

# ***Moments & Memories***

GROUP EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY  
DESTINATION CRENSHAW

Curated by Dominique Clayton

SPRING 2023



ASHLEY COLE  
HASEF  
JONAH ELIJAH  
LORENZO DIGGINS, JR.  
MALAIKA JULES

MILES REGIS  
MOHAMMED MUBARAK  
NOAH HUMES  
RAKEEM CUNNINGHAM  
ZEAL HARRIS

# EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Destination Crenshaw is pleased to present Moments and Memories, an exhibition featuring LA artists and their interpretations of life along Crenshaw Blvd and in the South LA community. The exhibition, which opened on April 29 at Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson's district office on Crenshaw Boulevard, coincided with Destination Crenshaw's community event commemorating The Wall, the historic mural on Crenshaw Boulevard charting Black history. Taken together, the event and exhibition illustrated and amplified a sense of nostalgia, legacy, and hope for the Crenshaw community.

Destination Crenshaw is a reparative development project that will be the largest Black public art project in the U.S. and possibly the world. However, the project is so much more than art. Its mission is nothing less than to place a cultural stamp of Blackness on Crenshaw Boulevard – a stamp akin to those in Chinatown, Mariachi Plaza, Koreatown, and other ethnic enclaves. This creative use of space is part of Destination Crenshaw's mission to support the talent of as many Black artists as possible, providing opportunities beyond the formal public art program that ultimately will bring 100 commissioned works to a 1.3-mile stretch of the boulevard. It expands the project's scope, which evolved during the height of COVID when many artists saw commissions challenged throughout the industry. Destination Crenshaw then launched its Mini Murals project to offer stipends to local, early-career visual artists chosen to create and prominently display art works on large-scale banners along Crenshaw Boulevard.

Moving forward, members of Destination Crenshaw's Curatorial Committee, led by esteemed Black Arts patron and California African American Museum board member Dr. Joy Simmons, will work together to activate the Council District's space on Crenshaw Blvd., turning a portion of the office into a pop-up gallery with plans for future exhibitions in satellite venues.

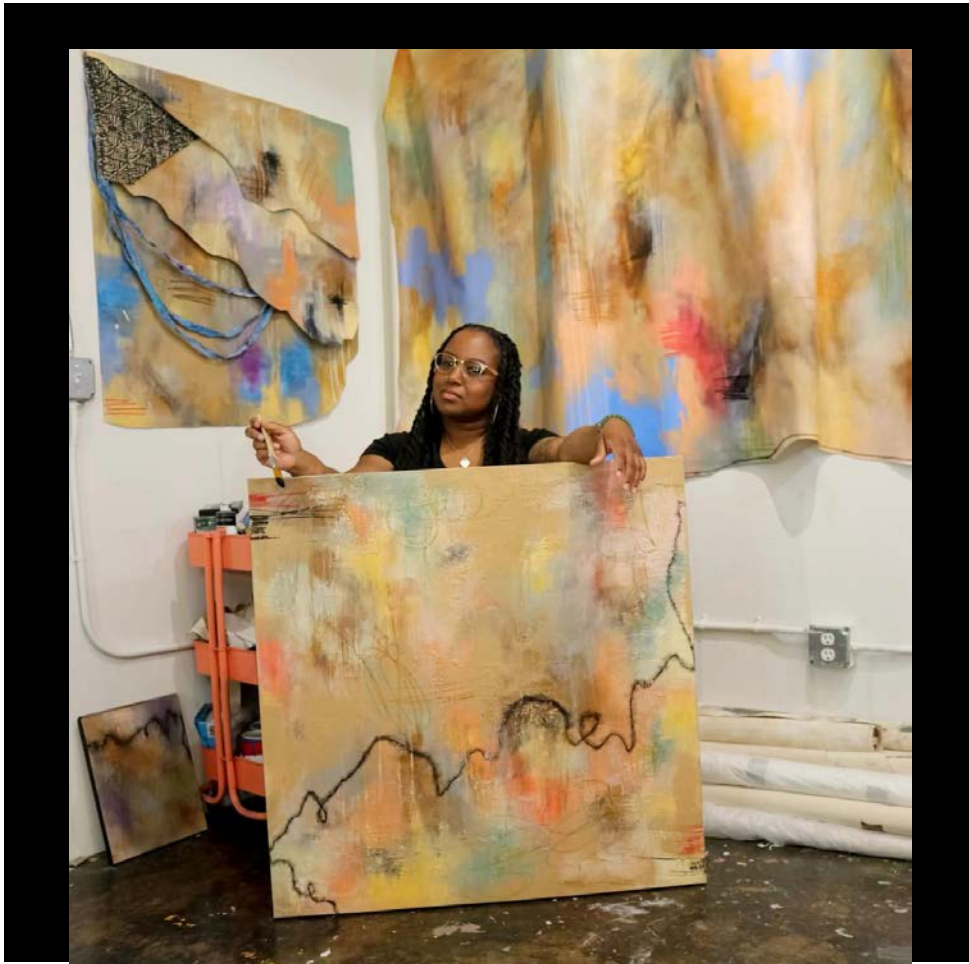
These activations will include a series of seasonal exhibitions for which artists will be invited to share and discuss their practice alongside curators, writers, collectors, and others to further engage the surrounding community with the expansive arts market beyond Crenshaw. Participating artists will receive a stipend for exhibiting their work in addition to marketing and development support from the Destination Crenshaw team.

For the inaugural exhibition, Destination Crenshaw Curatorial Committee member Dominique Clayton selected works by ten Black LA-based artists working in mediums ranging from film photography, digital photography, figurative painting, abstract painting, and mixed media. Inaugural artists (representing different mediums, genres, ages, and views of LA) include: Ashley Cole, Hasef Jonah Elijah, Lorenzo Diggins Jr., Malaika Jules, Miles Regis, Mohammed Mubarak, Noah Humes, Rakeem Cunningham, and Zeal Harris.

Learn more about the artists and Destination Crenshaw at  
[www.destinationcrenshaw.la/public-art/](http://www.destinationcrenshaw.la/public-art/).

# Ashley Cole

Ashley Cole is a Los Angeles based abstract artist whose work seeks the best channels to interpret freedom and how it takes shape mentally, spiritually, and physically. Drawing inspiration from precedent setting artists working in abstraction including Al Loving, Jean Michel-Basquiat, and Mary Lovelace O'Neal, Cole also credits her artistic inspiration to music. Recognizing the intersection between abstraction and jazz music, Cole applies similar freeform techniques to her work in the same ways that notable abstract artists like Jack Whitten, Joe Overstreet, and Sam Gilliam innovated. Cole intends to use her work to unlock truth and contribute to the conscious movement of Black female artists reshaping their own Black aesthetic within the art world.







Ashley Cole

# Blue Haze

acrylic, interior paint, sheet music  
24 x 36 inches  
2021







# Hasef

Hasef lives and works in his hometown of Los Angeles and has successfully built a multidisciplinary and community focused art practice that incorporates mixed media paintings, works on paper, conceptual work, and public murals. His work also explores Blackness in a global context inspired in part by his travels and research in the Caribbean and West Africa. The artist earned his MFA in studio art from Claremont Graduate University and completed the Sotheby's Institute of Art certification program in Art & Marketing. Hasef has been commissioned by LA hotspot Hilltop Coffee in Inglewood, co-owned by Issa Rae. Past exhibitions include solo shows at Moorpark College, Dominique Gallery, and Chimento Contemporary in Los Angeles and the group exhibition, "Blackstract" at Tag Gallery. His work has also been included in Future Fair and Tina Knowles's Wearable Art Gala. The artist, who was recently awarded the 2023 Getty Unshuttered Teaching Fellowship, just showed in the group exhibition "Crafting the Future" at the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art and will participate in a summer fellowship at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.





Hasef

# My Lady and I

Acrylic, Pastel, charcoal  
36 x 36 in  
2023



**BARBERSHOP**

**SHOES  
SHINED**







Hasef

# Fly Righteousness

Acrylic, pastel, and ink  
36 x 36 in  
2023







# Jonah Elijah

A third ward Houston, Texas native now based in Los Angeles, Jonah Elijah uses memory to reference happenings based on his upbringing. His narratives explore concepts of identity through portraiture, language and mass media. He engages with these concepts from the past through material such as tennis shoes, televisions and found objects. Recalling these happenings which can also be a metaphor for his use of found objects, Elijah depicts Black life and his experience by questioning economic structure and illustrating the bliss of Blackness.

Elijah received his BA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2017. Since receiving his MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2020, his studio practice has progressed through residencies such as Virginia Center for Creative Arts (VCCA) where he created his Virginia Series, a series of works on paper in response to the center's historical land in the foothills of Blue-ridge Mountains in Amherst, VA simultaneously focused on Black exploitation and Black liberation. His most recent residency was based in Queens, NY with Deli Grocery New York followed by a solo exhibition with the gallery entitled ABOVE BELOW CENTER (ABC). Elijah's recent 2022 exhibit, Day In The Life, captured the essence of memory and adolescent joy. The artist is currently participating in an artist residency in France.





Jonah Elijah

# South Central Tension

oil on canvas  
72 x 56 in  
2023







# Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

Lorenzo Diggins Jr. is a visual artist of photography and illustration, creative director, and art book publisher based out of South Central Los Angeles. If he's not in pursuit of bringing his own creative endeavors to life, he is usually helping others actualize theirs. As a visual artist, Lorenzo is committed to using his work, not only to tell the stories of his subjects, but also serve as an invitation for viewers to reflect and share their own stories. The common thread weaved throughout his work, is a deep value in fostering connection among people. Simply put, he loves using his work as the tool to create community.





Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# Grandma's Caddy

archival print  
limited edition  
11 x 17 in  
2018









Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# The Slauson

archival print  
limited edition  
11 x 17 in  
2016



# SUPER MALL

GE

OFFICE IN REAR

OFFICE IN REAR



3

4



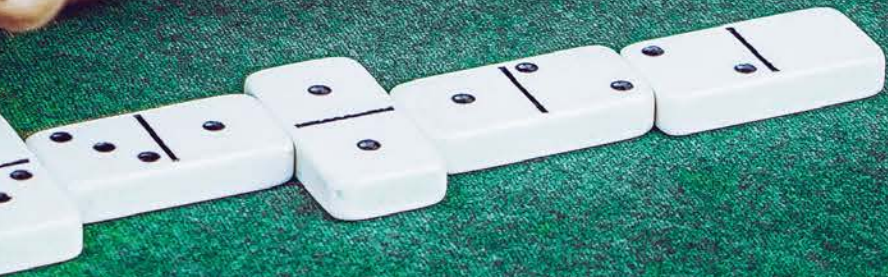


Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# Bones

archival print  
limited edition  
11 x 17 in  
2018









Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# King & Hobart

archival print  
limited edition  
11 x 17 in  
2016

BLVD.



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Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# Tak's Coffee Shop

archival print  
limited edition  
11 x 17 in  
2016





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Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# Safe Place

archival print  
limited edition  
8.5 x 11  
2016







Lorenzo Diggins Jr.

# Leimert Mask Festival

archival print  
limited edition  
8.5 x 11  
2016







# Malaika Jules

Malaika Jules is a creative polymath from Inglewood, CA. A writer, and stand up comedian, and documentarian, she captures candid cultural moments through the hip-hop lens. A graduate of Howard University and the University of Ghana, Legon, she has shared her work throughout the United States, Europe and West Africa.

In 1998, Malaika Jules was 15 years old, taking a photography class at Venice High School at night. She spent her time taking pictures of her neighborhood and the urban mundane on black and white film. She continued this creative practice for several years. These photographs are part of the *Leimert 98* photo series, a collection of photographs of Leimert Park and the surrounding area from 1998-2000 shot on 35mm film. *Leimert 98* It is the first in a three part series of film photographs of Black neighborhoods in America in the late 90's and early aughts, before gentrification.







Malaika Jules

# Beauty Salon 213

Pentax ME Super Film,  
archival textured cotton rag paper  
limited edition  
16 x 20 in  
1998



A'S B ST UP R S AR



Beauty Salon  
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Malaika Jules

# Ask For Treasure

Pentax ME Super Film,  
archival textured cotton rag paper  
limited edition  
16 x 20 in  
1998



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Malaika Jules

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limited edition  
16 x 20 in  
1998



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SOUNDTRACK  
IN STORES NOW



# Miles Regis

In the life and studio of LA-based, Trinidad-born artist Miles Regis, every action is an opportunity for creative self-expression. Prolific in both fine art and fashion design, Regis freely swaps the materials and languages of each to enrich the other. His large-scale mixed media paintings on canvas and linen incorporate dimensional collage elements of denim, buttons, leather, printed matter, sequins, and patches of eclectically sourced found textiles along with his dexterous, gestural, richly hued abstract and figurative painting techniques. Aggressively hopeful and humanistic, Regis embraces a storytelling stance in his stylized renditions of fundamental scenes of love, loss, freedom, survival, activism, and living history.

Regis and his art were featured in a Ford F-150 Truck national TV commercial in January 2021 and his 15 foot painted art sculpture is now in the permanent collection of the Ford Motor company. Regis is in the permanent collection of Intel Corporation, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, California African American Museum, PAMA in Canada and Senegal's La Musee Borindar; and has appeared in association with CNN, Art Basel Miami, The Coachella Music and Art Festival, CCH Pounder, Million Dollar Listing, Volcom, American Rag Cie, Art For Amnesty, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Manifest Justice, Adobe, and Tonny Sorenson. Regis has exhibited at Art Basel Miami and The Coachella Arts And Music Festival and has been featured on CNN, Forbes Magazine, The Huffington Post, Extra TV and Ebony Magazine.







Miles Regis

# Stop Killing Us

Acrylic and spray paint on canvas  
55 x 44 in  
2020





STOP

KILLING  
US

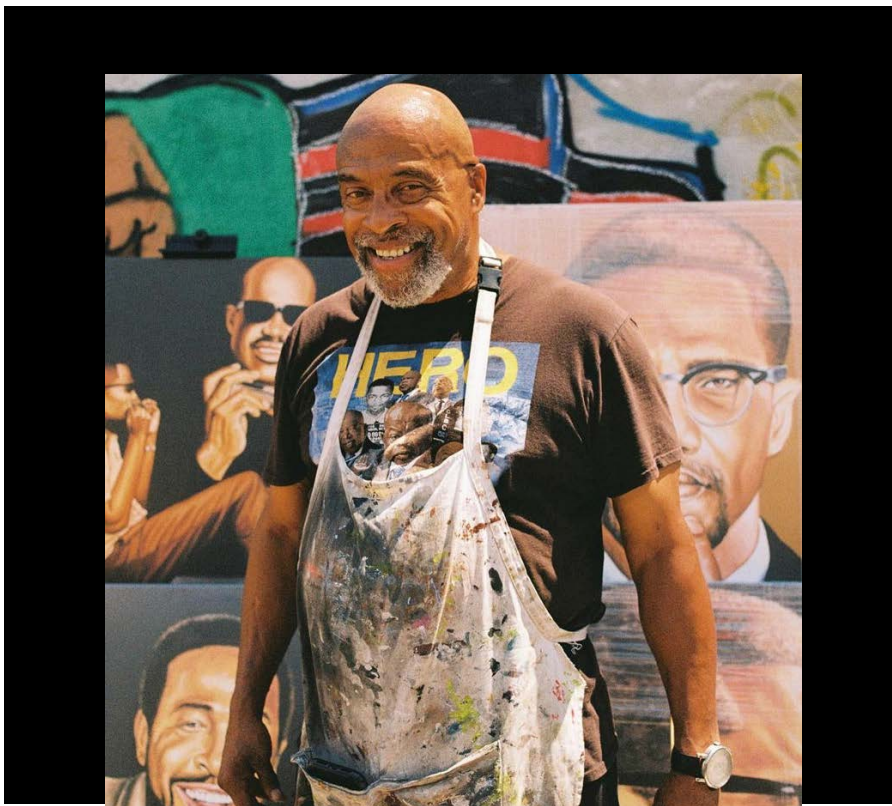


# Mohammed Mubarak

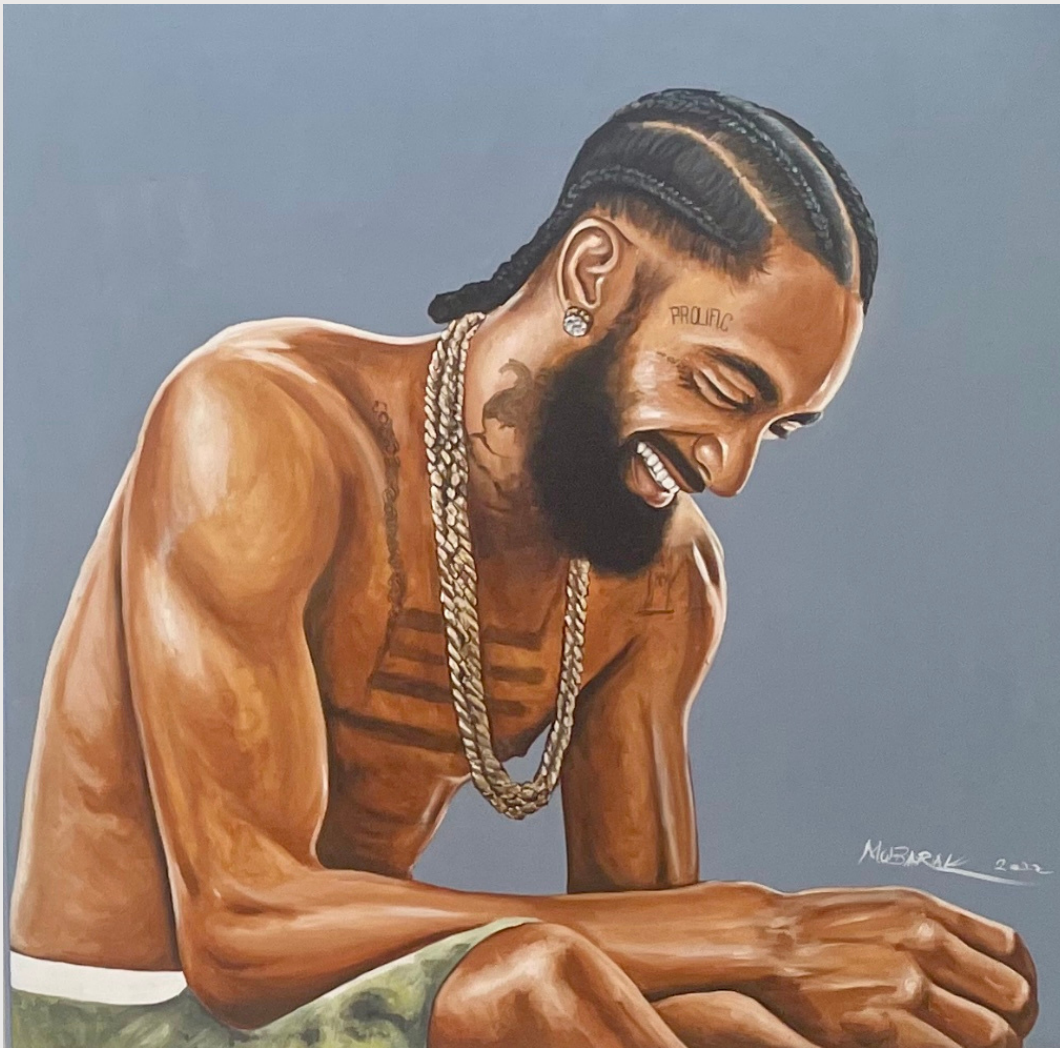
Mohammed Mubarak, is an artist and muralist known for his life-size portraits of notable Black figures including Barack Obama, Redd Foxx, Nina Simone, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Kobe Bryant, Nipsey Hussle and U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Mubarak draws inspiration from the lived experiences and knowledge of his subjects.

Mubarak began his painting career in 1970 as a high school student through the influence of his uncle, Arthur Dunlap Jr., a talented pencil and ink portrait artist and David Mosely, an oil painter who also happened to be the uncle of boxing legend Sugar Shane Moseley. During that time, Mubarak also endured the Watts Rebellion, briefly joining the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party as a result.

With no formal training, Mubarak honed his craft taking commissions from friends and colleagues as well as the talent and celebrities like Redd Foxx, Reverend Ike, and Stevie Wonder, whom he encountered during his brief stint as a radio announcer. Mubarak soon found himself embedded in the world of boxing, meeting the likes of Don King and Bob Arum and eventually meeting and forming a close relationship with the late and great Muhammad Ali who has been the subject of several of his murals and portraits. In 2022, Mubarak presented a series of works in a solo exhibition and his works can be spotted in murals around Los Angeles and in the Compton City Hall.





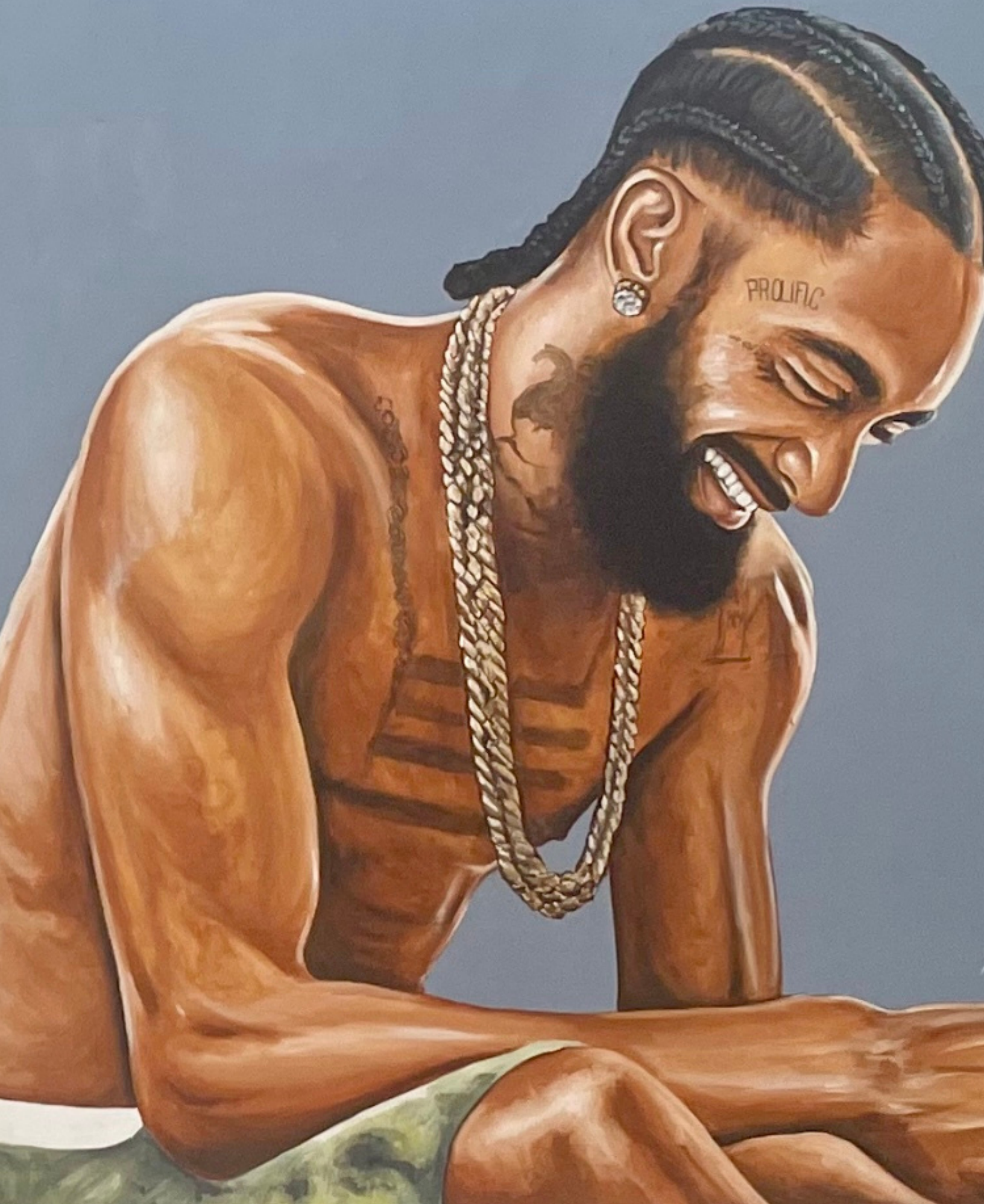


Mohammed Mubarak

# The Hood Star

oil on canvas  
72 x 72 in  
2023







# Noah Humes

Noah Humes was born and raised in Mid-City, Los Angeles, California. He graduated from Otis College of Art and Design with a BFA in Communication Arts with a focus on illustration. Humes's work is primarily portrait based and executed primarily with high chroma colors and crisp detail. Many of his subjects include friends, family members, and sports figures depicted in ways that are both reverential and personal. Memory, history, and lived experiences are major themes in his work and Humes often incorporates his own interpretations on political and social issues that affect him and his subjects.

In 2020, Humes garnered significant attention and support for his BLM mural work during the racial uprisings and also partnered with brands including Vans footwear to create custom designed products. Humes has appeared in solo and group presentations in galleries and special events in and around Los Angeles.







# Come Home

painting, mixed media  
30 x 30  
2023







# Rakeem Cunningham

Rakeem Cunningham -- born in Pacoima, California and currently based in Los Angeles -- is a multimedia artist who uses photography, collage, installation, and video to explore the nuances of queer black experience while forming clear declarations around subjectivity and validation. He draws inspiration from manga, anime, and video games, beautifully orchestrating photoshoots which often include himself and others in cosplay and other transformative, liberating, and restorative gestures.

Cunningham received his BFA from the UCLA Design Media Arts department. Cunningham's work has been primarily exhibited in venues across Los Angeles in addition to exhibitions in New York and Portland with forthcoming exhibitions slated to open at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles and the Southeast Museum of Photography at Daytona State College within the next year. His work has been featured in numerous publications including Artforum, Frieze, Hyperallergic, Cultured, KCRW Art Insider, AUTRE Magazine, Sugarcane Magazine, Curate LA, Vogue, Out Magazine, Pride.com, Portland Mercury, Loverboy Magazine, and Gay Times.







Rakeem Cunningham

# Hero

Archival inkjet print  
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)  
21 x 17 x 1.5 in (53.3 x 43.2 x 3.8 cm) Framed  
2021  
Courtesy of the Artist and OCHI.









Rakeem Cunningham

# Vixen

Archival inkjet print  
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)  
21 x 17 x 1.5 in (53.3 x 43.2 x 3.8 cm) Framed  
2021  
Courtesy of the Artist and OCHI.



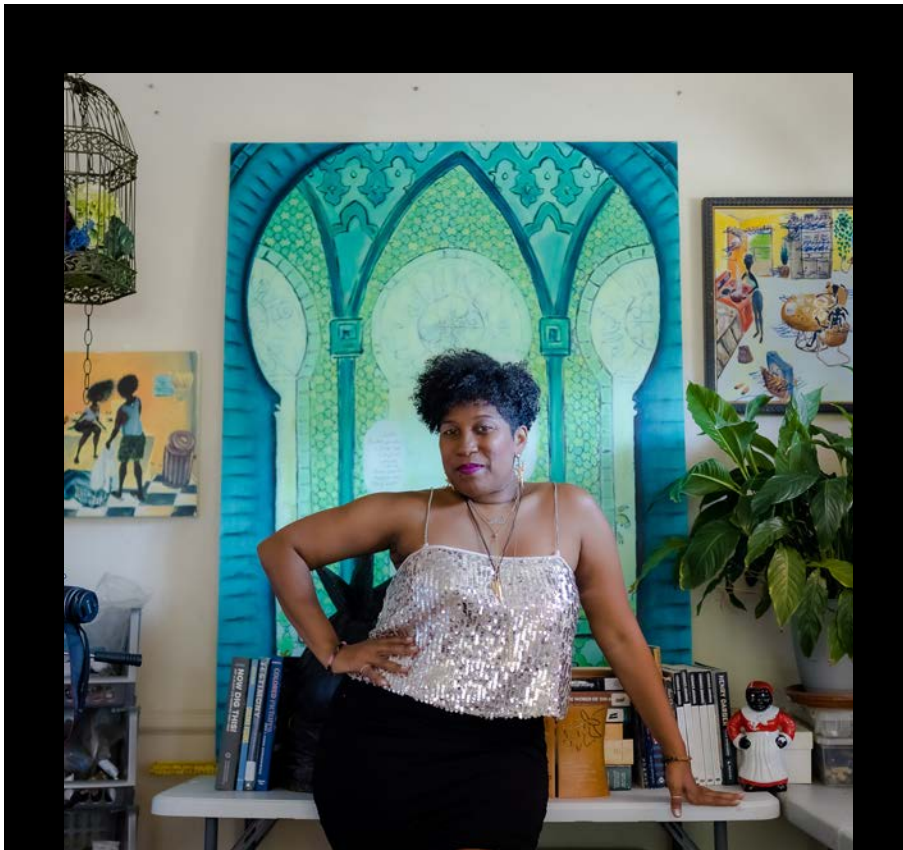




# Zeal Harris

Zeal Harris, an Los Angeles artist by way of Virginia and Washington D.C., creates urban-vernacular visual stories. Her influences include an eclectic mix of Southern Black folk art, Asian scroll paintings, Persian miniatures, Mexican ex-votos, and Afrofuturist literature. A current series, *Pantheon of Akatas* centers ancestral-mother-maroons on the brink of ethnogenesis while on a quest for promised land. Another ongoing project, *I Be Livin' Black Love* consists of black-feminist themed book-style illustrations of contemporary life.

Harris has previously shown at the California African-American Museum, Prizm Art Fair, Satellite Art Fair, Ghetto Biennale in Haiti, The Caribbean Culture Center of the African Diaspora in New York, and the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in Arizona. Harris has been highlighted by Art News Magazine, LA Weekly, Los Angeles Times, Huffington Post, Artillery, Obsidian Journal, Pacifica Radio, Fabrik Magazine, Clocktower Radyo Shak, and the book, *Creative Souls: African-American Artists in Greater Los Angeles*. In addition to her art practice, Harris also works as a lecturer at California State University at Fullerton and Otis College of Art & Design and recently participated in the Arts Alive Artist-In-Residence program at San Diego State University.





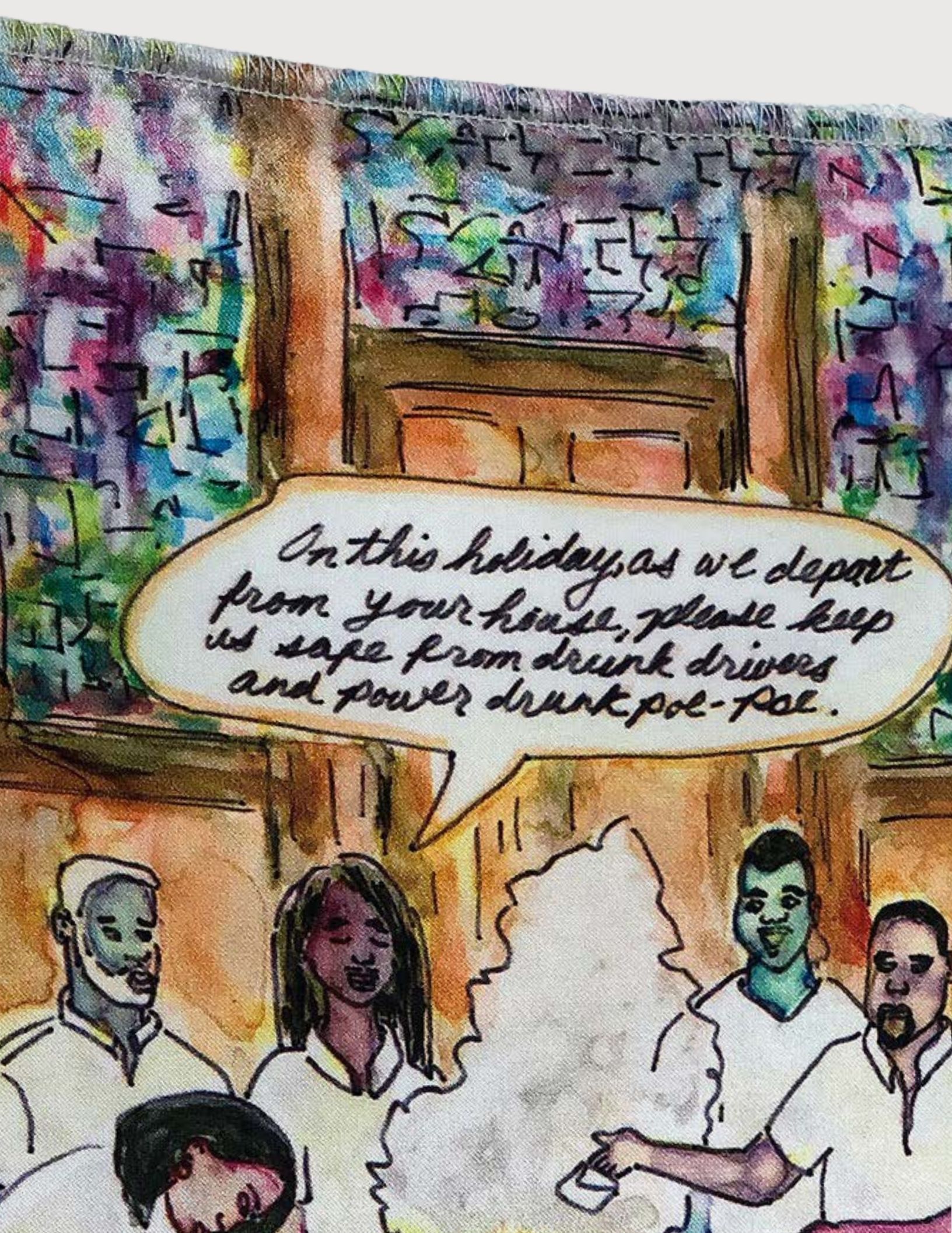


Zeal Harris

# Sanctified Hoodoo

dye sublimation on fabric  
13 x 18 in  
2016  
Exclusive limited edition 1/5

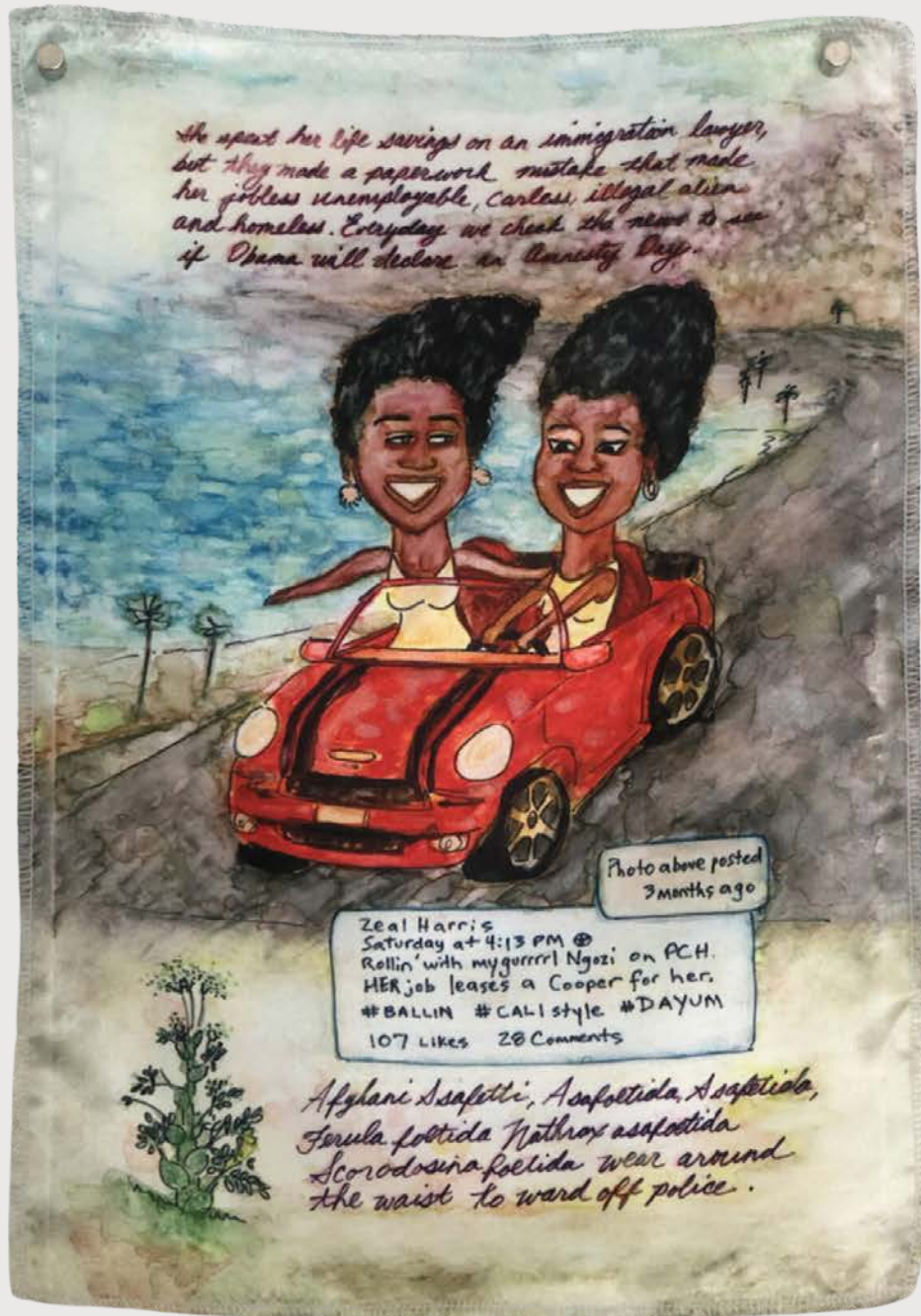




*On this holiday, as we depart  
from your house, please keep  
us safe from drunk drivers  
and power drunk pol-pol.*







Zeal Harris

## Amnesty for Ngozi

dye sublimation on fabric  
13 x 18 in  
2016  
Exclusive limited edition 1/5





Photo above posted  
3 months ago

Zeal Harris  
Saturday at 4:13 PM 📍  
Rollin' with my gurrri Ngozi on PCH.  
HER job leases a Cooper for her.  
#BALLIN #CALI style #DAYUM  
107 Likes 28 Comments

*Afghani Isafetti, Asafetida, Asafetida,  
Ferula foetida Natrix asafetida  
Scorodosina foetida wear around  
the waist to ward off police.*







Zeal Harris

## Advice from Judea Falaise

dye sublimation on fabric

13 x 18 in

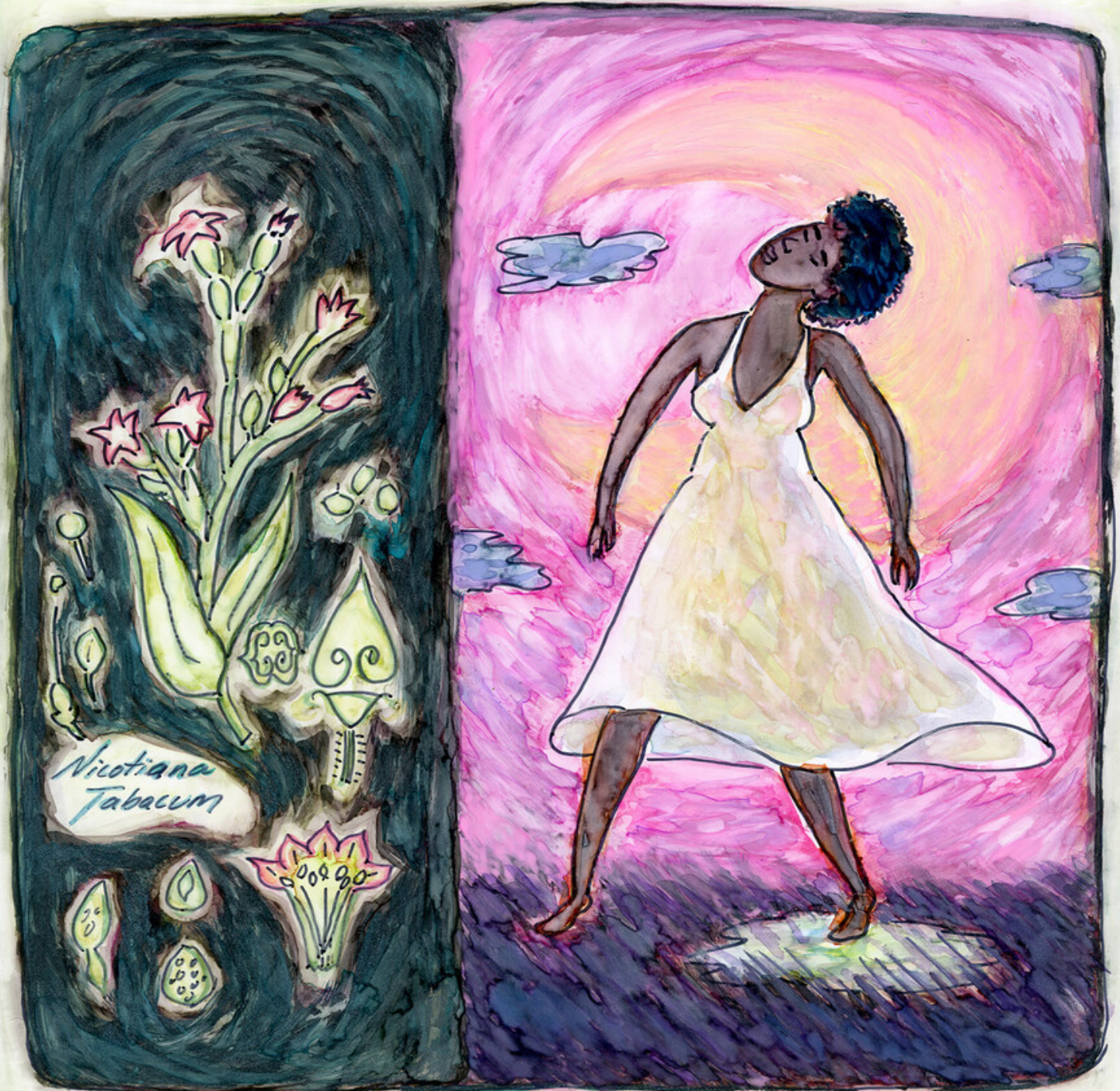
2016

Exclusive limited edition 1/5

From the collection of Lisa Diane Wedgeworth



"They could be devil or angel. Yo ta ka dyab  
oswa zanj. Le ou bezwen yo, ou pa  
ta pito yo se zanj. When you need  
them, aren't you going to want them to be angel?"



For Love Drawing: To call back a lover lost to  
police, sprinkle Mayan Sik'ah on your phone.





Zeal Harris

## Love Potion Against Ghetto Birds

dye sublimation on fabric

13 x 18 in

2016

Exclusive limited edition 1/5





*To encourage someone to love you more ...  
you must burn it for 7 days...*



*...with Attraction Oil and  
Levisticum Officinale's root.*





Zeal Harris

## Pantheon of Akatas: Survivor

Mixed media  
24 x 37 in (30 x 40 in frame)  
Exclusive limited edition 2/5  
2019





ination





Zeal Harris

## Pantheon of Akatas: Contraband

Mixed media  
24 x 37 in (30 x 40 in frame)  
Exclusive limited edition 1/5  
2019









Photo: Texas Isaiah

# Thank You

If I'm ever asked to do something for the Black artists in my city, I will always say yes.

The voices and visuals of Black LA are fundamental to own identity but also to the entire city and quite honestly the State of California. Born and raised in Los Angeles, I'm deeply connected to the community that raised me and continue to play my part to hold onto it.

Warmest thanks to the artists and the whole Destination Crenshaw team for your support and commitment to art, culture, history and the future of Los Angeles. May we all continue to capture and cultivate the *moments and memories* near and dear to us all.

- Dominique Clayton





DESTINATION  
**CRENSHAW**