsdale art dealer and later mentored by iconic artists Alexandre Hogue and Henriette Wyeth. By 1983, Wiggins became the youngest member of the Society of American Impressionists, exhibiting alongside luminaries such as George Carlson and Everett Raymond Kinstler. His work blends modernist influences with a deep connection to the Western landscape and history, solidifying his place in contemporary American art.

Wiggins' contributions have garnered numerous awards, including the 2022 Briscoe Museum Purchase Award, the 2020 Gold Medal for Best Narrative at the Autry Museum, and the 2014 New Mexico Historical Society's Heritage Award. His art is featured in prestigious collections, including ten paintings documenting California's history housed at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, often showcased during high-profile events like the Grammy Awards. In 2023, Wiggins completed a significant NAACP commission, unveiling four major works on Juneteenth at the Dayton Art Institute that celebrate Black history.



# THE SPIRITUALIST

OIL ON CANVAS  
40X30  
2024



## LISA MATHEWS

Lisa Mathews is a self-taught African-American artist whose journey into the arts is both inspiring and unconventional. Raised in Dayton, Ohio, she developed an early passion for creativity, spending countless hours sketching as a child. In addition to her love of visual arts, she studied dance and performed with a dance company before pursuing art studies at the University of Cincinnati. Over the next 20 years, Lisa balanced life as a young wife and single mother of two daughters, working various corporate jobs to support her family and ensure her daughters could attend college. At 45, she took a leap of faith and embarked on a career as an artist, discovering her passion for sculpture through Maureen Carlson's book, *How to Make Clay Characters*.

Specializing in polymer clay sculpture, Lisa has exhibited her work at art festivals and fine art galleries across the United States. A member of the International Polymer Clay Association (IPCA), she won the 2012 IPCA Progress and Possibilities "Best in Show" award in the sculpture category. Her work was also featured in the UK publication *The Polymer Clay Artist's Guide* by Marie Segal, showcasing her alongside other renowned polymer clay artists. Now a full-time artist based in Georgia, Lisa continues to create captivating sculptures, reflecting her dedication to her craft and her unyielding faith in her artistic journey.



# THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

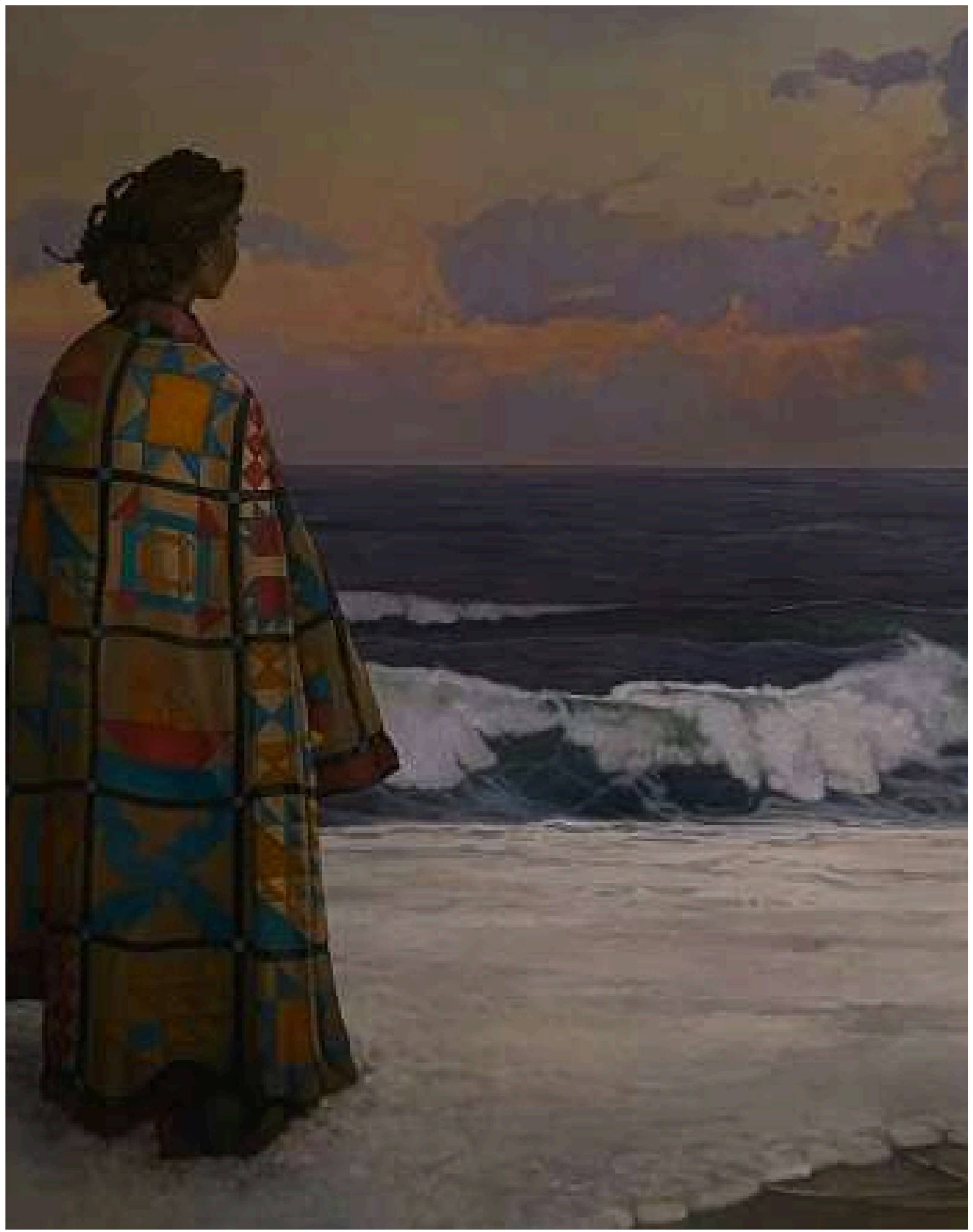
Sculpture



## MASON ARCHIE 1959 -

Mason Archie, born in 1959 in Dayton, Ohio, is a celebrated American artist known for his mastery of traditional realism. Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, Archie began his artistic journey as the Art Director and pictorial artist for Lamar Outdoor Advertising, where he honed his skills over 15 years. He later founded Vital Sign, a commercial sign company, before transitioning to a full-time fine art career in 2005. Drawing inspiration from the old masters and using high-quality materials, Archie has become a prominent figure in the art world, showcasing his work at esteemed venues such as The Schuster Art Center, The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and The National African American Museum Cultural Center. His art reflects a dedication to timeless techniques and an ability to capture depth and emotion.

Archie's work has earned widespread recognition, including features in *The International Review of African American Art*, *American Art Collector*, and *Black Art in America*. Among his accolades are the 2007 Creative Renewal Fellowship from The Arts Council of Indianapolis/Lilly Endowment and the 2020 DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award. A perennial award winner at the Hoosier Salon's Annual Juried Exhibit, he most recently received the 2023 Haan Museum "Generations" Invitational Best of Show Award and the 2024 Hoosier Salon Clowes Collaborative Best of Show Award.



# GUIDE ME HOME

OIL ON CANVAS  
60X48





# WALK THIS WAY

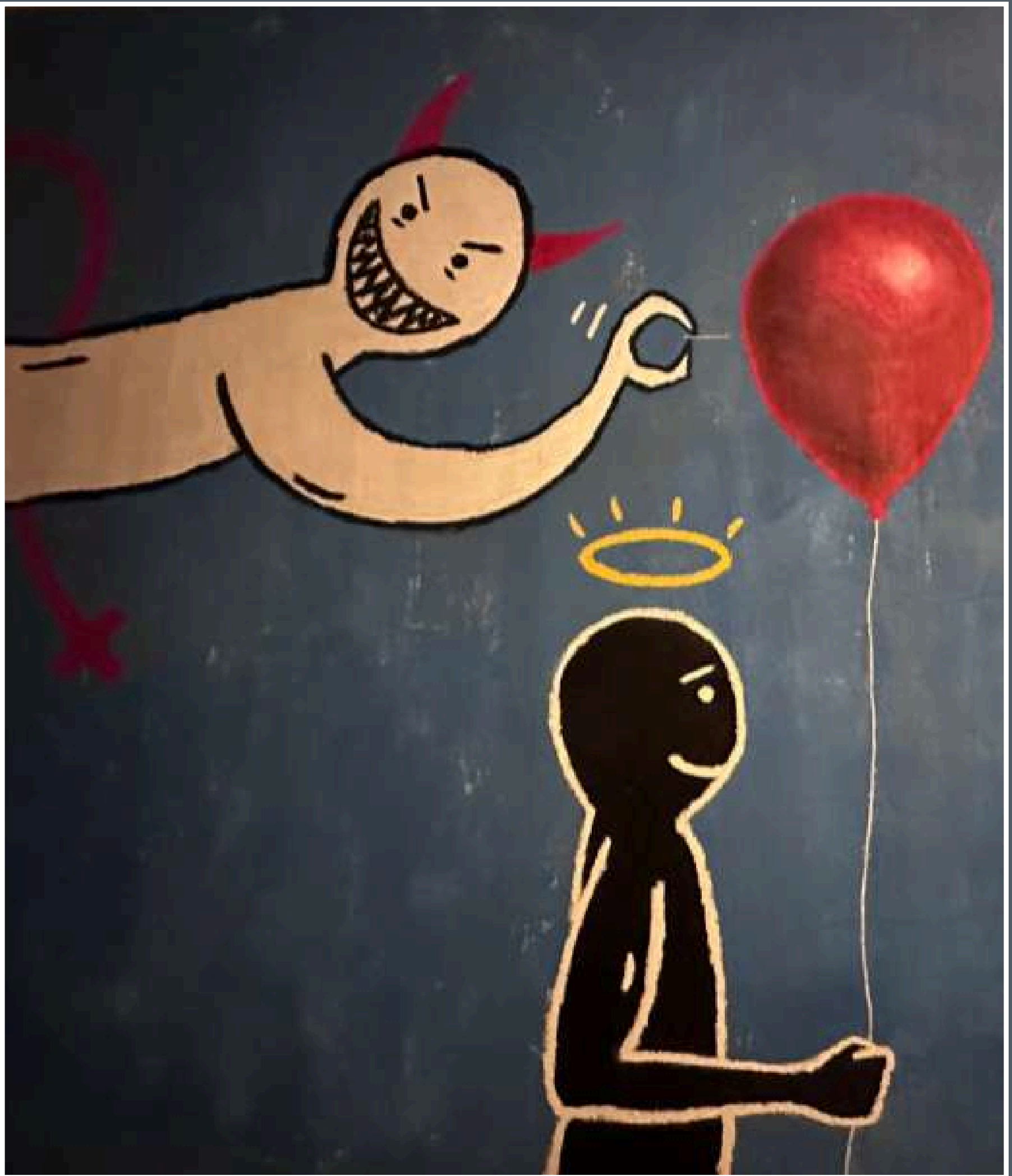
OIL ON CANVAS  
48X24



## NEHEMIAH EDWARDS 1990-

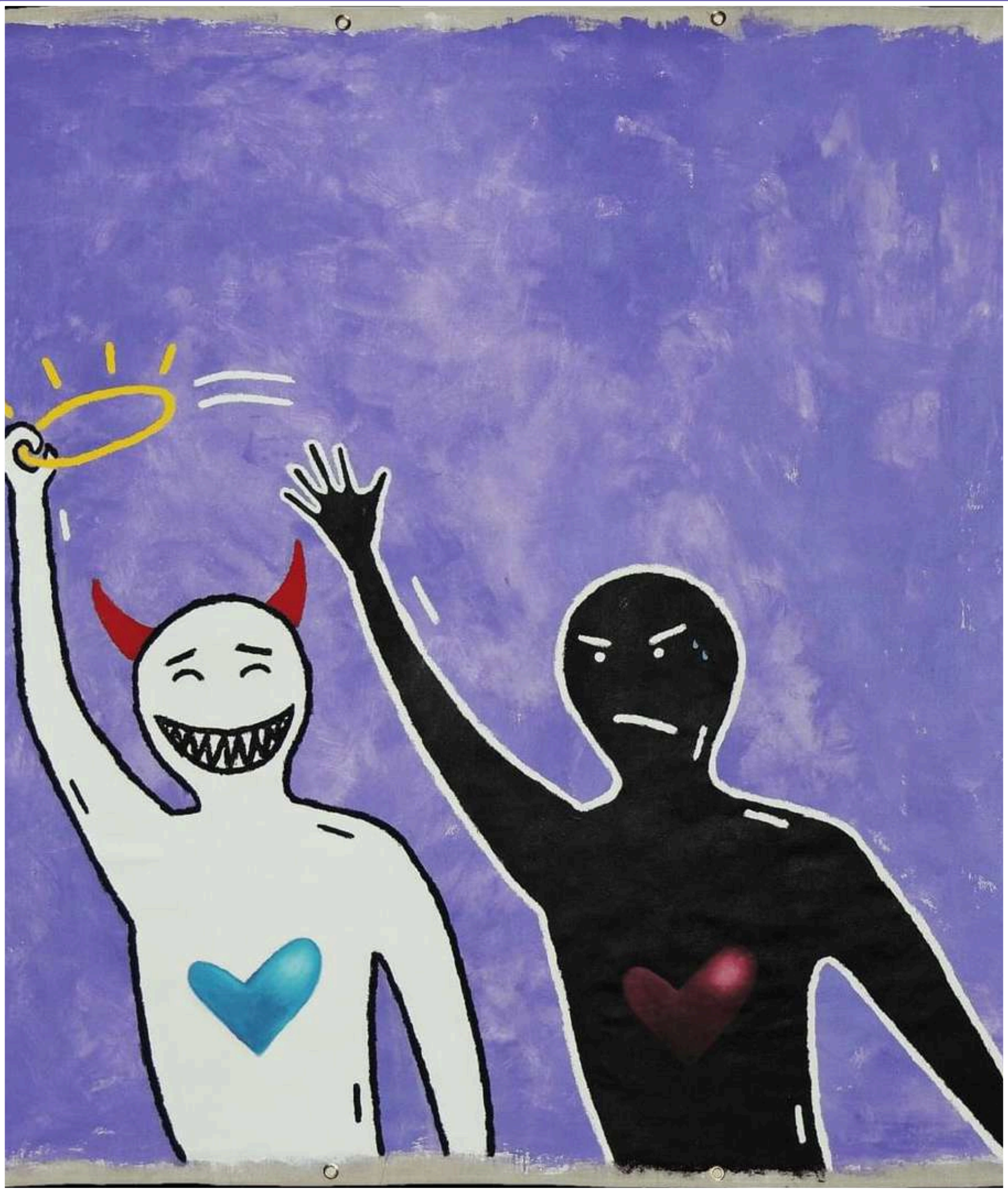
Nehemiah R. Edwards, also known as "Nemo," is a contemporary artist based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, whose expressionistic style explores the interplay between morality and vices. A self-taught painter and digital artist with a background in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Nehemiah creates playful yet thought-provoking works featuring angelic and demonic iconography. His art, infused with whimsy and humor, invites viewers to reflect on their inner struggles and the human condition. Driven by a desire to inspire, his ultimate goal is to help others understand the meaning of true love and inner peace, regardless of their circumstances.

Nehemiah's work has been showcased in prominent exhibitions, including at Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel and the Trout Museum of Art. He has collaborated on projects with esteemed institutions such as the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Aurora Health Care, and the City of Milwaukee. In 2023, he was a grant recipient for the gener8tor x Sherman Phoenix spring cohort and was selected for the inaugural emerging artist program at JMKAC. With a growing base of collectors and admirers, Nehemiah's dedication to his craft and passion for uplifting others through his art position him as a rising star in the contemporary art world.



## P.O.P

OIL ON CANVAS  
58X58 INCHES



# I NEED MY JOY BACK

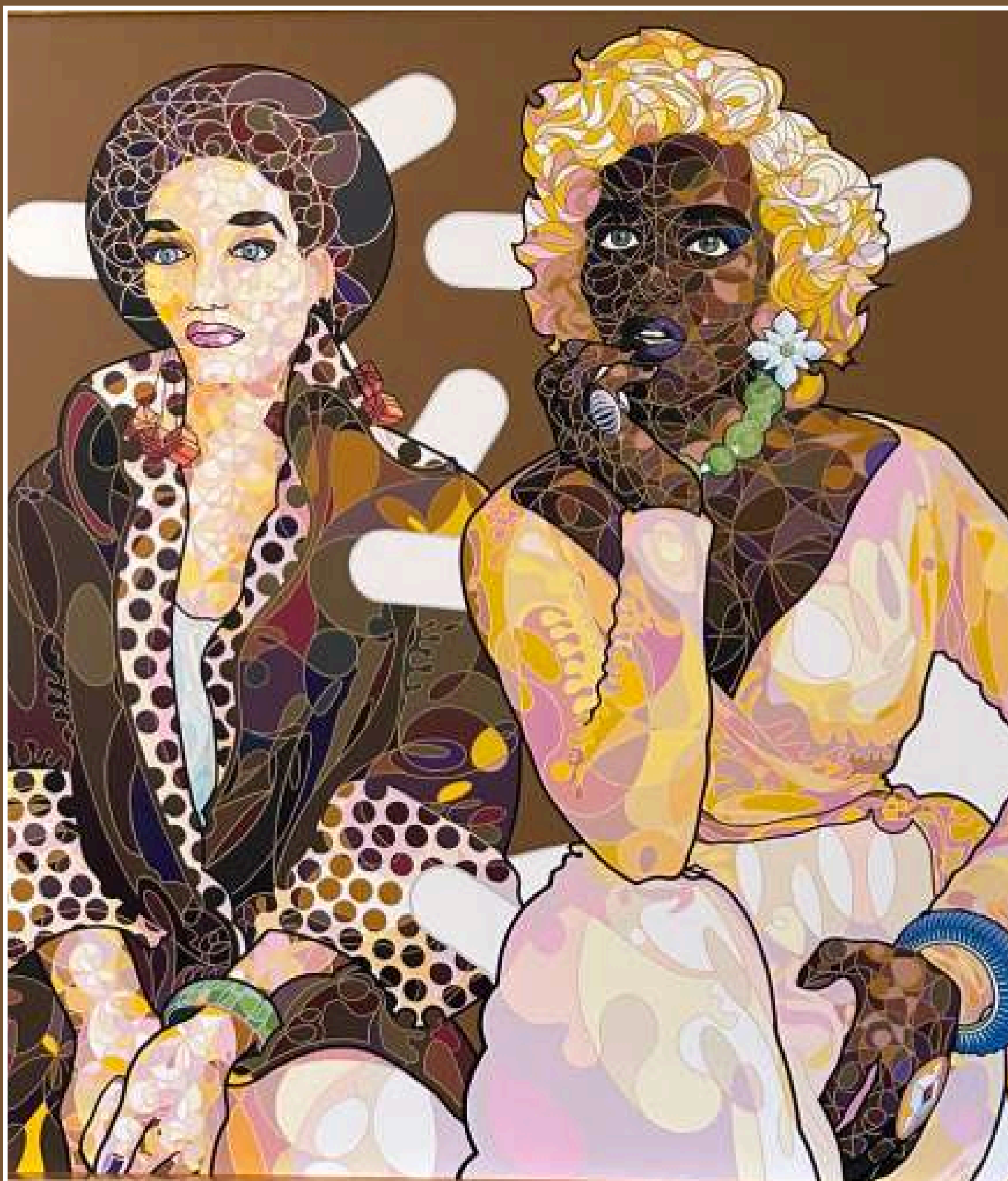
OIL ON CANVAS  
58X58 INCHES



## REGINALD BAYLOR 1966-

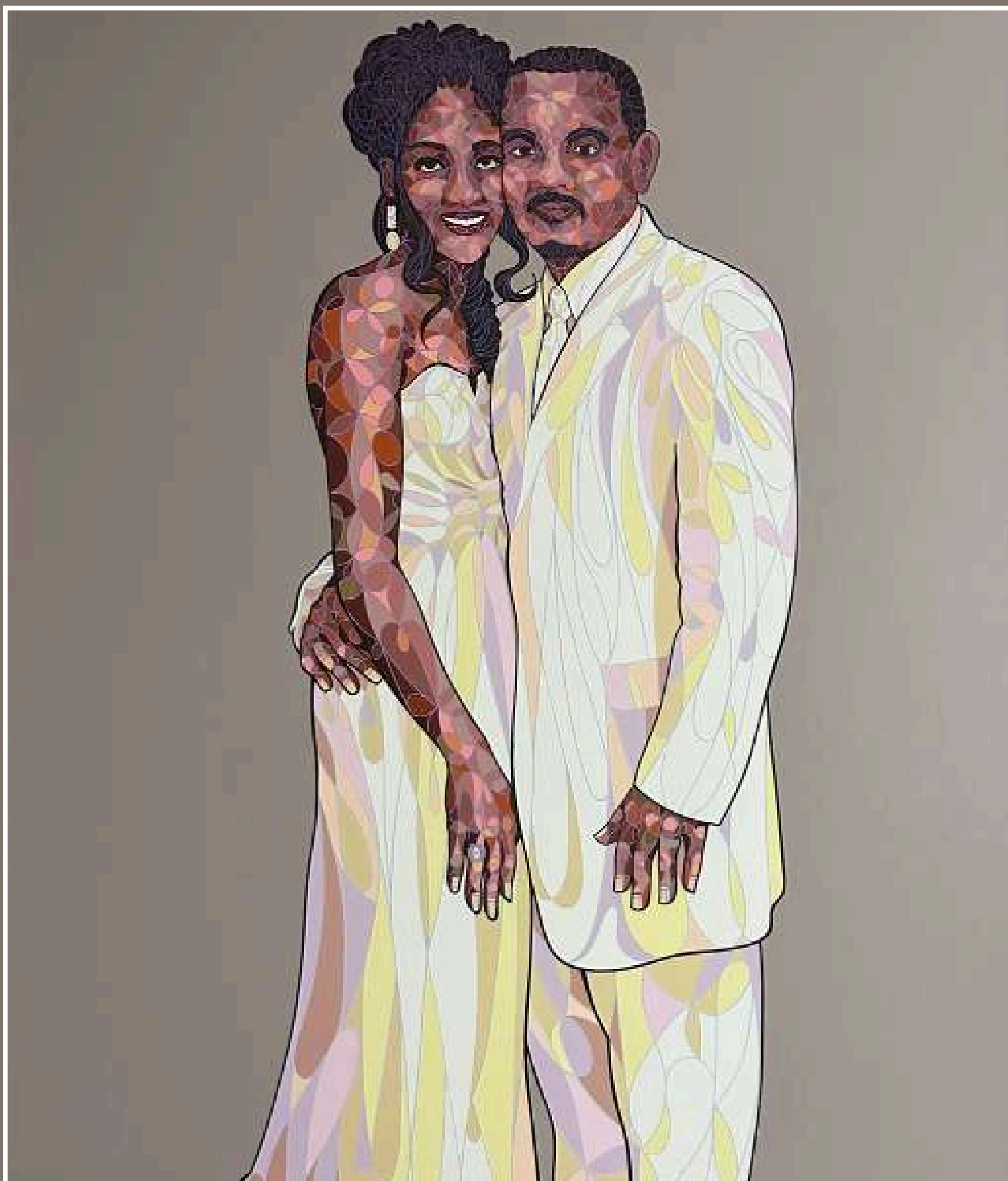
Reginald Baylor (b. 1966) is a celebrated contemporary artist based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, whose vibrant career began with his early distinction as "the artist in the family." Growing up in Milwaukee, he attended Lutheran parochial schools, where his teachers and parents encouraged his artistic talents. After high school, Baylor pursued fine arts at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, initially focusing on sculpture before transitioning to art education. Although he left college just three credits shy of graduation, his artistic journey took shape through invaluable experiences working at the Laguna Beach Art Museum and Newport Art Museum in California, where he shifted from sculpture to acrylic painting. Baylor's work gained traction in 1995 when he began collaborating with art dealer Suzanne Zada, based in Beverly Hills, California.

Baylor relocated to Milwaukee in 1998, dedicating himself full-time to his art practice, which flourished in the city's Third Ward. In 2009, he served as the artist-in-residence at the Pfister Hotel, where he honed his business acumen, learning critical skills in marketing and planning. Today, his studio, Reginald Baylor Studio, located in Walker's Point, operates under the tagline "Manufacturing Creativity," reflecting his mission to innovate and inspire. Baylor credits his mother, Helen Baylor, for introducing him to influential figures like Sande Robinson and Curtis L. Carter, which facilitated his integration into Milwaukee's art community.



## BLACK & BLONDE PAPER DOLLS

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
60X56 INCHES



## WE MARRIED NOW

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
72X48 INCHES

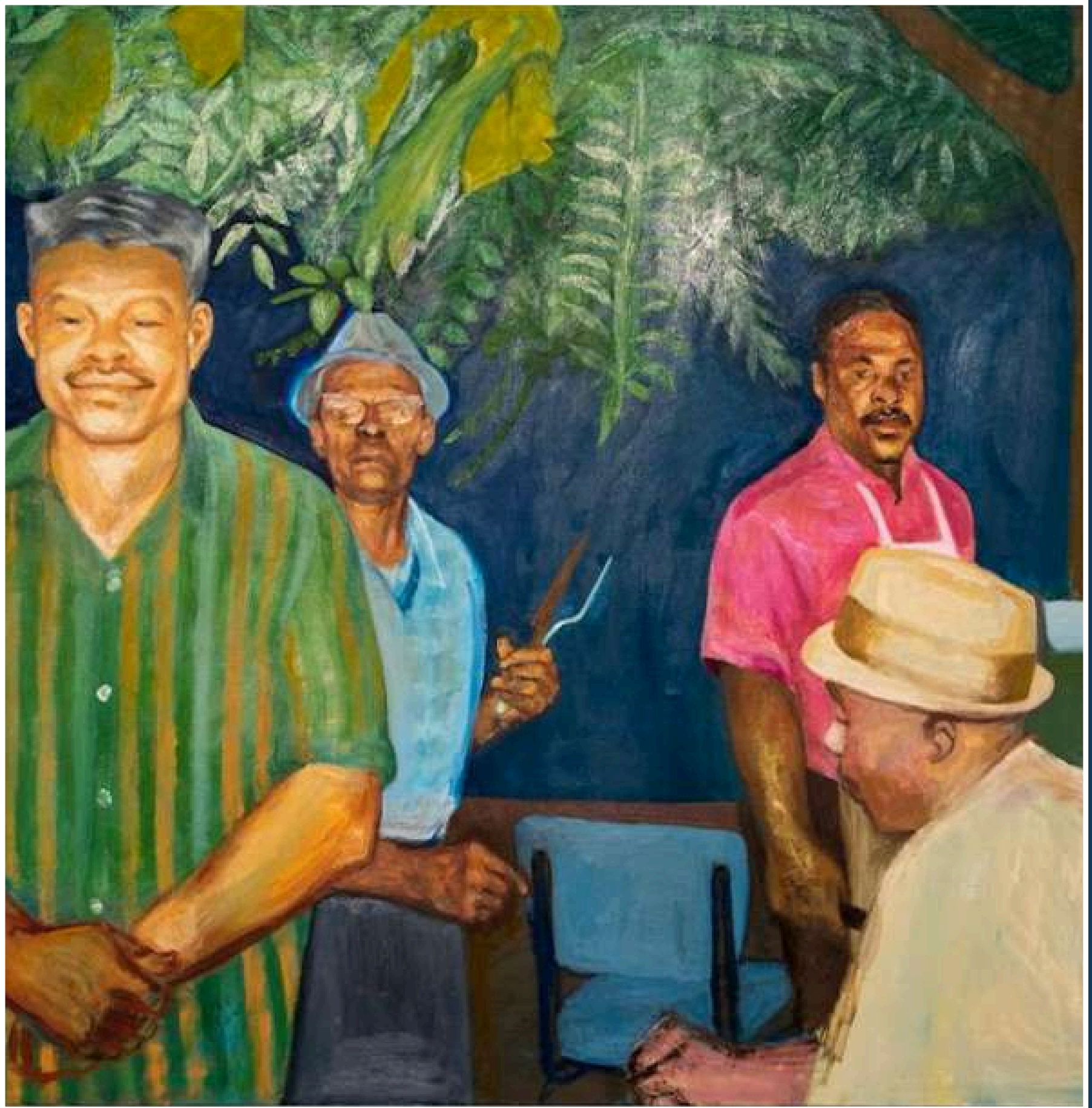


## RICHARD LEWIS 1966 -

Richard Lewis (b. 1966) is a Detroit-born artist celebrated for his exploration of portraiture and African American art. His passion for drawing began at the age of four and deepened by age ten when his godmother encouraged him to study and sketch his family. A graduate of Cass Technical High School (Class of 1985), Lewis pursued his artistic education at the College for Creative Studies, earning a B.F.A., and later obtained a Master's degree from the Yale School of Art. After completing his studies, he returned to Detroit, balancing work as a cab driver with teaching African American art history, further embedding himself in the local arts community. His talent and dedication led to residencies at The Studio Museum in Harlem (1995) and the Henry Street Settlement (1996), followed by a role at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

In 2002, Lewis returned to Detroit, where he continues to nurture his artistic practice and contribute to the city's vibrant art scene. His achievements include receiving the prestigious Kresge Foundation Fellowship in 2011, honoring his significant impact on the arts. Through his evocative portraiture and commitment to exploring African American identity and culture, Lewis has carved out a distinctive space in contemporary art.





## NIGHT TIME BARBEQUE (1968)

OIL ON CANVAS  
72X84 INCHES  
2021



## SAMUEL SOWATEY 1997-

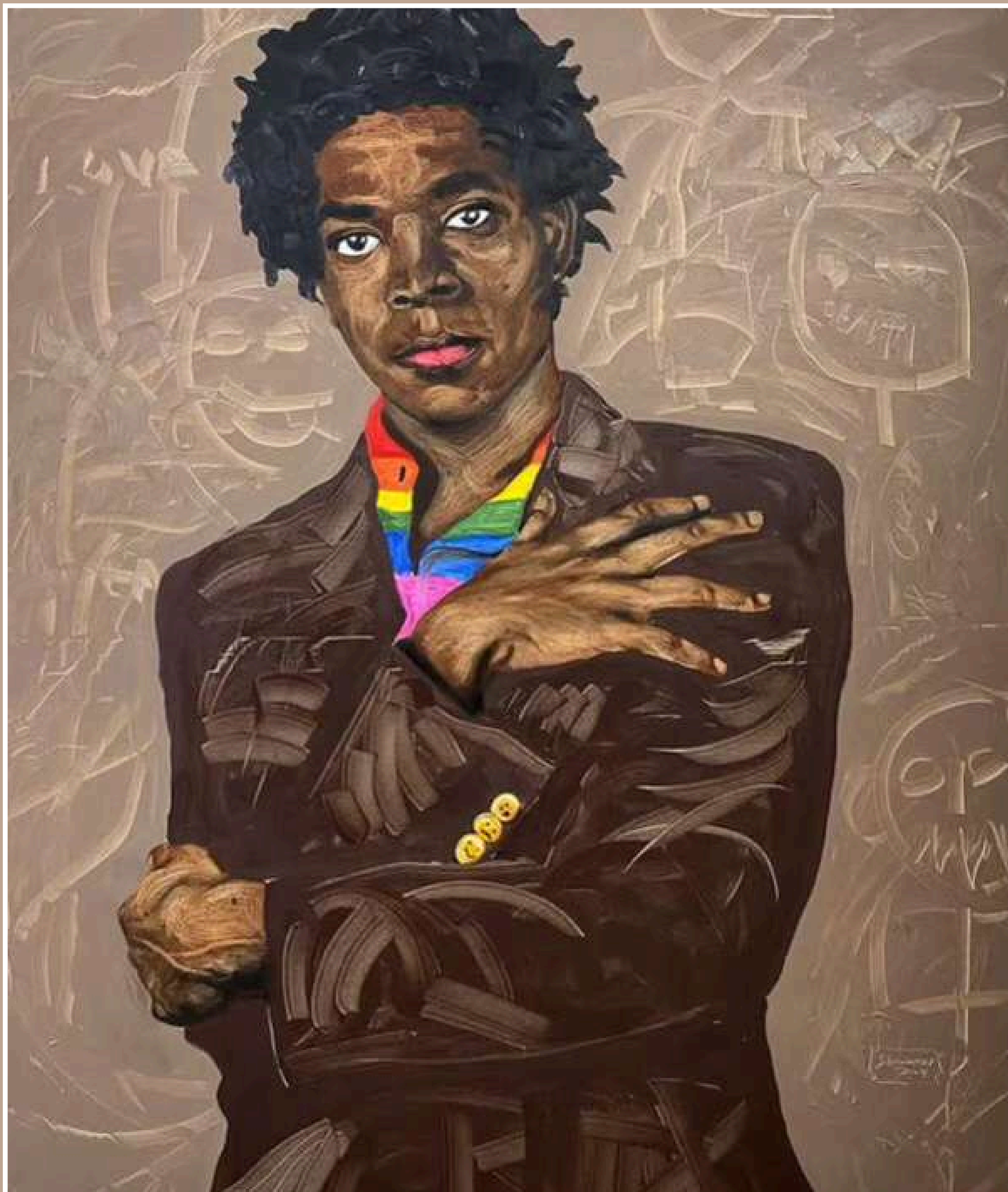
Samuel Nii Sowatey Yemoh (b. 1997) is a self-taught contemporary artist from Accra, Ghana, known for his innovative approach to portraiture. Currently based in the town of LA, he blends realism and expressionism, employing a distinctive technique that incorporates painting with broomsticks for body textures and brushes for clothing details. His medium of choice, oils, perfectly complements his dynamic style. Drawing inspiration from Black culture, Sowatey infuses elements of fashion and lifestyle into his work, creating vibrant and thought-provoking narratives that celebrate identity and heritage.

In addition to his artistic practice, Sowatey has a strong foundation in art history and theory, which informs his nuanced understanding of the cultural and historical contexts that shape artistic expression. This academic background enables him to engage in meaningful dialogues and critically assess the work of fellow artists, fostering a collaborative environment for creative growth. With his vision to seamlessly meld fashion, culture, and art, Samuel Sowatey is emerging as a significant voice in contemporary portraiture, redefining traditional techniques while celebrating the beauty and complexity of Black identity.



# RED WINTER

PAINTING OIL ON CANVAS  
78X73



# DUALITY

PAINTING OIL ON CANVAS  
86X61 INCHES



## SHARON SPRUNG 1953 -

Sharon Sprung (b. 1953) is an acclaimed contemporary painter known for her masterful use of oil paint to explore the complexity of human emotion and experience. Her work is a meticulous negotiation of form and substance, layer by layer, to create animated, breathing images that are both familiar and deeply evocative. Merging a reverence for realism with abstract pattern and texture, Sprung's paintings bridge the personal and universal, inviting viewers to engage with her subjects in ways that are both commanding and introspective. Her compositions often feature a dynamic interplay between subject and environment, utilizing echoes and repetitions to unify the imagery while maintaining an intricate respect for detail.

Influenced by masters such as Caravaggio, Velázquez, Egon Schiele, and Käthe Kollwitz, Sprung's work embodies a profound respect for the individual, exploring themes of strength, resilience, sensuality, and the human condition with striking clarity. Her belief in the transformative power of painting is evident in her ability to infuse pigment and medium with the luminosity of the soul, making her work resonate on both emotional and intellectual levels. Through her craft, Sprung continues to push the boundaries of oil painting, creating art that is as complex and vibrant as life itself.



## PAINTING EMERGENCE

OIL ON PANEL  
36X40 INCHES



## TIM OKAMURA 1968-

Tim Okamura (b. 1968) is a Canadian-born artist whose work explores identity, the urban environment, and cultural iconography through a unique blend of realism, street art, and mixed media. Combining academic portraiture with the raw energy of spray paint and collage, Okamura creates a contemporary visual language that bridges traditional storytelling with modern motifs. His paintings are celebrated for their ability to juxtapose the timeless depth of human emotion with the dynamic vibrancy of urban life. Okamura earned a BFA with Distinction from the Alberta College of Art and Design and an MFA in Illustration as Visual Journalism from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Based in Brooklyn since 1993, he has established himself as a prominent figure in contemporary art.

Okamura's work has been recognized internationally, earning him the 2004 Fellowship in Painting from the New York Foundation for the Arts and nine appearances in the prestigious BP Portrait Award Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London. He was shortlisted in 2006 for a commissioned portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and has been honored for his work addressing social justice issues, including a 2015 invitation to The White House. His art has been featured in major exhibitions, such as *Still I Rise* at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2020), and is included in significant public and private collections, including the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Davis Museum at Wellesley College, and the Jiménez Colón Museum. With a career spanning decades and continents, Okamura continues to challenge and redefine portraiture through his innovative fusion of tradition and contemporary culture.



# APHRODITE

OIL ON CANVAS  
68X40





## UPON REFLECTION

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
48X48



## ERIN SMITH 1985 -

Erin M. Smith Glenn (b. 1985) is an associate professor of art and a proud alumna of Central State University (CSU), one of only 16 HBCUs nationwide with a fully accredited Fine Arts program. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in 2D Studio Art from the University of Cincinnati, where she honed her skills in various media and mixed media practices. Since 2009, the year she earned her M.F.A. and welcomed her daughter, Erin has exhibited her work across the United States, including in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Vermont, Texas, Louisiana, Illinois, and an internationally recognized exhibit in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2022, her painting of her daughter earned the prestigious Best in Show award at the New Woman art exhibit in Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted collaboratively by the Pendleton Arts Center and the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC).

In March 2024, Erin became the inaugural artist for the Elizabeth Nourse Gallery in the newly constructed Clifton Cultural Arts Center. The gallery honors Cincinnati native Elizabeth Nourse, the first woman to gain international fame for her art, and is dedicated to amplifying women artists, addressing the stark underrepresentation of women's works in galleries and museums. Erin's keynote speech at CSU's 137th Charter Day celebration the same year further underscored her dedication to elevating underrepresented voices. In alignment with her mission to increase the visibility of Black women artists, Erin's work was selected for Riveting, an international exhibition of women artists from the esteemed collection of Sara V. Waddell, displayed from Juneteenth to September 2024.



# HULA HOOPING

OIL ON ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
30X40



# SWANGING

OIL ON ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
30X40



## BUS STOP BLUES

OIL ON ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
30X40



## DANIEL AYOMIDE EMMANUEL 1999-

Daniel Ayomide Emmanuel (b. 1999, Delta State) is a Nigerian artist based in the ancient city of Ibadan, Oyo State, whose evocative work explores the intricate layers of human emotion and the nuances of life. Employing a blend of oil and acrylic on canvas, Emmanuel's distinctive style merges realism with the musical rhythms of human existence. His art delves deeply into the complexities of the Black experience, offering viewers a profound emotional connection and a lens through which to examine universal themes that bind us all. Through formal education, self-study, and participation in exhibitions and collaborations, he has honed his craft, gaining recognition both locally and internationally.

A graduate of the Polytechnic of Ibadan with a National Diploma in Mass Communication, Emmanuel continues to expand his artistic horizons, showcasing his work across Nigeria, the USA, Europe, and North America. His pieces invite contemplation and dialogue, reflecting his passion for storytelling and the exploration of the African human experience. With a portfolio celebrated for its depth and originality, Emmanuel welcomes opportunities for collaborations and exhibitions that align with his commitment to creativity and cultural expression. Follow his artistic journey on Instagram @danielemmanuel.a\_ to witness his captivating exploration of identity, connection, and the transformative power of art.



## ALONENESS 2

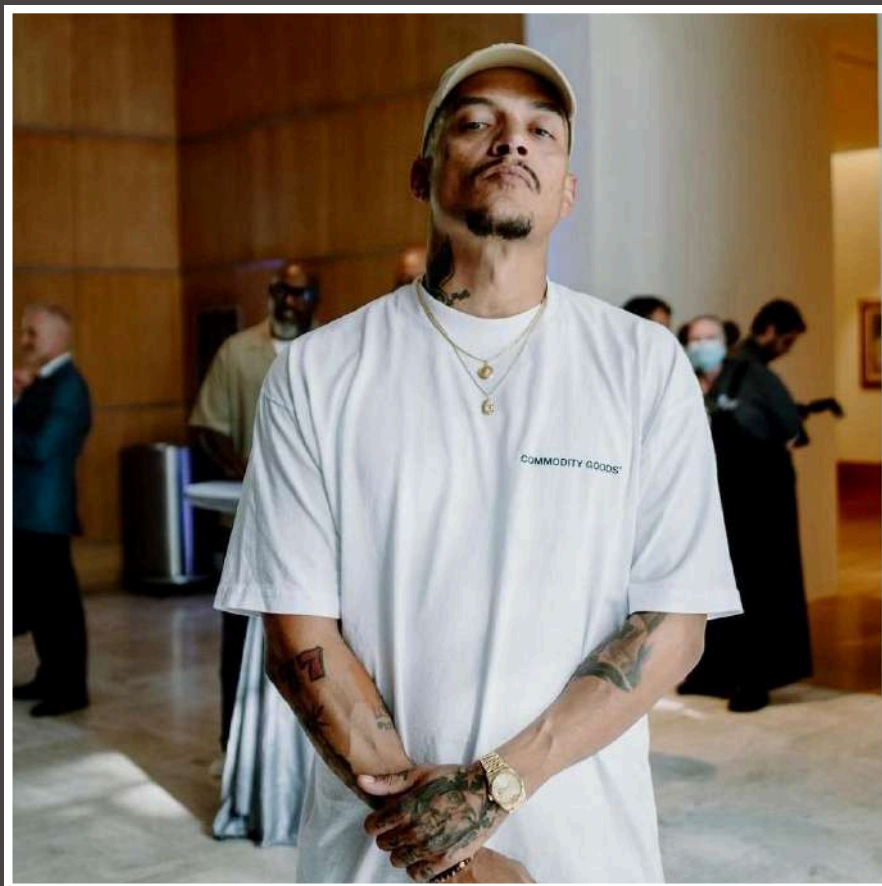
OIL AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
36X48  
2024



## SITTING LADY 2.

OIL AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
48X 48  
2024.





## ROBERT (BMOORE) MOORE 1983-

Robert Moore (b. 1983, Des Moines, Iowa) is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist whose work delves into the intersections of socio-political events, cultural criticism, and collective identity within the African American experience. Although Moore began drawing as a child, he fully committed to a dedicated studio practice as an adult, using art as a medium for healing and personal rehabilitation. His bold and thought-provoking creations have garnered a loyal following worldwide, reflecting his belief that art should not only be seen but deeply felt. In 2023, Moore debuted his first solo exhibition, *Out the Mud*, at ThinkSpace in Los Angeles, and his work has been featured in prominent group exhibitions such as *Operation Varsity Blues* at Allouche Gallery in New York and *Masterpiece II* at Band of Vices in Los Angeles.

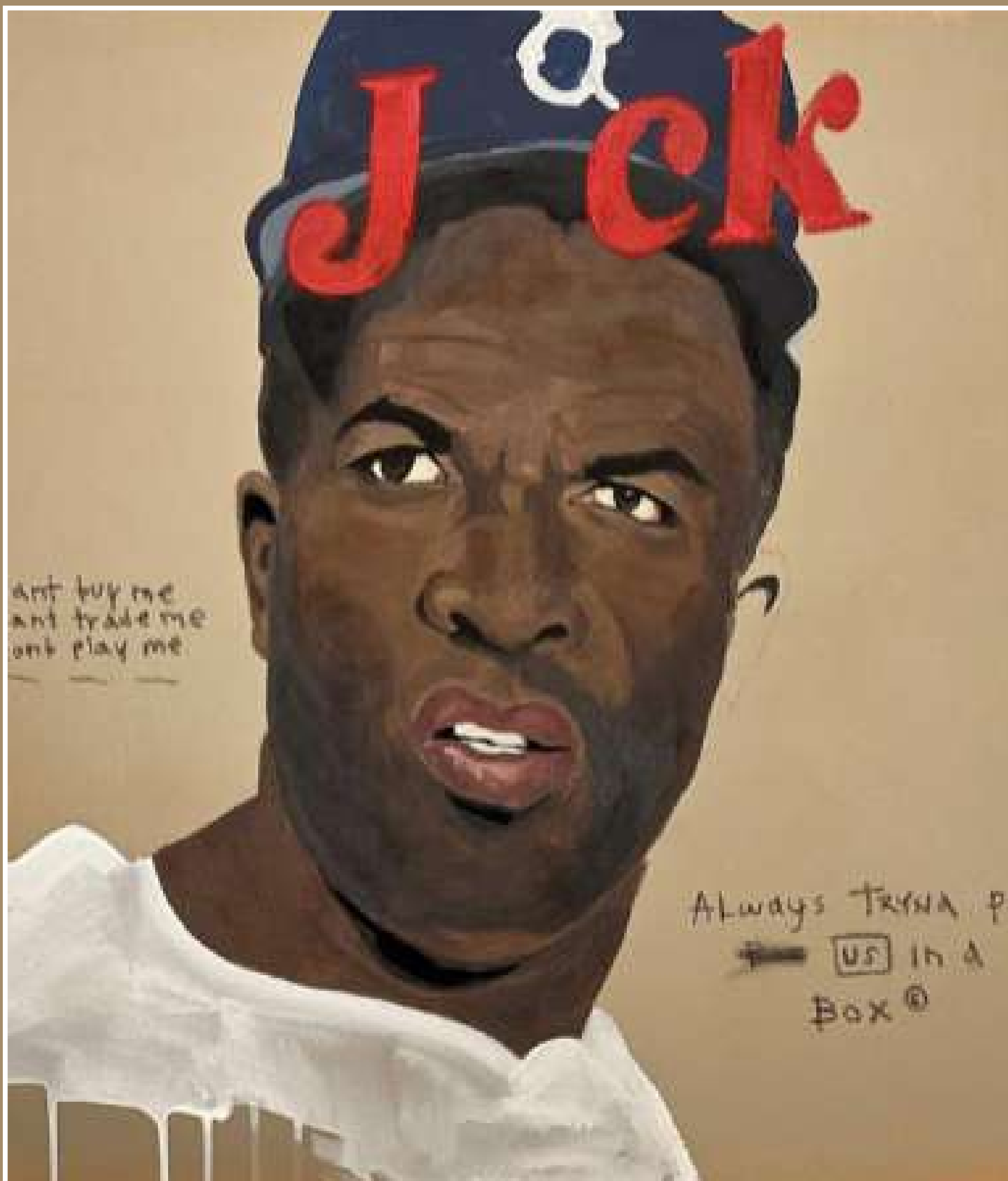
Moore's work resides in esteemed public and private collections, including the Louisiana Museum of Art and History, the Des Moines Art Center, and notable collections such as those of Dr. Joy Simmons, CFP Ayesha Selden, DJ D-Nice, and actor Taye Diggs. His art has been spotlighted in prominent publications like *Ebony Magazine*, *Design Milk*, and *Complex*. Known for creating pieces that resonate emotionally, Moore seeks to inspire viewers to feel seen and understood, fostering a connection that transcends the visual. With his dynamic artistic voice and commitment to exploring the human condition, Robert Moore continues to leave an indelible mark on the contemporary art world.

# TOP COVER



# HANK AARON

OIL ON CANVAS  
24X30 INCHES



# HANK AARON

OIL ON CANVAS  
24X30 INCHES



## DOUBLE HEADED GOAT

OIL ON CANVAS  
30X40



## ROBERT PETERSON 1981-

Robert Peterson (b. 1981) is a contemporary figurative painter renowned for his emotive portraiture that celebrates the strength, resilience, and beauty of Black identity. Based in Lawton, Oklahoma, Peterson has rapidly emerged as one of the nation's most celebrated artists, exhibiting his vibrant works in prominent art markets both domestically and internationally. His paintings seek to highlight a softer, more intimate portrayal of Black people—an aspect he believes is underrepresented in galleries and museums. Initially drawing inspiration from stock images and celebrity photographs, Peterson's artistic approach evolved as he began photographing men, women, and children from his own life, creating deeply personal works that reflect his understanding of the Black experience.

Peterson views his artistic journey as an ongoing process of exploration and self-discovery, embracing different mediums, subjects, and techniques to push his creative boundaries. Since 2020, his paintings have drawn directly from his personal experiences, infusing his work with authenticity and emotional depth. With a commitment to creating art that inspires connection and representation, Peterson continues to refine his craft while honoring the stories of his community.



## TO LOVE THYSELF

OIL ON CANVAS  
40X36 INCHES



## SMALL TOWN GIRL

OIL ON CANVAS  
40X36 INCHES