



GALERIE MYRTIS
FINE ART & ADVISORY

Dear Patron of the Arts:

Through the act of artistic activism, Black artists created thought-provoking and compelling works in protest of the past year's injustices. Their imagery sparked discourse that reverberated worldwide and advanced the conversation to a global platform. As we contemplate the future of Black existence, we turn again to artists to be the voice of discontent, beauty, and truth in an exploration of what's to come.

As a champion of Black artists, Galerie Myrtis will play a key role in shaping the future dialogue surrounding the African American experience and present those concerns internationally through its participation in the most prestigious art fair in the world, the Venice Biennial, by invitation of the European Cultural Centre-Italy (ECC-Italy) who will host *Personal Structures: Time, Space and Existence*, held April 23 - November 27, 2022.

In exploring the theme of Black life on the continuum of its imagined future, Galerie Myrtis will present *The Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined*, an investigation of the African American experience constructed through a futurist lens. The exhibition allows for a global conversation on socio-economic inequalities and systemic racism; while celebrating Black culture and paying tribute to the resiliency, creativity, ingenuity, and spirituality that has historically sustained Black people.

The exhibition will feature the works of artists at the forefront of the contemporary art movement:

- Tawny Chatmon
- Larry Cook
- Morel Doucet
- Monica Ikegwu
- M. Scott Johnson
- Delita Martin
- Arvie Smith
- Felandus Thames



Palazzo Bembo, Venice, Italy
Image courtesy ECC-Italy

The ECC-Italy will present *Personal Structures* in three Venetian palazzos and two gardens. The *Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined* will be held in Palazzo Bembo. The event is free and runs from April – November 2022, and expects to draw over **600,000** visitors from around the world.

As the founding director of Galerie Myrtis, I ask your support in raising **\$500,000** to secure the exhibition space, fund artists' programs, cover art transport fees, and ECC-Italy's staff and logistic services throughout the seven- month duration of the exhibition.

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



During my thirty years in the field, I have curated over one hundred exhibitions. The success of those efforts was always in collaboration with talented artists. But equally important was the patronage of collectors, such as yourself, whose commitment to preserving Black art and its rightful place in the Western canon has been unwavering.

I look to you now and ask for your support in Galerie Myrtis's historic journey to the Venice Biennale, as it is the first Black-owned gallery invited to participate. Share in this history-making moment, which will be life-changing for the artists and myself, have a global impact on the arts, and be documented as part of your cultural legacy.

Myrtis Bedolla, Founding Director
Galerie Myrtis

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING & CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Galerie Myrtis has developed educational programs centered around *Personal Structures'* themes of Time, Space and Existence. Art will serve as the universal language to educate, bridge communities and cultures, and break down language barriers.

Artists will offer a series of special activities to engage the Afro-Italian community for cross-cultural experiences, such as youth programs, photography workshops, and lectures.

Tawny Chatmon, Photographer will celebrate Afro-Italian children through a series of portrait sessions.



Deeply Embedded: God, Photography, Photo-manipulation, Montage, Superimposition, 2016

Larry Cook, Photographer and Educator, will collaborate with formerly incarcerated photographers to share their stories and craft through traditional studio portraiture.

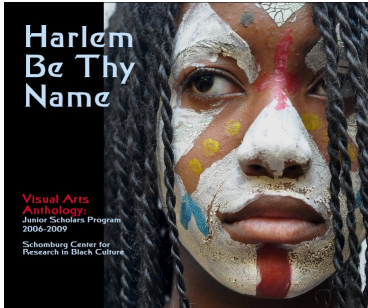


The Visiting Room #4, Digital Archival Print, 2019

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING & CULTURAL EXCHANGE

M. Scott Johnson, Sculptor and Educator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture's Junior Scholar Program, will offer a bookmaking session with Afro-Italian teens to imagine their future.



Harlem Be Thy Name by Junior Scholars and M. Scott Johnson, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 2006-2009

Delita Martin, Master Printmaker and Textile Artist will offer printmaking workshops with Afro-Italian women to create narrative works that speak to their spirituality and creativity.



New Beginnings, Acrylic, Relief printing, Lithography, Charcoal, Decorative papers, Hand-stitching, 54" x 74", 2017

Painter, educator, Arvie Smith will work with Afro-Italian incarcerated youth. Participants will learn approaches to pencil and figure drawing. Skills in drawing equip the artist with the means of communication in the universal language of art.



Manumissions, Oil on Canvas, 68" x 120", diptych, 2006

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Acknowledging Your Support - Beyond ECC's initiatives to acknowledge sponsor support, Galerie Myrtis will launch a public relations campaign to promote its participation in *Personal Structures* and highlight contributors at all levels.



Image courtesy ECC-Italy 1

About the European Cultural Centre - The ECC-Italy is part of the larger European Cultural Centre (ECC) worldwide network that organizes contemporary art, architecture, and design exhibitions. In addition, they organize symposiums, meetings, workshops, educational programs, and many other cultural events. The ECC also has centers in Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, India, South Africa, and the USA. The European Cultural Centre headquarters is in the Netherlands. <https://ecc-italy.eu>



*Image courtesy Christopher Bedolla
Ronald Jackson, Artist*

About Galerie Myrtis - Founded in 2006 by Myrtis Bedolla, Galerie Myrtis is an emerging blue-chip gallery and art advisory specializing in twentieth and twenty-first-century American art with a focus on work created by African American artists.

The gallery's mission is to utilize the visual arts to raise awareness for artists who deserve recognition for their contributions in artistically portraying our cultural, social, historical, and political landscapes; and to recognize art movements that paved the way for freedom of artistic expression. <https://galeriemyrtis.net>

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Olivia by Monica Ikegwu



MEET THE ARTISTS



*Bust of Benjamin Banneker:
Father of Afrofuturism* by
M. Scott Johnson



*It was Never Your Burden to
Carry* by Tawny Chatmon



The Courtship by Arvie Smith



The Visiting Room, #1 by
Larry Cook



The Gathering Space by
Delita Martin



Reframe (Mike Tyson) by
Felandus Thames



*Night Garden: In the
Moonlight the Stars Chatter*
by Morel Doucet

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

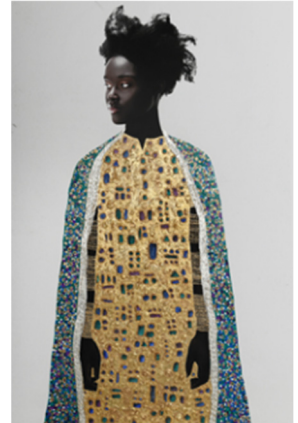
For additional information on the artists visit Galeriemyrtis.net/venice

Tawny Chatmon



Tawny Chatmon (b. 1979, Tokyo, Japan) is a self-taught, award-winning artist who has been working in the field of photography for more than 17 years. The primary theme that drives Chatmon's practice is celebrating the beauty of black childhood. She is currently devoted to creating portraits that are inspired by artworks spanning various periods in Western Art with the intent of bringing to the forefront faces that were often under-celebrated in this style of work.

Museum Collection:
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of
African-American Art



Then She Said I Never Asked You To Worship Me
2020, 24k gold leaf, 12k gold leaf, Acrylic on Archival
Pigment Print, 40" x 26"

Larry Cook



Larry Cook (b. 1986, Laurel, Maryland) is an award-winning photographer and conceptual artist whose work spans installation, video, and photography. Cook's work explores the cultural aesthetic of "club" photography to examine how urban culture and incarceration systems become entwined through backdrops. The backdrop is central for its relationship to the formal, social, and cultural aspects of photographic history.

Museum Collections:
Baltimore Museum of Art (promised gift)
Museum of Modern Art
Harvard Art Museums



The Visiting Room, #2, 2019
Digital Print, 40" x 30"

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Morel Doucet



Morel Doucet (b. 1990, Pilate, Haiti) is a Miami-based multidisciplinary artist and arts educator that hails from Haiti. He employs ceramics, illustrations, and prints to examine the realities of climate-gentrification, migration, and displacement within the Black diaspora communities.

Museum Collections (selected):
Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)
UK Contemporary Art Society, Plymouth Box Museum
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art



Stop and smell the roses (Black bodies stain the pavement in crimson red), 2020, Acrylic on wood, Mylar, Aerosol paint, Flora and Fauna, 40" x 30"

Monica Ikegwu



Monica Ikegwu (b.1998, Baltimore, Maryland) is a figurative painter. She presents her ideas of the figure in a way that is not only captivating, but also unconventional in her use of color, texture, and composition.

Museum Collection:
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art



*Jacob, 2020
Oil on Canvas, 36" x 36"*

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M. Scott Johnson



M. Scott Johnson (b. 1968, Inkster, Michigan) is a New York City-based artist and educator, has carved out a legacy as one of the most stimulating and unique artists of his generation. M. Scott has explored, both in his practice and through his 20-year visual arts teaching residency at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York, a rich vision of contemporary Afro-aesthetics.

Museum Collections:
The Hampton University Museum
The Schomburg Center Research in Black Culture
Embassy of Oslo Norway, Arts in Embassies Program



High John the Conqueror, 2009
Bardiglio Nuvolato Marble,
54" x 20" x 20"

Delita Martin



Delita Martin (b. 1972, Conroe, Texas) is a master printmaker, illustrator, and painter based in Huffman, Texas. Through the weaving of history and storytelling, Martin offers a new narrative on the power of women whose stories are not only layered in textures and techniques but also symbolism.

Museum Collections (selected):
Crystal Bridges Museum
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Museum of American Art
National Museum of Women in the Arts
Library of Congress
The Studio Museum in Harlem
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art



Night Bird, 2020
Relief printing, Charcoal, Acrylic, Liquid gold leaf, Decorative papers, Hand stitching, 42" x 30"

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Arvie Smith



Arvie Smith (b.1938, Houston, Texas) transforms the history of oppressed and stereotyped segments of the American experience into lyrical two-dimensional master works.

Museum Collections (selected):
Delaware Museum of Art
Hallie Ford Museum of Art
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African-American Art
Portland Art Museum
Reginald F. Lewis Museum



2Up and 2Back, 2019
Oil on Canvas, 72" x 60"

Felandus Thames



Felandus Thames (b. 1974, Jackson, Mississippi) is a conceptual artist living and practicing in the greater New York area. Thames' work attempts to transcend didacticisms that are typically associated with anachronistic understandings of representation and instead aligns itself with ideas around the taxonomy of human difference.

Museum Collections (selected):
Aspen Museum of Art
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African-American Art
Smith Robertson Museum
Studio Museum of Harlem



Stolen Moments, 2019-2020
Hair beads on coated wire and Aluminum rod
39" x 24" x 1"

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ABOUT MYRTIS BEDOLLA



Myrtis Bedolla, Founding Director of Galerie Myrtis, possesses over 30 years of experience as an advisor to private collectors and public and private institutions in the acquisition and deaccession of fine art; and provides professional curatorial services, lectures, and educational programming to corporate, civic, and arts organizations.

Bedolla graduated from the University of Maryland, University College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She received her curatorial training at the Maryland Institute College of Art. And she earned on-

line certificates in Cultural Theory for Curators and Curatorial Procedures from the Node Center for Curatorial Studies, Berlin, Germany.

As one of the few Black gallerists in the country, Bedolla has recently gained national press in the New York Times “Black Gallerists Press Forward Despite a Market That Holds Them Back” in June 2020 and authored “Why My Blackness is Not a Threat to your Whiteness, and Black Lives do Matter” in Cultured Magazine in July 2020. Additional press coverage includes Baltimore Style Magazine, BMORE Art, Create!, and Whitewall Magazines. In 2017 the gallery was voted Best Gallery by the Baltimore Sun.

In 2019, Bedolla made her international curatorial debut with the exhibition “Building Bridges II: The Politics of Love, Identity and Race II,” featured during the 13th Havana Biennial. In 2015, Bedolla curated two seminal museum exhibitions, “Shadow Matter: The Rhythm of Structure / Afro-Futurism to Afro Surrealism,” featuring the work of sculptor M. Scott Johnson held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African America Art in Detroit, Michigan, and “Michael Gross: Abstraction,” featuring painter and printmaker Michael Gross presented at American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, D.C. From 1990 to the present, Bedolla has mounted over one hundred thought-provoking exhibitions.

Bedolla is a Board of Trustee for the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) and AAMC Foundation, Chair, Arts Advisory Board, University of Maryland Global Campus, Arts Program, and sits on the Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City board.

Professional memberships: ArtTable: a national organization for professional women in the visual arts, and the Association of African American Museums (AAAM).

Image courtesy photographer Grace Roselli, “Pandora’s BoxX Project”
#graceroselli
#pandorasboxxproject

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ABOUT GALERIE MYRTIS

Established by Myrtis Bedolla in 2006, Galerie Myrtis is an emerging blue-chip gallery and art advisory specializing in twentieth and twenty-first-century American art with a concentration on works by African American artists.

Galerie Myrtis's mission is to utilize the visual arts to raise awareness for artists – known or unknown – who deserve recognition for their contributions in artistically portraying our cultural, social, historical, and political landscapes. And to recognize art movements that paved the way for freedom of artistic expression.

Represented is a diverse array of artists at the forefront of the contemporary art movement. The roster includes artists Lavett Ballard, Tawny Chatmon, Wesley Clark, Alfred Conteh, Larry Cook, Morel Doucet, Susan Goldman, Michael Gross, Monica Ikegwu, Ronald Jackson, M. Scott Johnson, Delita Martin, Arvie Smith, Nelson Stevens, and Felandus Thames.

Through the production of museum-quality work, the artists have achieved regional, national, and international acclaim. Their paintings, prints, photographs, and sculpture have been presented in many important museum exhibitions and are in the permanent collections of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Charles Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN; and Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; National Museum of Women in the Arts, and Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C; and Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MI.

Galerie Myrtis presents approximately six exhibitions per year with a tendency towards politically and socially engaged themes. The gallery offers cultural programming and events with artists, including exhibition tours, public lectures, film screenings, and Tea with Myrtis, a series of art salons in which arts professionals and legal experts address current trends in the art world.

Since 2017 Galerie Myrtis has participated in art fairs during Art Basel Miami. And the gallery made its international debut during the 13th Havana Biennial in the cross-cultural exhibition “Building Bridges II: The Politics of Love, Identity and Race II,” which featured prominent American and Cuban artists.

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