



Flatbush Ave BID


presents



Distinction

Street Banner Art Competition

ARTIST CATALOG



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DISTINCTION: STREET BANNER ART COMPETITION

PURPOSE


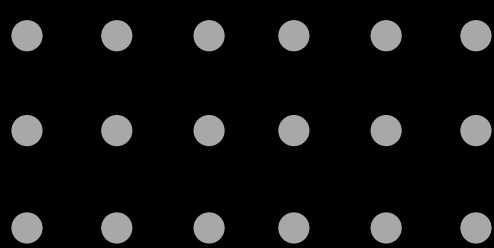
The Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) is hosting Distinction: Street Banner Art Competition which includes a pop-up gallery. The art competition invites local novice and professional visual artists to submit artwork based on the theme provided. A select number of artists will move to the gallery phase of the competition where their work will be displayed in participating businesses in the BID. The public, in conjunction with a panel of judges, will vote for the finalists. The final phase will be the unveiling where the finalists' artwork will appear on sponsored street banners that will be displayed across the Flatbush Avenue BID – which stretches for approximately one mile along Flatbush Avenue from Parkside Avenue to Cortelyou Road - for about one year.

THEME

By definition, distinction is excellence that sets someone or something apart from others. The Flatbush Avenue BID sits in the heart of the Flatbush neighborhood and at the crossroads of two major Brooklyn streets (Church Avenue and Flatbush Avenue) in a borough that boasts a considerably high concentration of people of Caribbean heritage. From the retail mix to the restaurants to the overall vibe, the heritage is something unique to be celebrated as it adds to the Brooklyn flavor. Artists are to create artwork with this theme of distinction in mind.

THE ARTISTS

Ranging from novice artists to artists who have had their work in magazines and installed in galleries, the Flatbush Ave. BID's Distinction panel of judges have selected some of the best pieces. These artists' hard work is evident in the work they have produced and we are excited to present their work to the community.





ANSWERD STEWART

Fathers Day at Emmanuel

ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Together

ARIAMA LONG

The Big Guy

CHRISTINE NEWMAN

Ditmas Hibiscus

DENAE HOWARD

Downtown Home

DUKE YUN

The Tiger Kite

K'AREE LYMON

Queen Kundalini

MEGAN SUMMER MCSWEEN

Shades of Blue

MONICA CRESPO

Jab Jab

NIAYA NIX

Honey Buns

PATRICE ROBINSON

Heavy is the Head that Wears the Crown

RACHEL KOHN

Green Gold

RAMON MADDEN

Little Caribbean Brooklyn

RHYTHM HARRIS

hardwired

YVENA DESPAGNE

Belle Machan





ANSWERD STEWART

@answerdstewartart

Stewart grew up in Brooklyn, New York City, indisputably the world's foremost magical musical garden filled with the newest flowering of music and art. With immigrants from all around the world, these cultures make a cubist clash of lifestyles, histories, outlooks and expressions that keeps it all struggling in synchronicity.

"I initially created art as a means of relaxation but as people began to appreciate my work, it fueled me to create more. I create art that speaks to the whole human spectrum, any race any creed, as in "Harmonious Beginnings," a celebration of the tying together of two souls harmonizing together, illustrating the inseparability of emotion and beauty, friendship and family, togetherness and emancipation, and love and spirituality."

Of Jamaican-American heritage, Stewart knows what it is like to have more than one spiritual home, whether one in the islands or in the urban jungle of New York City or in the public and private places of worship, including his studio. Always unafraid to flex his creative muscles, Stewart spends weeks on each painting, delicately and deftly balancing pen and ink, acrylic paints and opaque washes and many other media.

A child at play like any good artist, he is hard at work here, sounding the horn of human expressions laid down as masterfully as a virtuoso on a violin. Through his world history studies at Brooklyn College, he learned his heavy lessons, reflected in the gravity of some of his works. He graduated with a world history degree so he could teach young people, which he did steadfastly for many years.

Also a father, Stewart's patient, teacher-like and pensive sensibilities are at work when you go to decode his pieces. And like playing a magnificent album over again, one never tires of finding new lessons which are always embedded in the oil and acrylic swatches of brushwork.

Stewart has exhibited his work extensively nationwide over the years as demand for his creative vision grows.



FATHERS DAY AT EMMANUEL

By Answerd Stewart

Families building their senses of home with neighborly love and spiritual connectedness. Multicolor musical instruments growing legs to dance. Pen-and-ink drawn lovers linked in a nest of the littlest lines. These are the themes artist Answerd Stewart has been trying to capture for the past 20 years as he labors tirelessly on his latest series of fascinating works, called Brown Images, which explores the nature of relationships within the contemporary, urban landscape. Just like home, music is an important theme as well. As some argue, it is the highest of the arts because of its temporality and ephemerally as each passing note reverberates through us.



ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM AT ERASMUS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

Student Artists

Jahmilia Bennet
 Janiya Chambers
 Navaeh Fields Hobbs
 Miracle Gaston
 Andre Gilmore
 King Hannibal
 Ramel Lawson Jr.
 Shakiya Lewis Diaz
 Zariah Lovander
 Tatianna Maurice
 Javonny Mcneill
 Justin Velez
 Faikou Williams
 Chase Hemen

The Academy Of Hospitality and Tourism community comes from a variety of backgrounds and cultural identities. In one classroom, you may find a Brooklyn native working alongside recent arrivals from around the world. We have students from Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Yemen, and Trinidad to name a few. Distinction is defined excellence that sets someone apart from others. But in Flatbush and at AOHT, we bring all of our unique cultural identities together to work cohesively as a hive. This coming together creates a community emblematic of the future of our country. What unique aspects of our cultural backgrounds contribute to the flavor of AOHT and to Flatbush as a whole? How can we show that by coming together as a community we are better, sweeter, than our individual parts. In this collaborative piece between Ms. Atwill's English class at AOHT and Counseling In Schools, students were invited to create a hexagonal image that represents their distinct cultural background. The overall piece, the honeycomb, symbolizes the sweetness that comes when we all come together to share our collective voice.

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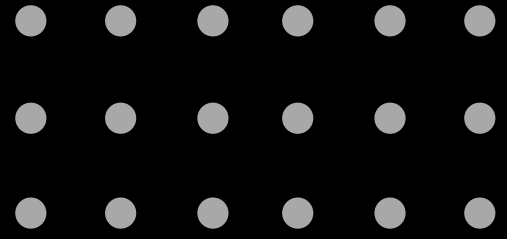


ARIAMA LONG

@thepoetrycorners

<https://acylme.com/>

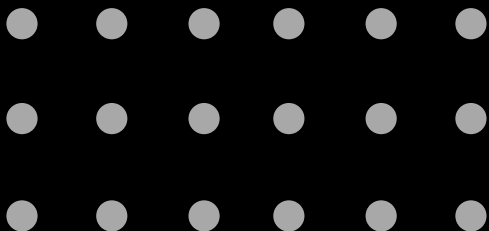
Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Ariama made it her mission to branch out and discover her passion in life. This discovery has sparked a life-long journey to becoming a writer, poet, photographer and oil painter. She currently studies at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism and contributes to her family's design company, Alodie Cloud. She hopes to accomplish more of her dreams. Already Ariama is the first self-published author and recognized slam poet among her friends and family. She continues to hone her craft as an artist and represent the lives and images of the people in her community.



THE BIG GUY

By Ariama Long

Oil painting on canvas. The central figures are an African-American man teaching his younger daughter to play the banjo in a dimly lit living room. They are not rich or poor, simply performing for themselves in a quiet moment as knowledge is handed down from one generation to the next. This painting is an homage to early 19th century oil paintings that depicted average lives of African Americans during the beginnings of what would become the civil rights movement.



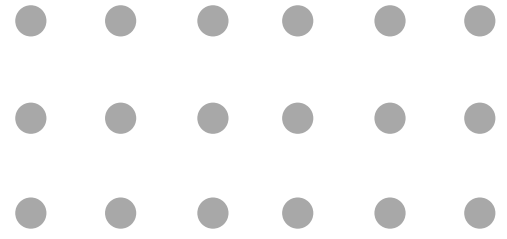
CHRISTINE NEWMAN

@CHRISTINEFINEART

CHRISTINENEWMANART.COM



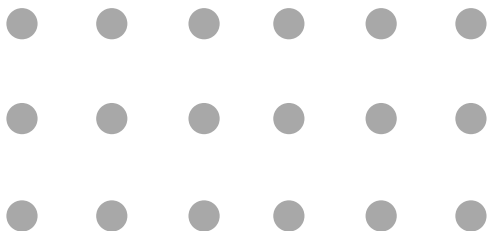
Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia of Foreign Service parents, Christine Newman traveled the world before landing in Brooklyn, New York to pursue a degree in studio art. She earned an MFA from Hunter College and taught art in an elementary school in Manhattan before focusing exclusively on drawing and painting. Her art has appeared in juried exhibitions and curated shows, most recently at the Brooklyn Public Library's main and Kensington branches.

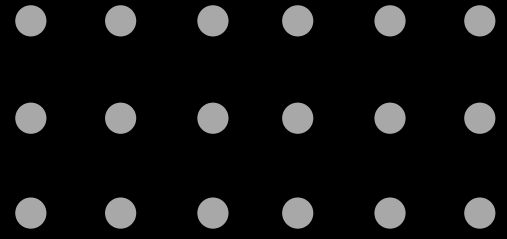


DITMAS HIBISCUS

by Christine Newman

A flower that flourishes in the Caribbean, the hibiscus growing on East 17th Street has its roots firmly in Brooklyn. What a perfect metaphor for our fair borough! This neighborhood truly is a lovely mix of cultures. The original pastel drawing juxtaposes impressions from the streets I have called home for the past nineteen years.



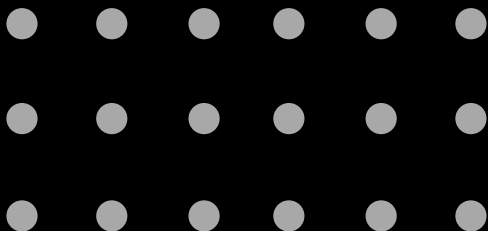


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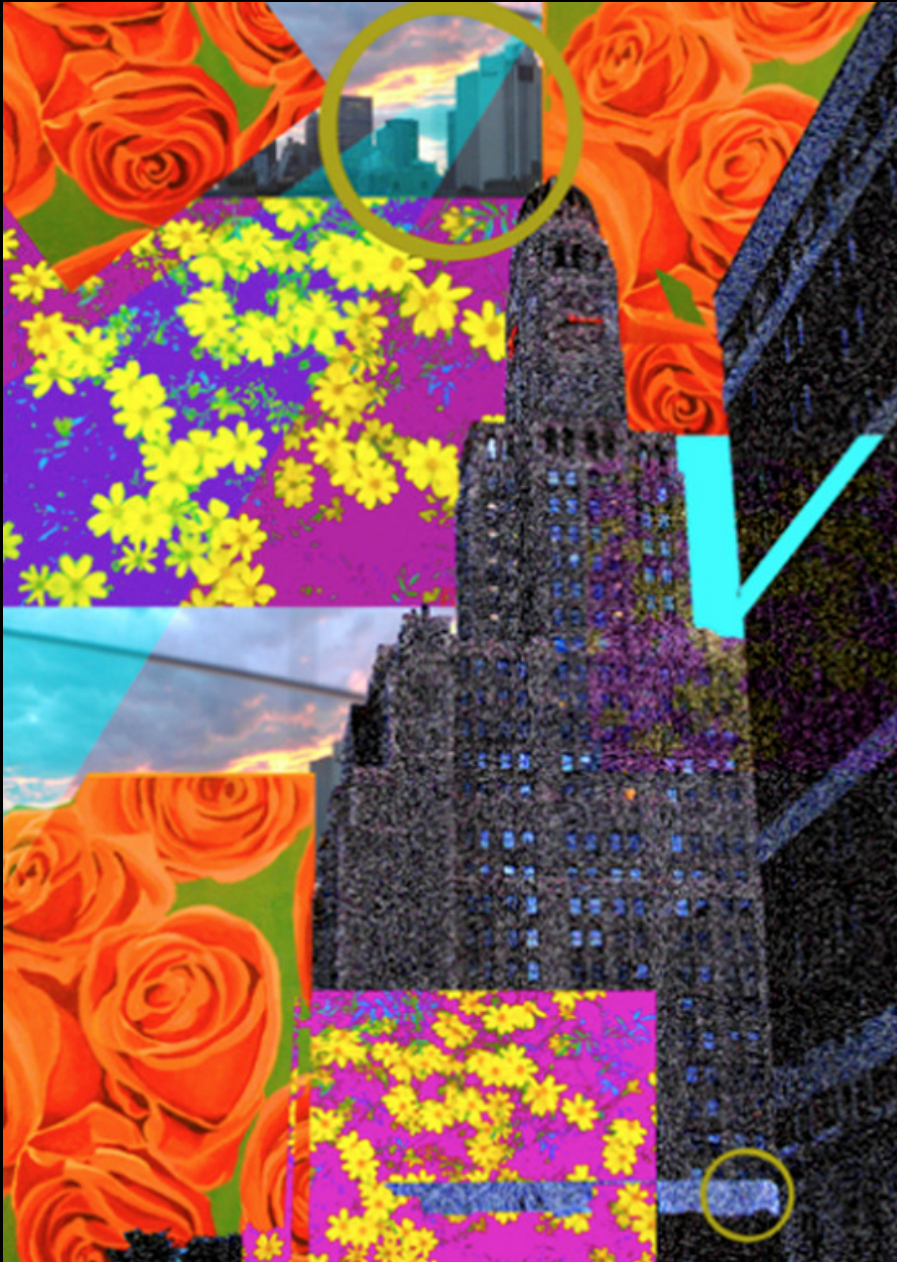
Denae Howard is an African American interdisciplinary artist. She is a trained printmaker and painter. She is best known for her collage work, paintings, as well as animations. Her practice is grounded in community programming and collaborative works. She is the founder of #DayOnesArt an annual Pop-Up Art Fair streamlined to benefit emerging artists and community outreach. This event is a cooperative experience and partnership of Black Capital Coalition and The Urban Fix Inc. Additionally, she's worked with BRIC, MOCADA and The Brownsville Justice Center on community based events and programming. Her works are re-appropriations of negative archetypes and stereotypes to reclaim and transcend positive meaning for Black and Brown people. Her work is a coded-guide that promotes discussions that reveal the similarities and differences in the way individuals experience the systems that are currently in place.

Not to be confused with propaganda, Denae's work is a testament to her existence as a Black Femme in modern day Amerikkka.



DOWNTOWN HOME

By Denae Howard



Being a native Brooklynite as well as the grand daughter to a share cropper turn public figure and a Central American immigrant, business woman, home-maker and legacy and the layering of distinction is what I strive to some day achieve. Being a black girl with Afro-Latinx heritage growing up spread between Fort Greene, Canarsie and East Flatbush, understanding one's heritage and the difference in communities' association of distinction was broad. However, the common thread thorough out each was pride! Pride anchored by a necessity to cultivate home. Distinguishing what is important in one's community highlighting it and creating events and programming to mirror those aspects is a privilege.

The works I submitted reference my awareness of my self and my home. The Williamsburg Savings Bank has always been a signifier for me as a place that meant I was close to home. Before the infiltration of new Brooklyn and bidding wars for high rise space, I marveled at how the building towered over me.



DUKE YUN

@St.Tzudo

Duke has been drawing since his first masterpiece on his parents' walls (now lost to the Man and Mr. Clean). Trained as an environmental educator, Duke is now taking the plunge into the NYC art world and looking to make his own mark on the large stage; and hopefully, one day, paint a wall like the one lost so many years ago.

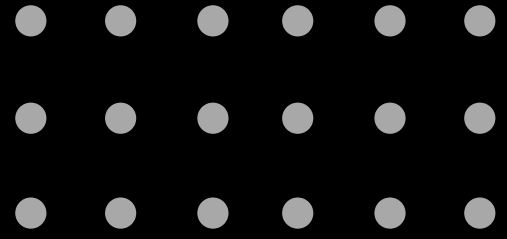


THE TIGER KITE

By Duke Yun

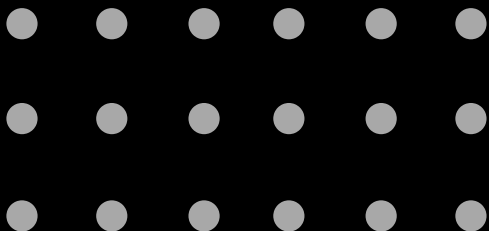
"The Tiger Kite" I hope will help others embrace one's sense of self like a flailing kite embraces the next gust of wind. The figure and dress is inspired by the glorious adornments and costumes seen at the New York Caribbean Parade. The colors mimic a tiger in the jungle. I wanted to make a piece that not only showcases vibrant Caribbean cultures coalesced into one, but to add a pulse of my own culture, Korean American, into the piece as well.

As a first generation American, growing up I would find it difficult to relate to my own heritage, as it was not the norm. I wanted to make a piece that when viewed by a kid like me, to show them that there is pride in one's own cultural uniqueness. However, the true gift is not when we accept our own heritage and culture, but when we embrace others. We are not only being true to our shared American culture, but we are creating a unity that is as beautiful as any painting or pristine piece of art. My piece is for the kids of the Flatbush community and I thank y'all for the opportunity.



K'AREE LYMON
@KAREEFERRARIART
WWW.ZAZZLE.COM/LYMONDESIGNS

K'aree Lymon is a Mixed Media Artist and Creative Director of his own design company called Lymon Designs. A graduate of Baltimore City College Class of 2017 and Collegiate of Fashion Institute of Technology. His artworks are insightful Haikus depicting pieces of the Holy Royals history. The Original peoples of the earth being the Melaninated people. His people are a part of a Tribe which makes up a Nation, not color. We are ancient descendants of the Canaanite Moabites, Kemet. His work explores how textiles, cosmetics, and paints can symbolize moments of strength, struggle, and growth. Furthermore, deconstruction of textiles is a theme of his because he's asking the viewer to always ask yourself what's the relationship between Art and Fashion? Why have we separated these two industries? They are mere reflections of each other. Who are the originators of the craft, what made them feel like they needed to preserve their inner truths? Being so he continues to explore new techniques to see how utilizing these materials brings him to new nuances of the actual struggles and successes we've faced as Original peoples to the Earth. The Sistas and Suns are main subjects surrounding the meaning of my work. They are beyond Civil Rights because they are Nationals. Civil Right is a political campaign to keep the mental slavery amongst the melaninated people alive. My work represents rebellion against the De Facto Government it's laws because it reveals the truth of who in society is head of Wisdom and the rightful leaders of this Earth. The overall vision of his work is to uplift the Millennial generation and of past generations revealing to them the importance of Spiritual alignment and Self-preservation.



QUEEN KUNDALINI FROM THE SISTAR COLLECTION

By K'aree Lymon



The Sistars and Suns are main subjects surrounding the meaning of his work. They are beyond Civil Rights because they are Human Rights. Civil Right is a political campaign to keep the mental slavery amongst the Melaninated people alive. K'aree's work represents rebellion against the De Facto Government, its laws because it reveals the truth of who in society is head of Wisdom and the rightful leaders of the Earth. The overall vision of his work is to uplift the Millennial generation and of past generations revealing to them the importance of Spiritual alignment and Self-preservation.



MEGAN SUMMER MCSWEEN @TeamMeganade

I am 12 years... Drawing helps me to express my thoughts and feelings. I was born with Kidney Disease and I'm in and out of the hospital a lot and most of the time I'm in a confined room. With drawing I can escape from my room, the pain and just feel happy.

My artwork is distinctive because it is my coping mechanism, it allows me to express myself. I am not big on speaking so with my drawings it allows me to express myself. My drawings have gotten better because of me being in the hospital so much...a lot of the times I am in isolation, so the only thing I can do is draw because I can't interact with others unless they wear this yellow gown and mask.

I draw when I am sad, in pain, happy, scared or I draw just to draw. It is my own personalized work that mirrors people in my life ...a few of my art characters are ones that have no personal relations but ones that I hope to use in my own animation series.

In conclusion, I feel my artwork sets me apart because it not only relates to my neighborhood, but my journey as a Kidney Kid and through all the changes we go through you should never give up. Like my Kidney Walk Team motto "No Worries Just Keep Blowing Bubbles."

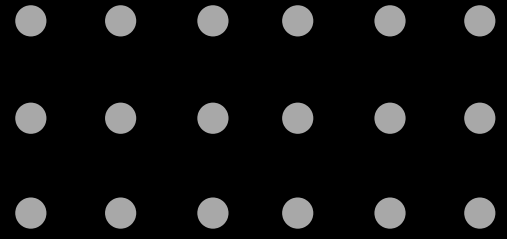
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SHADES OF BLUE

by Megan Summer McSween

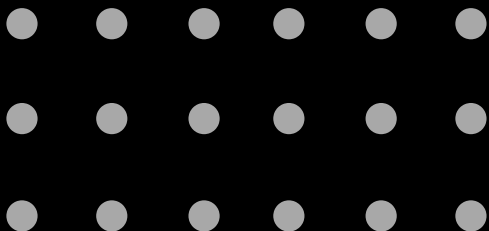
The Shades of Blue drawing symbolizes calmness, power, and health...people tend to think of Blue as sadness. The different shades of blue shows our neighborhood becoming calmer, healthier and the power we have.



MONICA CRESPO

@PHOTO_MONICA_CRESPO

Monica Crespo studied photography in Barcelona in her late 20s, when she began to understand life. She needed to find a way to express her views of the little but important moments in everyone's life. She has been trying to catch those seconds and keep them because they, for sure, won't happen again.





JAB JAB

By Monica Crespo

The essence of Flatbush Brooklyn, NY are the Caribbean people whose culture provides such rich history, food and art but different perspectives come together for the The West Indian Day Parade in this photograph. It is the melting pot of where culture is celebrated every day of their lives and they share it with the rest of the world. What sets this man apart from the others in this picture is the representation of the The Jab Jabs. Their representation under colonization was considered evil yet in today's world the meaning has changed for a fight for equality and unity of all people. The Caribbean culture is what makes them excel, in a way where people can adapt themselves to continue to strive; Celebration to recognize who they are and where they come from.




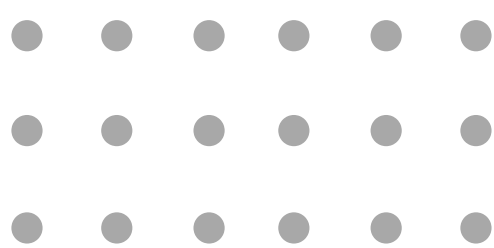
NIAYA NIX

@TheBrooklynNixen

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheBrooklynNixen>



Raised in the vibrant multi-cultural diverse community of Bedford Stuyvesant and Ocean Hill. Niaya Nix's art is a reflection of who she is and what she loves. She envisions beauty in color, diversity and a touch of whimsy. This multi-talented artist has a diverse number of mediums in which she mastered early on, including watercolor, pastels, pen and ink, sculpting acrylics, oil painting and digital art. From a young age, she learned to appreciate art and the love of art was nurtured at home and throughout her school years from elementary to high school. There was never any doubt she would pursue a career in the Arts, it came natural to her. Currently in her senior year in college, she has developed the most amazing digital prints that are as vibrant as the community in which she lives and loves.

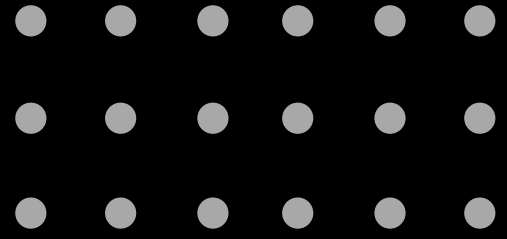


HONEY BUNS

By Niaya Nix

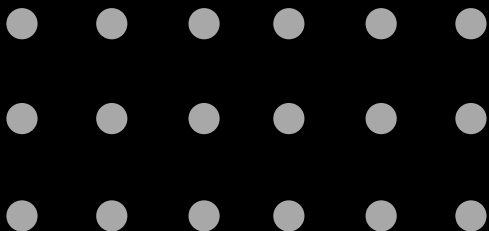
A yummy, heavenly sweet Illustration of a baby with her hair replaced by confectionery goods, placed over a backdrop of a honeycomb pattern. Sweeping organic movements and repeated color to move the viewer's eye around the canvas.





PATRICE ROBINSON
@PATDOWART
WWW.PATDOWART.COM

Patrice Robinson is best known for her intense, realistic portrait paintings created by using oil on wood panels. When painting a portrait, she likes to work in loose layers, building up the painting slowly, until she's ready to define and highlight key areas. She is influenced by artists like René Magritte, Steven Assael and Nick Alm. She also continues to gain inspiration from her personal experiences. The themes that interest Patrice are duality and the idea that what can be revealed in the light can also be revealed in the dark. Her paintings focus on the complex psyche of a person. The anonymity and distance that surround some people strongly interests Patrice. She provides a psychological, spiritual and biographical narrative throughout her work. Patrice's work has been featured in both the Matador Review and Poets and Artists Magazine.





HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN

By Patrice Robinson

I came up with the idea for my painting, “Heavy is the Head that Wears the Crown”, after the 2016 Presidential Election, inspired by all of the negative rhetoric aimed towards immigrant families. I wanted to illustrate the feelings that people of color have when they are faced with the potential of their future. The fear and uncertainty is universal no matter what ethnicity you are, but those feelings are amplified when you’re a minority or an immigrant. The desire to succeed can be overshadowed by the fact that many don’t believe you can and don’t want you to because of your ethnicity. The reference for this painting was taken by me during my older brother’s high school graduation (before 2016). I wanted to show that this image is real, it exists in many high schools at many times and that people of color value education and also deserve to live the “American Dream.” The Flatbush community, which is made up of many immigrant families from the Caribbean, constantly strives for greatness and are making their mark in America and around the world. I believe this painting meets the theme distinction because education can only help you excel.



Rachel Kohn is a Brooklyn based artist whose work spans painting, drawing and sculpture. She received her Bachelors degree in art and mathematics at Skidmore College in 2003, and received her Masters in Fine Arts in painting from Hunter College in 2009. She teaches at the College of New Rochelle in the Graduate School Division of Professional & Fine Arts. She has exhibited her work widely in solo and group exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, and London. She currently has a studio in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

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GREEN GOLD

By Rachel Kohn

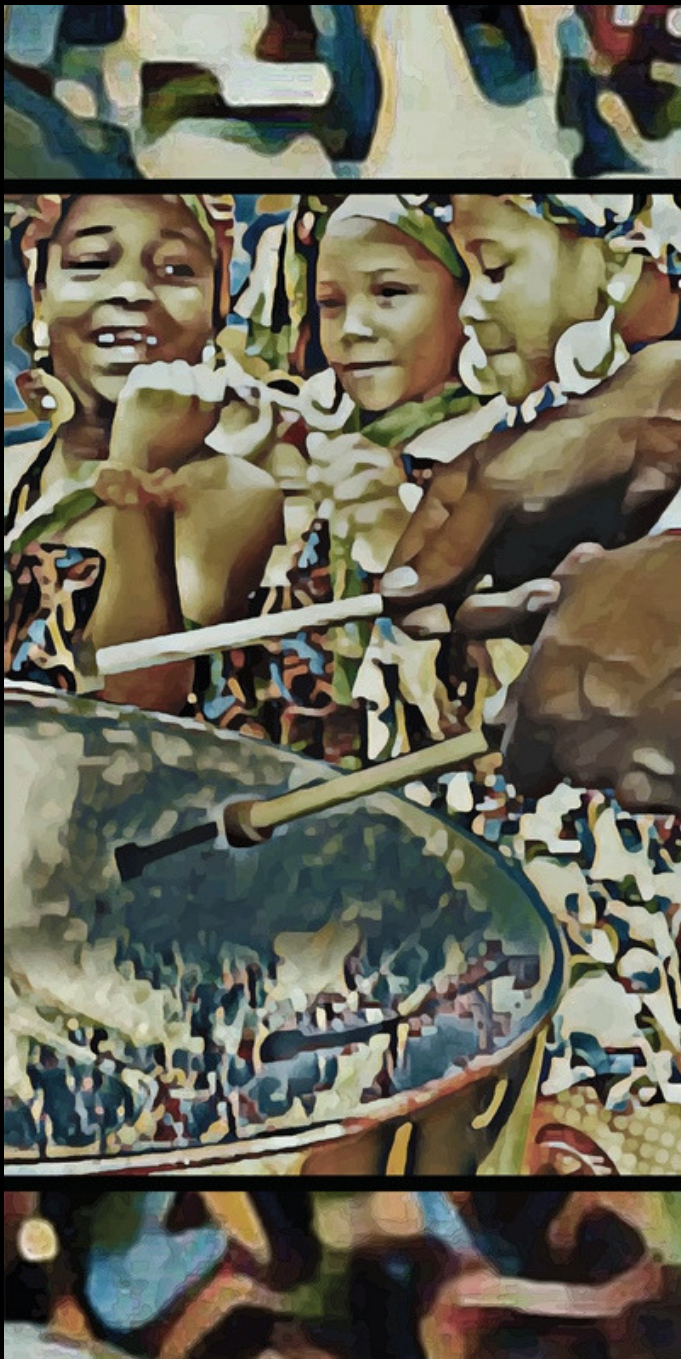
Rachel Kohn's watercolor paintings are inspired by botanicals that she has seen around the neighborhood. Each painting takes on its own unique life focusing on the lines, patterns, forms, light and energy. She is greatly inspired by the vibrant Caribbean culture in this neighborhood. Some of her source imagery comes from plants she sees outside stores and markets, in her neighbor's gardens, and from patterns she sees within local fashion. The energy is distinctive in Flatbush, and she tries to capture that liveliness and movement in her paintings.



RAMON MADDEN

www.creativedesignsnyc.com/

Ramon Madden is a Local Graphic Artist living in East Flatbush. Originally from the island of Maui in Hawaii, Ramon has a special appreciation for the importance of cultural heritage.



LITTLE CARIBBEAN BROOKLYN

By Ramon Madden

Ramon's latest artwork, simply titled "Little Caribbean Brooklyn," shows his unique perspective through his use of color and the relatability of joy through music from a child's perspective.

RHYTHM HARRIS

@rhythm.mugen



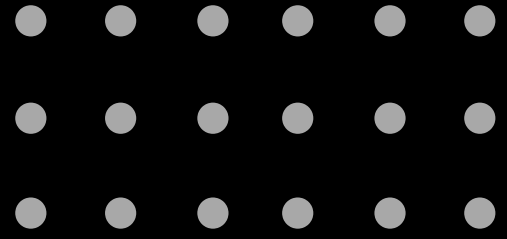
Art has always been in Rhythm's life. From when he was about 4, he started drawing and writing and the discipline of learning how to write became a natural interest in visual language. What made him an artist was his attention to comic books and cartoons. Rhythm started to learn a visual language which made him think about his approach to drawing. He used different techniques at a young age, as well as mediums. One of his first drawings was a study of teenage witches, and he then began to practice and work more until he built up a foundation of visual preferences. Rhythm graduated high school, and attended college immediately at the Art Institute of Charleston and majored in Graphic and Web Design. School assisted him into adding a more concrete process to designing his work and played a key role in expounding on subject matter. Rhythm has a unique way of expressing his art in which he shows clarity, curiosity, and growth. What makes him an artist is his relentless drive to create change and overall development in his work.



hardwired

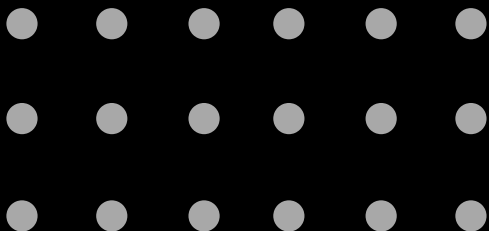
By Rhythm Harris

The piece “hardwired” is a story about my upbringing as a creative and especially being different. The distinction of the work sets me apart from other works is the style in which I express how I feel and the motif of growth.



YVENA DESPAGNE
@yvenadespagneart
www.yvenadespagneart.com

Yvena Despagne is a Haitian-American Artist living in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was raised with the tradition from her Haitian culture. Her family taught her how to appreciate the richness within the arts. In 2016, she taught herself how to paint, because she needed a positive outlet from the stress she was experiencing in her past. Through self-teaching, she learned how to utilize the basics of art and practiced consistently. Yvena's concentration is in abstract art and Impressionism. She loves having the freedom to create what's in her mind, which can be seen vividly through her artwork.



BELLE MACHAN

By Yvena Despaigne



I woke up from a dream one day. I was watching a woman walking with merchandise in a basket on her head. I felt sympathy for her, because of the load she had to carry. When I woke up, I knew I had to paint her right away. I did not want to forget what I saw in my dream. After looking at my painting, I then realized I should not have felt sorry for her, but grateful. This woman reminds me of my mother and all the mothers before my own. She did what she had to everyday to take care of her family and could provide better opportunities for her children. My mother worked hard everyday (sometimes three jobs in one day) to make sure I had a roof over my head and clothes on my back. I dedicate this painting to all the hard working parents, that do whatever it takes to provide for their family. This is how I see the people in Flatbush, Brooklyn, as strong prideful people who have no shame in doing the jobs that they do, to make sure their families are well taken cared of.