

# M SCOTT JOHNSON

**M. Scott Johnson (b. 1968, Inkster, Michigan)** came of age in the sonic laboratory of Detroit techno—a site where Black futurity learned to inhabit circuitry, loop, and pulse. That machinic rhythm permeates his sculptural vocabulary, as syncopation and repetition are transposed into line, cut, and void. His sculptures embody what might be called an Afrosurrealist materialism: objects that emerge from atavistic memory but feel like fragments of a dream projected into matter. Like Afrosurrealist writing and film, Johnson's carving bends reality into myth, staging a refusal of the ordinary. His stone forms are simultaneously ritual artifacts and speculative instruments, collapsing the distance between ancestral invocation and futuristic speculation.

**M. Scott Johnson, Unknown Tongues, 2007** Calcite, 15 x 13 x 3", USD 10,000

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## FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICAN CONJURE TABLET

Foundational Black American Conjure Tablet is a diptych of carved marble disks that function as both sculptural objects and active ritual technologies. Drawing on the form of sacred tablets—historically associated with law and fixed authority—the work transforms the idea of inscription into a vessel for diasporic knowledge, spiritual practice, and ancestral memory.

Each disk operates as a “tablet,” yet its surfaces resist conventional legibility. Semi-precious stones—carnelian, onyx, and turquoise—are embedded in asymmetrical, syncopated arrangements alongside fragments of High John the Conqueror root that emerge from the marble plane. These materials do not illustrate meaning; they perform it, creating a visual and spiritual language.

Carnelian, with its vibrant red-orange, evokes vitality, protection, and life force, while onyx offers density and grounding, signaling endurance and resistance. Turquoise connects the work to Indigenous cosmologies, serving as a conduit between sky, water, and spirit, and acknowledging shared terrains of survival and material knowledge across African American and Native American histories.

**M Scott Johnson, Foundational Black American Conjure Tablet #1, 2026**

Jerusalem Gold Marble, carnelian, onyx turquoise, gold leaf, stainless steel, brass, Teak, acrylic paint and High John the Conqueror root, 27 x12 x12", USD 20,000

# FOUNDATIONAL BLACK AMERICAN CONJURE TABLET

Together, the stones establish rhythm and pattern, echoing Black vernacular forms such as quilting and improvisational composition.

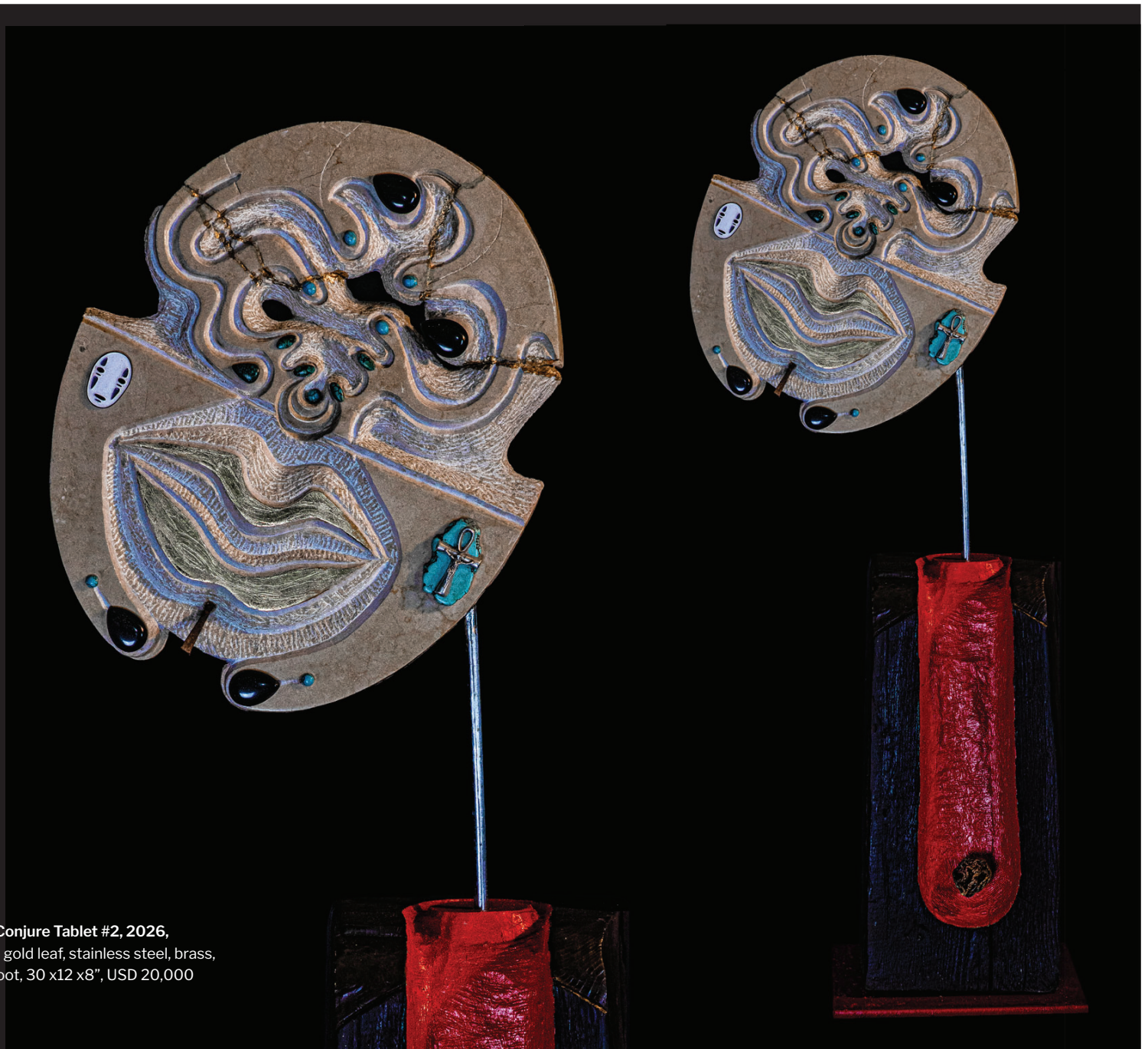
The marble itself, historically tied to monumentality, is destabilized. Its polished surface becomes a stage for ongoing conjure rather than a symbol of authority, and the embedded root animates the stone, asserting ancestral presence that cannot be fully contained.

The diptych functions as a call-and-response structure: one disk holds the visible—surface, pattern, and material logic—while the other carries the submerged—root, spirit, and fugitive knowledge. They resist closure and invite engagement beyond observation, offering an encounter with continuity, resilience, and the persistence of cultural memory.

These tablets were never meant to be read. They are meant to be worked.

-M Scott Johnson

**M Scott Johnson, Foundational Black American Conjure Tablet #2, 2026,**  
Jerusalem Gold Marble, carnelian, onyx turquoise, gold leaf, stainless steel, brass,  
Teak, acrylic paint and High John the Conqueror root, 30 x12 x8", USD 20,000



M Scott Johnson  
Deodate (High John as a infant)  
2022, Springstone, 31 x 11 x 18"  
USD 30,000



M Scott Johnson  
Tutnese Incantation (High John as a Juvenile)  
2021, Springstone, 22 x 13 x 10"  
USD 35,000



M Scott Johnson  
Head of a Negro Stargazer, 2019  
Boccino marble, 25 x 12 x 10"  
USD 35,000



M Scott Johnson  
Recycled Soul, 2006  
Marble, 24 x 10 x 6"  
USD 25,000

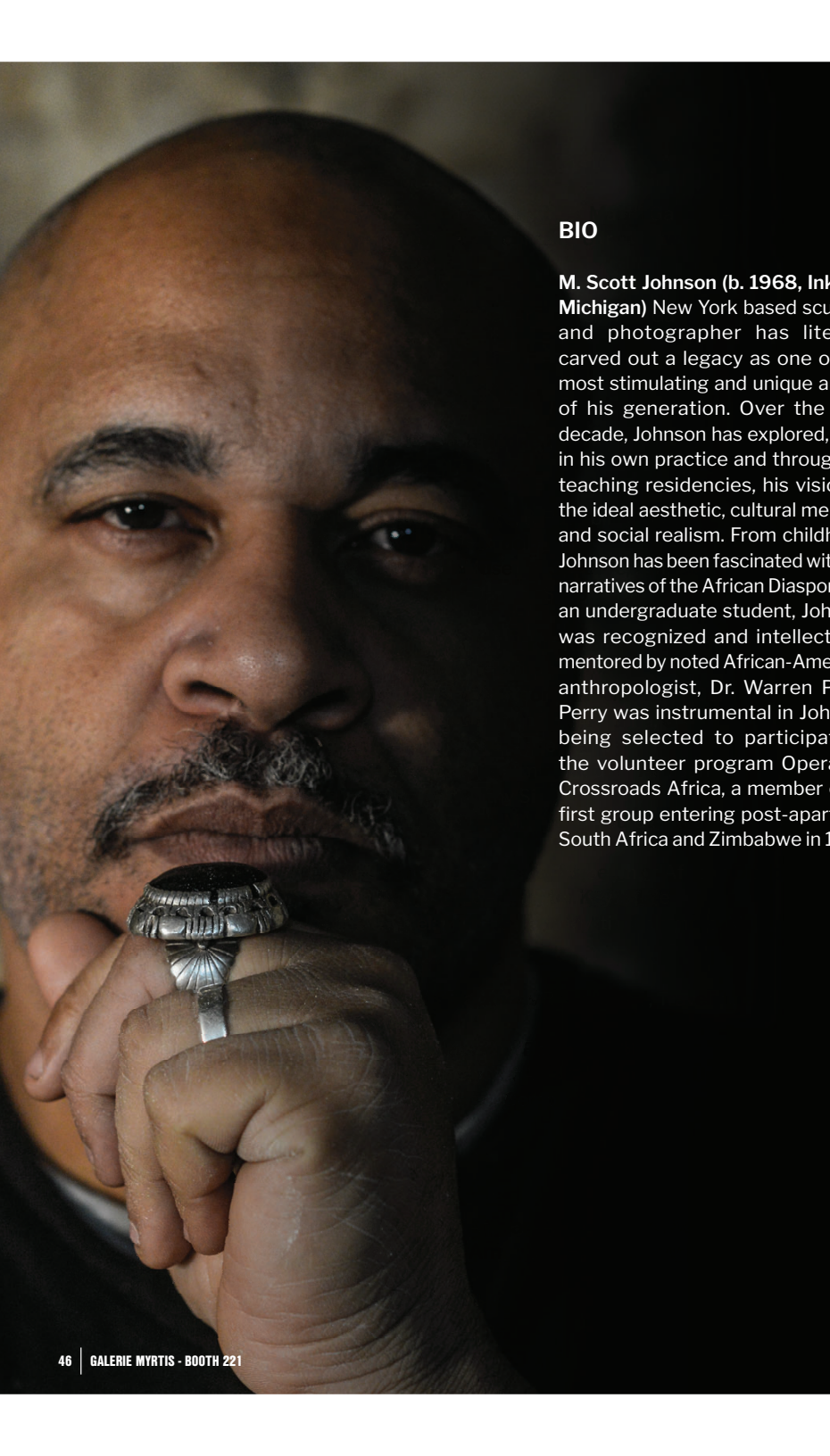


M Scott Johnson, Headstone  
for Queen Elizabeth Catlett,  
2012, Black Belgian Marble  
30 x 22 x 10", USD 35,000



M Scott Johnson working in studio.





## BIO

**M. Scott Johnson (b. 1968, Inkster, Michigan)** New York based sculptor and photographer has literally carved out a legacy as one of the most stimulating and unique artists of his generation. Over the past decade, Johnson has explored, both in his own practice and through his teaching residencies, his vision of the ideal aesthetic, cultural memory and social realism. From childhood, Johnson has been fascinated with the narratives of the African Diaspora. As an undergraduate student, Johnson was recognized and intellectually mentored by noted African-American anthropologist, Dr. Warren Perry. Perry was instrumental in Johnson being selected to participate in the volunteer program Operation Crossroads Africa, a member of its first group entering post-apartheid South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1994.

## RESUME

### SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Shadow Matter: The Rhythm of Structure – Afro-Futurism to Afro Surrealism, Charles Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
- 2009 Parallel Evolution, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla

### SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Stars and Stripes: Pride or Despair, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla  
EXPO CHICAGO, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
- 2025 Echoes of Home, Tafaria Castle & Center for the Arts, Nyeri, Kenya  
The Brave: Affrming Power, Presence, & Possibility, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD, Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
- 2024 Unruly Navigations, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA, Curator KeyJo Lee
- 2023 There Within Lie the Gospel: Truth, Galerie Myrtis, Baltimore, MD  
Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla
- 2022 - 23 The Afro-Futurist Manifesto: Blackness Reimagined, Traveling exhibition,  
Curator Dr. Myrtis Bedolla  
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD  
- James E. Lewis Museum of Art - Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD  
- Venice Biennale, Palazzo Bembo, Venice, Italy

### SELECT COLLECTIONS

Kenkelaba House  
The Hampton University Museum  
The Schomburg Center Research in Black Culture  
Embassy of Oslo Norway - Arts in Embassies Program