

# NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE

## THE CURATOR AND THE VISION

The Black Art Feature seeks to highlight and celebrate the many great Black artists that are based in North Carolina. Keeping in alignment with the 2025 theme, we're highlighting Black artists that explores the interconnected relationship between environmental justice and social justice. This *Parallel Purpose* seeks to create an awareness and educate audiences around systemic racism and environmental injustice, to be prepared for change in the fight for a just and equitable world.

Mr. Roymieco Carter is our 2025 curator. Carter is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the Visual Arts Program of North Carolina A&T State University. Carter's artistry serves as a catalyst for introspection and dialogue on global platforms.



Photo courtesy of Roymieco Carter

# Artists

## *Four Before Rosa #1* - Marvette Pratt Aldrich

Winston-Salem, NC



Acrylic on Canvas, 2011. Photo Courtesy of Marvette Pratt Aldrich

### Artist's Insight

“Four Before Rosa” represents the four women who were part of the Supreme Court decision that integrated the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. They were protesting before the well known Rosa Parks. I used a Simplicity dress design from the time of the decision. Plaintiffs in the case Aurelia S. Browder, Susie McDonald, Claudette Colvin, Mary Louise Smith, and Jeanatta Reese. The colors in the dresses are complementary to each background of the dress.

## *Gaia's Rebirth: The Digital Garden* - Gabrielle Edwards

Greensboro, NC

### Artist's Insight

This artwork envisions a cybertronic Mother Nature, where technology and the natural world converge in a delicate balance of abstraction and realism. Drawn with charcoal, the figure of Mother Nature pulses with both organic grace and digital precision, symbolizing a new era of environmental justice where innovation and ecology are intertwined. The wooden frame, made of grass, twigs, and vines collected from the outside, reinforces our collective responsibility to nurture not only the environment but also the mental and emotional landscapes, acknowledging that true justice begins within and radiates outward.



Photo Courtesy of Gabrielle Edwards

## *A Drive Through the Neighborhood* - Karrington Gardner

Greensboro, NC



Acrylic and Oil Paint on wood, 2024. Photo Courtesy of Karrington Gardner

### Artist's Insight

This artwork shows the compression of time and space as I traveled through my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. In this artwork, I juxtaposed places old and new; places that time has since forgotten and places time has yet to know. This juxtaposition reflects my experience of seeing these once active areas deteriorate and become part of the landscape while new developments continue to pop up not even 5 minutes down the street. As communities continue to gentrify, it is the marginalized groups that are often left with the brunt of these environmental hazards.

*A Monument to Dignity and Respect (Twin Monuments)*- **Vandorn Hinnant**  
Greensboro/Durham, NC

Artist's Insight

These twin monuments pay homage to the long history of key African descendants living in the Americas efforts to 'foster social equity' in a climate predisposed to engendering inequality based on race and ethnicity. The central message has to do with the notion that 'justice for all' is the only real (i.e. true) justice. This notion of 'justice for all' is inclusive of the fact that environmental inequities have been the way of a corrupt system of government that must be rooted out and replaced. The inscriptions on each of the monuments are from three individuals who lived in the community the monuments are located on.



Photo Courtesy of Vandorn Hinnant

*Tranquility of a Progressive Black Woman* - **Dr. Willie F. Hooker**  
Charlotte, NC



Mixed Media Sculpture. Photo Courtesy of Willie Hooker

Artist's Insight

"Tranquility of a Progressive Black Woman" represents the new narrative of the contemporary African American woman's dissatisfaction with racism, gender inequality, and the aesthetic absence of the black image of African American women as subject matter in contemporary American Art.

*Village@Krofom I*- **Charles Joyner**  
Wake Forest, NC

Artist's Insight

My creative interests have been rooted in the history, culture, and traditions of African and African American communities. During my travels in Ghana, I enjoyed unprecedented access to numerous traditional craft villages. Through engagement with Ghanaian artists and craftspeople, that access has contributed to my creation of mixed media works that explore cross-cultural norms, ancestry, rituals, religion, and spirituality, which permeates these communities.

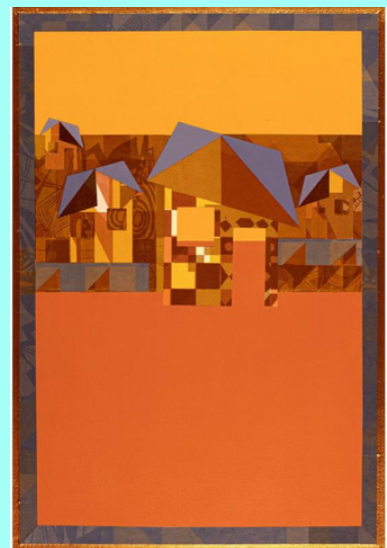


Photo Courtesy of Dwight Smith

## *Congolese Dreams-* Jessica Kelly Charlotte, NC



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Kelly

### Artist's Insight

Congolese Dreams encapsulates the allure and experiences of the indigenous peoples of the Congo, a region currently under the relentless exploitation of its natural resources. These minerals, extracted from the earth, play a pivotal role in the global technological advancement. However, the extraction process often subjects the indigenous communities to modern slavery and damages the environment. This narrative delves into the resilience of the men, women, and children who endure these hardships. It serves as a poignant reminder that they are part of a global and intergalactic family, bound by a commitment to support them by any means necessary.

## *Reflections of Legacy-* Darlene McClinton Greensboro, NC

### Artist's Insight

Darlene McClinton's murals serve as powerful tools for education and all forms of social change. Through vibrant imagery and thoughtful narratives, her work explores themes of history, nature, identity, and community. By visually representing the past and present experiences of marginalized groups, McClinton aims to foster empathy, understanding, and a sense of shared humanity across generations. Her murals act as catalysts for dialogue, encouraging viewers to reflect on the past, engage with the present, and envision a better future.



Photo Courtesy of Darlene McClinton

## *Revelations #1-* Dwight Smith Fayetteville, NC

### Curator Insight

My practice, though seemingly non-representational, is deeply rooted in personal and collective histories. Its subtle references to African, African-American, and multicultural imagery, seeks to amplify marginalized voices and celebrate the rich tapestry of human experience. This commitment to social justice naturally extends to environmental justice. Just as we must strive for equity and inclusion within our communities, we must also recognize our interconnectedness with the natural world. It encourages contemplation on our place within the larger ecosystem and prompts us to consider our responsibility to protect and nurture the environment for future generations. I aim to inspire dialogue, foster awareness, and ultimately contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all.



Photo Courtesy of Dwight Smith