

1-54

CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART FAIR

BOOTH 04



GALERIE MYRTIS

FEATURING LAVETT BALLARD, TAWNY CHATMON, & MONICA IKEGWU

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BOOTH CONCEPT

Written by Founding Director and Chief Curator of Galerie Myrtis Dr. Myrtis Bedolla

As founding director of Galerie Myrtis (GM), I am pleased to present work by contemporary artists whose voices offer discourse on our cultural, social, and political landscapes while presenting the beauty of our humanity.

Image: Monica Ikegwu, Jamaal Root 1, 2024, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48"

LAVETT BALLARD

Lavett Ballard (b.1970) is a collage artist whose practice delves into profound social issues, particularly focusing on the historical context of Black women's experiences. In her current body of work, she combines collaged photographs with paint, oil pastels, and metallic foils.





These mixed media collages re-contextualize the historical socio-cultural challenges experienced by people of color.

Ballard has had the esteemed honor of being commissioned by Time Magazine to create a portrait of civil rights activist Rosa Parks for the "100 Women of the Year" edition. The artwork, titled "The Bus Riders," was published on March 16, 2020. In 2023, Time Magazine approached Ballard again to create a visual narrative for an editorial written by Isabel Wilkerson. The mixed media collages, titled "Caste and Chaos," were chosen to appear in the February 3, 2023, "Division and Destiny" issue. The same issue also featured a cover story on Ballard's artistic process, written by Victor Williams.

The artist is debuting new work in the solo exhibition "Lavett Ballard: The People Who Could Fly," hosted by Rowan University through May 24th.

If You Love Me, 2023, Collage/Mixed media on Birchwood panel, 72 x 48 x 2", USD 15,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtilis.com for sales inquiries.

Thank Heaven, 2020, Collage/Mixed media on wood slice, 11 x 10", USD 1,500
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



Like a Lady, 2025 Collage/Mixed media on wood slice, 12 x 9.5", USD 1,200





Caste Away, 2023, Collage/Mixed media on Birchwood slice, 13 x 10", USD 2,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



We are the Magic Makers, 2022, Collage/Mixed media on reclaimed fence, 38 x 32", USD 7,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



Image of a table inside of Lavett Ballard's studio.



As a child, I would spend my summers at our family farm in Virginia. This annual journey from the North to the South was filled with stories about how our family acquired the property and the construction of the 'Big House' by the sons of my three-times-great-grandmother. The home felt like a step back in time, a glimpse into an era before the Great Migration beckoned many to the North in search of new opportunities. Through these experiences, I developed a deep fascination with the history of the log cabin that sheltered generations of my family, surrounded by photographs that chronicled our lineage.

This connection to my roots nurtured my passion for visual storytelling, intertwining the memories of my childhood summers with the rich tapestry of history. My strong affinity for imagery and exploration of identity has led me to create a visual lexicon centered on African American female self-identity.

I have dedicated countless hours to compiling a photographic catalog that showcases images of women across the African diaspora, spanning various geographic areas and historical periods. These prints are collaged, painted, aged, and revitalized, crafting a reimagined visual narrative that speaks to the history reflected in my work.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Lavett Ballard: The People Who Could Fly, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
- 2024 Good Fences: Neighboring Narratives of the Soul, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 - 24 Say a Little Prayer, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 Re-Imagined Legacy, Delta Arts Center, Winston Salem, NC
- 2022 The Ground We Stand On, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA
My Soul Has Got to Move, Long Sharp Gallery, Indianapolis, IN
- 2021 Stories My Grandmother Told Me, Community Folk Art Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
Rooted: From our head to our Souls, Rush Arts Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 1-54 Art Fair, Halo at 28 Liberty, New York, NY
IFPDA Print Fair, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY
- 2024 Solace and Sisterhood, Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, Arlington, VA
- 2023 Scope Art Fair, Art Basel, Miami, FL
IFPDA Print Fair, Javits Center, New York, NY
The Black Communion- Philadelphia Artists, Maguire Museum, Merion, PA
M'Dear Project, Mocada, Governor's Island, NY
Black Hair: Resistance, Freedom, and Beauty, Icebox Project Space, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 Art Miami Fair, Miami Beach, Miami, FL
IFPDA Print Fair, Javits Center, New York, NY
Stories My Grandmother Told Me, Rowan College of South Jersey Arts and Innovation Center, Sewell, NJ
Artful Healing, Newark Arts Festival, Newark, NJ
The Divine Feminine, LA Art Box, Los Angeles, CA
The Beautiful and the Damned, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
Imagine: Celebrating Black Female Creativity, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Martha's Vineyard, MA
- 2021 Prizm Art Fair, Miami Beach, Miami, FL
Heart of the Square, Cornell Art Museum, Delray Beach, FL
Dionne Warwick: Queen of Twitter, Newark Arts Festival, Newark, NJ
Literary Muse, UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hill, CA

SELECT COLLECTIONS

The Petrucci Family Foundation Art Collection
Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University
Syracuse University Collection/ Community Folk Arts Center
Saint Joseph's University/ Barnes Museum
Francis M. Maguire Art Museum
ABC Studios
CBS Studios
NBC/Universal Studios



TAWNY CHATMON

Tawny Chatmon (b.1979) is a photography-based artist whose recent series “As We Are” explores the nuances of Black childhood, shedding light on the expansive beauty found within its diversity and authenticity. Her imagery serves as a powerful reflection of the multi-faceted nature of Black existence, capturing moments where children express themselves freely and without inhibition.



As We Are / Let Me Be Filled With Joy, 2022
Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper
Ed. of 15, 30 x 20” (unframed) USD 3,000
39 x 30” (framed) USD 4,400



The “As We Are” series invites viewers to immerse themselves in a world where Blackness is revered, and the beauty of Black childhood is illuminated in all its glory. Each print offered in an edition size of 15.

Chatmon has been included in several esteemed exhibitions including the 2022 Venice Biennale exhibition “The Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined,” curated by Dr. Myrtis Bedolla. The award winning exhibit explored the theme of Black life on the continuum of its imagined future presented in the Personal Structures art fair.

This October, Chatmon will debut new works in a solo exhibition hosted by the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

As We Are / Let Me Be Meditative, 2022, Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper,
Ed. of 15, 30 x 20” (unframed) USD 3,000, 39 x 30” (framed) USD 4,400
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



(Left) As We Are / Let Me Be Precious, 2022, Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, Ed. of 15, 30 x 20" (unframed) USD 3,000 39 x 30" (framed) USD 4,400



(Right) As We Are / Let Me Be Laid Back, 2022, Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, Ed. of 15, 30 x 20" (unframed) USD 3,000 39 x 30" (framed) USD 4,400

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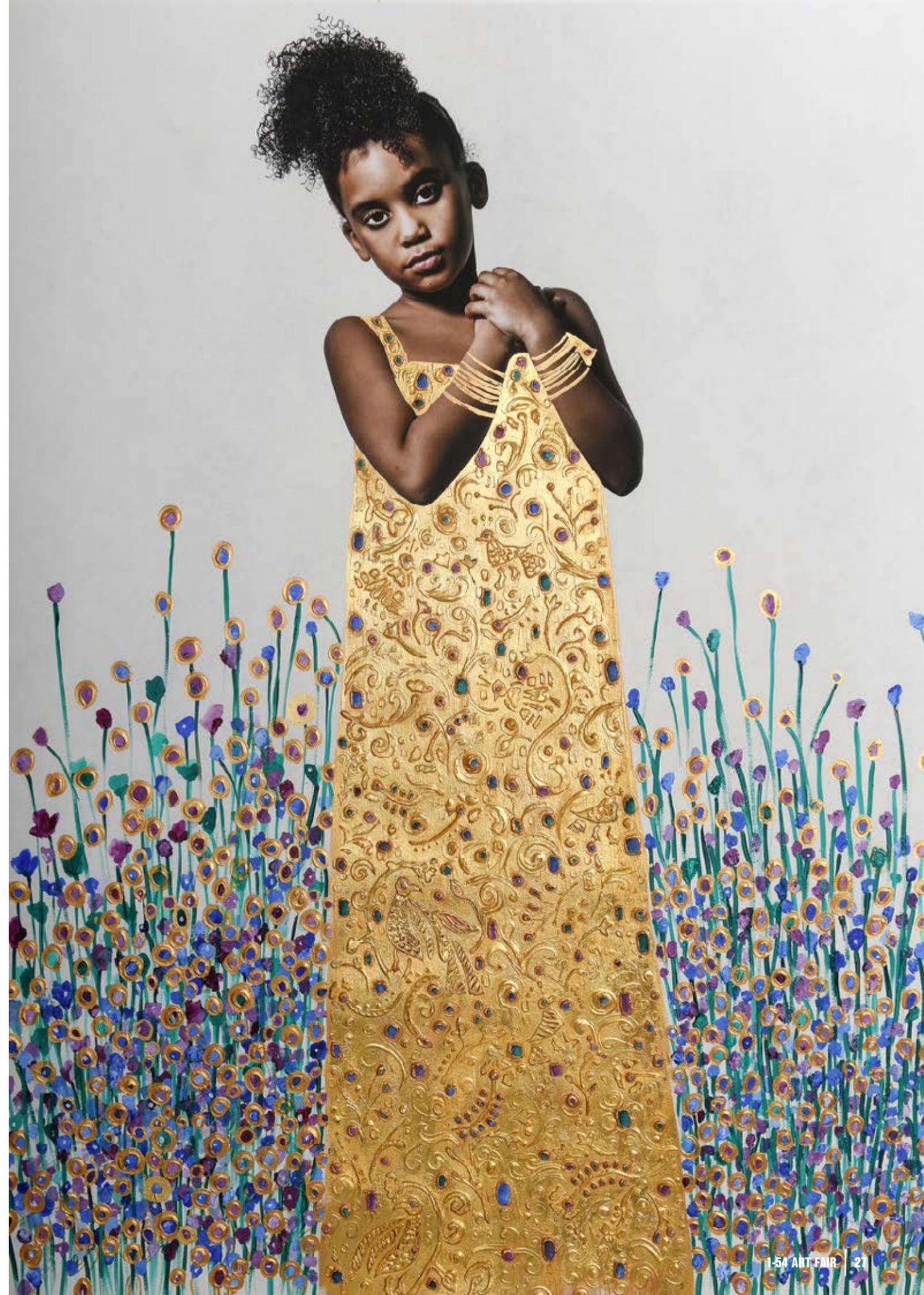


Image of Tawny Chatmon and subject during a photoshoot.

In addition to featuring works from the “As We Are” series, we are also offering select works incorporating photography and the layering of mixed media materials to capture the regality of Black youth.

Chatmon’s subjects are often depicted in period dresses and then embellished with 24k gold leaf, acrylic paint, and semi-precious jewels. To add a spiritual presence to her subjects, Chatmon employs the Byzantine art aesthetic of elongating their bodies and dress. Consequently, these figures overwhelm the space. Adding emphasis are the grandeur and versatile styles and textures of natural black hair that serve as a celebration of Black beauty.

**The Children Too, Helped Us Grow, 2020, Acrylic and 24k gold leaf on archival pigment print
40 x 30” (unframed), 54 x 43 x 3” (framed), USD 58,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.**



The Awakening/Held High, 2019
Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle
paper, 20 x 30" (unframed), AP 1/2
USD 5,000

Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla
at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for
sales inquiries.



(Left) *The Awakening/Rituals and Traditions*, 2019, Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 24 x 20" (unframed), 32.5 x 27.5" (framed) AP 2/2, USD 6,800

(Right) *Indigo/ Aisha*, 2017
Photography and photo-manipulation
40 x 32" (unframed), Edition 1/8
USD 7,500

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I capture moments of pure bliss, joy, tenderness, life, freedom, and being. Through these images, I aim to highlight moments that Black children, women, and men deserve to experience unimpeded. Each photograph is a deliberate homage to our true selves, our hair, our existence, and a celebration of our precious identities, precisely as we are.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Forthcoming* - Tawny Chatmon: Sanctuaries of Truth, Dissolution of Lies, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
- 2021 Tawny Chatmon: What He Left Behind, Joan Hisaoka Gallery, Washington, DC
- Tawny Chatmon: If I'm No Longer Here, I Wanted You to Know..., Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 1-54 Art Fair, Halo at 28 Liberty, New York, NY, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
IFPDA Print Fair, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY
- 2023 - 24 Spectrum: On Color and Contemporary Art, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 There Within Lies the Gospel: Truth, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
- Intertwined: Labor and Technology in Contemporary Textile Art, Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, Tallahassee, FL
- Too Much Is Just Right: The Legacy of Pattern and Decoration, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC
- 2022 - 23 The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy, Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, Annapolis, MD
- 2022 Context Art Miami, Art Basel, Miami, FL
- Imagine: Celebrating Black Women's Creativity, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Martha's Vineyard, MA
- Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined, Personal Structures: Time, Space, and Existence, 59th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- Activating the Renaissance, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
- Picturing Black Girlhood: Moments of Possibility, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
- Healing Through the Preservation of Our Histories and Our Selves, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA
- 2021 Literary Muse, UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hills, CA
- Beyond the Looking Glass, UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hills, CA
- Textures The History and Art of Black Hair, Kent State University Museum, Kent, Ohio

SELECT COLLECTIONS

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Microsoft Corporate Collection
Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art
University of Maryland Global Campus



MONICA IKEGWU

Monica Ikegwu (b. 1998) is a hyper-realist portrait painter who captivates audiences with her unparalleled ability to breathe life into canvas through meticulous attention to detail. With a masterful command over the brush, Ikegwu transforms ordinary moments into extraordinary works of art, seamlessly capturing the essence and emotion of her subjects.

Marae, 2024, Oil paint on canvas
48 x 36", USD 25,000

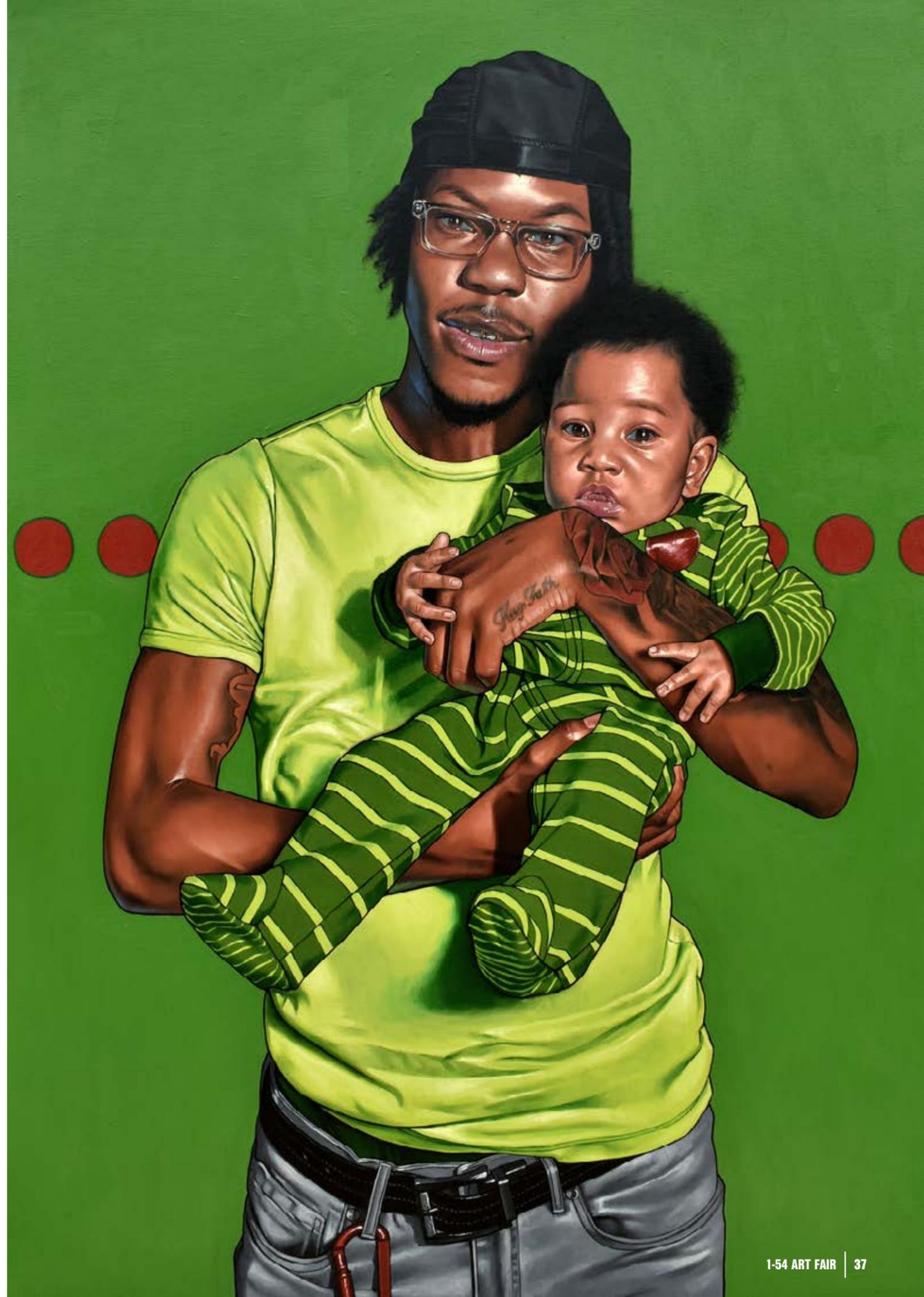


Ikegwu's hyper-realistic portraits not only showcase technical brilliance but also reveal a profound understanding of human expression, allowing viewers to connect deeply with the stories embedded in each stroke. Her art stands as a testament to her unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of realism, leaving an indelible mark on the world of contemporary portraiture.

The artist has been included in several esteemed exhibitions including the 2022 Venice Biennale exhibition "The Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined," curated by Dr. Myrtis Bedolla. Ikegwu also featured in "The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century" which traveled to The Baltimore Museum of Art, Saint Louis Art Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, and The Art Gallery of Ontario from 2023 - 2025.

In 2026, Ikegwu will debut new works in a solo exhibition hosted by The Columbus Museum.

Bright x Jayceon, 2024, Oil on canvas, 48 x 36", USD 25,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtilis.com for sales inquiries.





(Left) Chukwuemeka 1, 2023
Oil on canvas, 48 x 36"
USD 25,000



(Right) Chukwuemeka 2, 2023
Oil on canvas, 48 x 36"
USD 25,000

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Martha, 2024, Oil on canvas, 20 x 20", USD 10,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



Ring I, 2023, Oil paint on canvas, 24 x 12", USD 7,500
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.

Jamaal Root 1, 2024, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48", USD 25,000



Jamaal Root 2, 2024, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48", USD 25,000
Contact our Sales Director, Noel Bedolla at noel@galeriemyrtis.com for sales inquiries.



We Done Yet, 2020, Oil on canvas
36 x 48", USD 25,000

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Noah 2, 2024, Oil on canvas
20 x 20", USD 10,000

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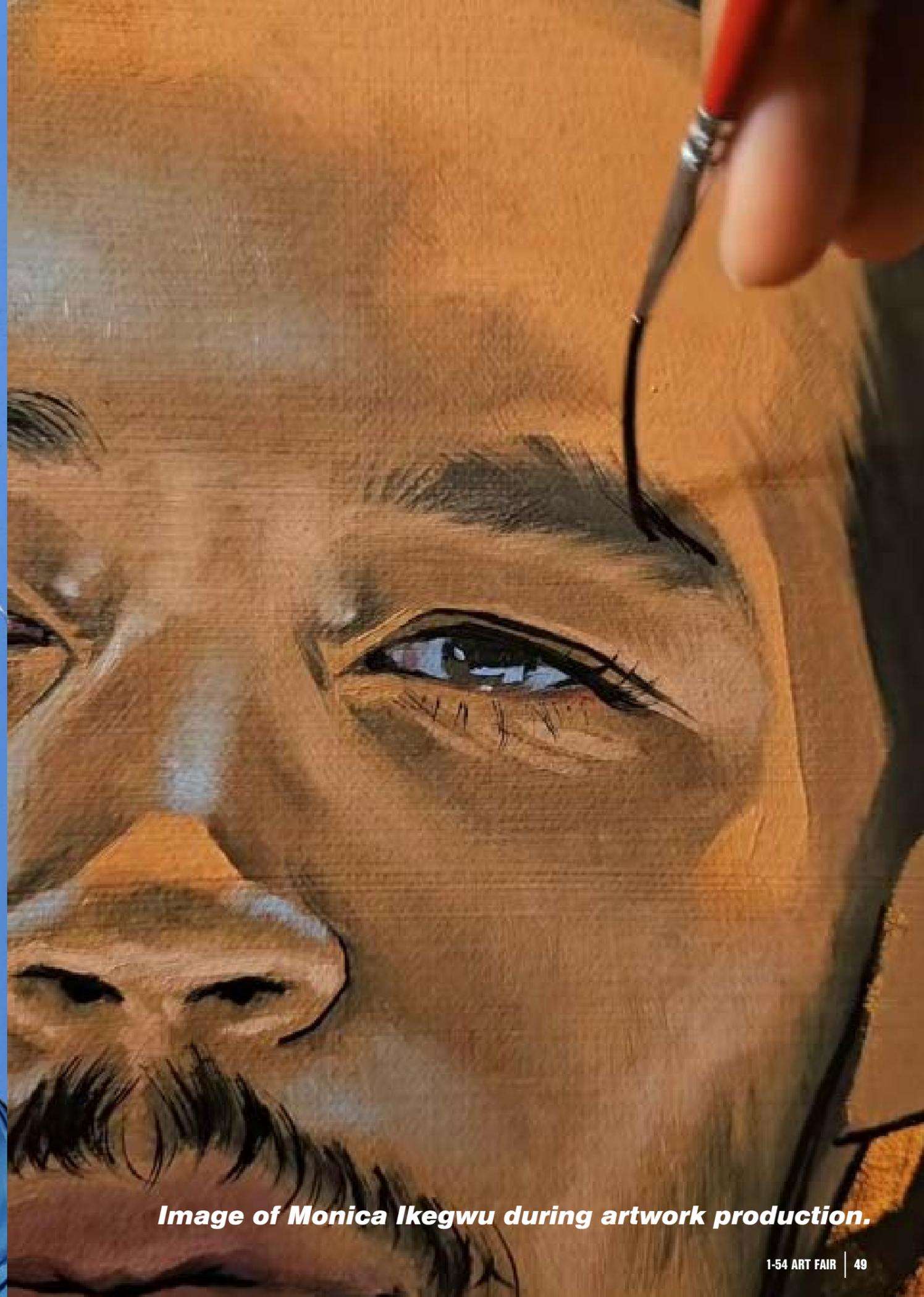


Image of Monica Ikegwu during artwork production.



Francesca, 2024, Oil on canvas
48 x 36", USD 25,000

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Image of Monica Ikegwu during artwork production.



The primary focus of my work is African American youth and current fashion trends as a form of celebrating the Black aesthetic and self-identity. I strive to capture the essence of my subjects through photo-realistic portraits. Applying oil to canvas, I enhance the figure by rendering dramatic textured backgrounds with hues complementing their clothing and flesh tones.

Black youth are often judged negatively by their appearance; an afro, braids, barbershop cut, tattoo, hoodie, and other traditional dress styles place them in the immediate threat zone. When people outside of the Black community observe my paintings, I want them to try and imagine who the individual is while placing all preconceived notions and stereotypes aside. And when encountering Black youth, I hope they will consider, as when viewing the subject in my work, that the individual's outward appearance is a positive form of self-expression. For African Americans viewing my paintings, I want them to feel a sense of connectivity and pride—and discover a familiar face within, one that reminds them of themselves, a friend, or a family member.

My process when creating portraits is to collaborate with the sitter. I allow them to determine their pose and clothing, thus taking charge of their image. Often featured in my paintings are my friends and family members. But I also venture outside of that circle and deliberately select African Americans of varied skin colors to elevate and celebrate the diversity of skin tones within our race.

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Forthcoming* - Columbus Museum, Columbus, Georgia
 2024 Extensions, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
 2023 Duo, Band of Vices, Los Angeles, CA, Curator Terrell Tilford

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Halo, New York, NY
 2024 - 25 Shared Vision: Portraits from the CCH Pounder-Koné Collection, African American Museum in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
 2023-25 The Culture: Hip Hop & Contemporary Art in the 21st Century, Traveling exhibition
 - Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
 - Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MI
 - Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany
 - Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
 - Art Gallery of Ontario, Ontario, Canada
 2023 - 25 The Bennett Prize Finalist Exhibition, Traveling exhibition
 - Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
 - Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY
 - Customs House: Museum & Cultural Center, Clarksville, TN
 - Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh, PA
 - Bo Bartlett Center, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA
 - Studio Incamminati, Philadelphia, PA
 2023 There Within Lies the Gospel Truth, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
 Rising Voices 3 - The Bennett Prize, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
 You've Got a Friend, Rhimes Performing Arts Center, Los Angeles, CA
 Harlem Fine Arts Show, New York, NY
 2022-23 The Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined, Traveling Exhibition
 - 59th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
 - The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African- American History & Culture, Baltimore, MD
 - The James E. Lewis Museum of Art (JELMA), Baltimore, MD
 2022 Context Art Miami, Art Basel, Miami, FL
 The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy, The Banneker-Douglass Museum, Annapolis, MD
 The Beautiful and the Dammed, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD
 To Each, Her Own, Urban Zen, New York, NY
 Black Creativity, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL
 2021 LED Baltimore Billboard Spotlight, Baltimore, MD
 Literary Muse, UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles, CA

SELECT COLLECTIONS

- Baltimore Museum of Art
 The Petrucci Family Foundation Collection
 The Columbus Museum
 Muskegon Museum of Art



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 and African diasporic artists. The gallery opened its doors in 2006 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.

Represented is a diverse roster of mid-career to established artists who have achieved regional, national, and international acclaim. Their works have been featured in many important museum exhibitions and included in permanent collections such as the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.

We are proud to represent Devin Allen, Lavett Ballard, Wesley Clark, Tawny Chatmon, Morel Doucet, Ya La'Ford, Susan Goldman, Jerrell Gibbs, Michael Gross, Monica Ikegwu, Ronald Jackson, Megan Lewis, Fabiola Jean-Louis, M. Scott Johnson, Delita Martin, James Seward, Felandus Thames, and Bria Sterling Wilson.

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**Gallery Address: 2224 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218**



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*Catalog designed by Assistant Director, Ky Vassor
Cover image: The Children Too, Helped Us Grow by Tawny Chatmon
Featured images courtesy of the artists and Galerie Myrtis*