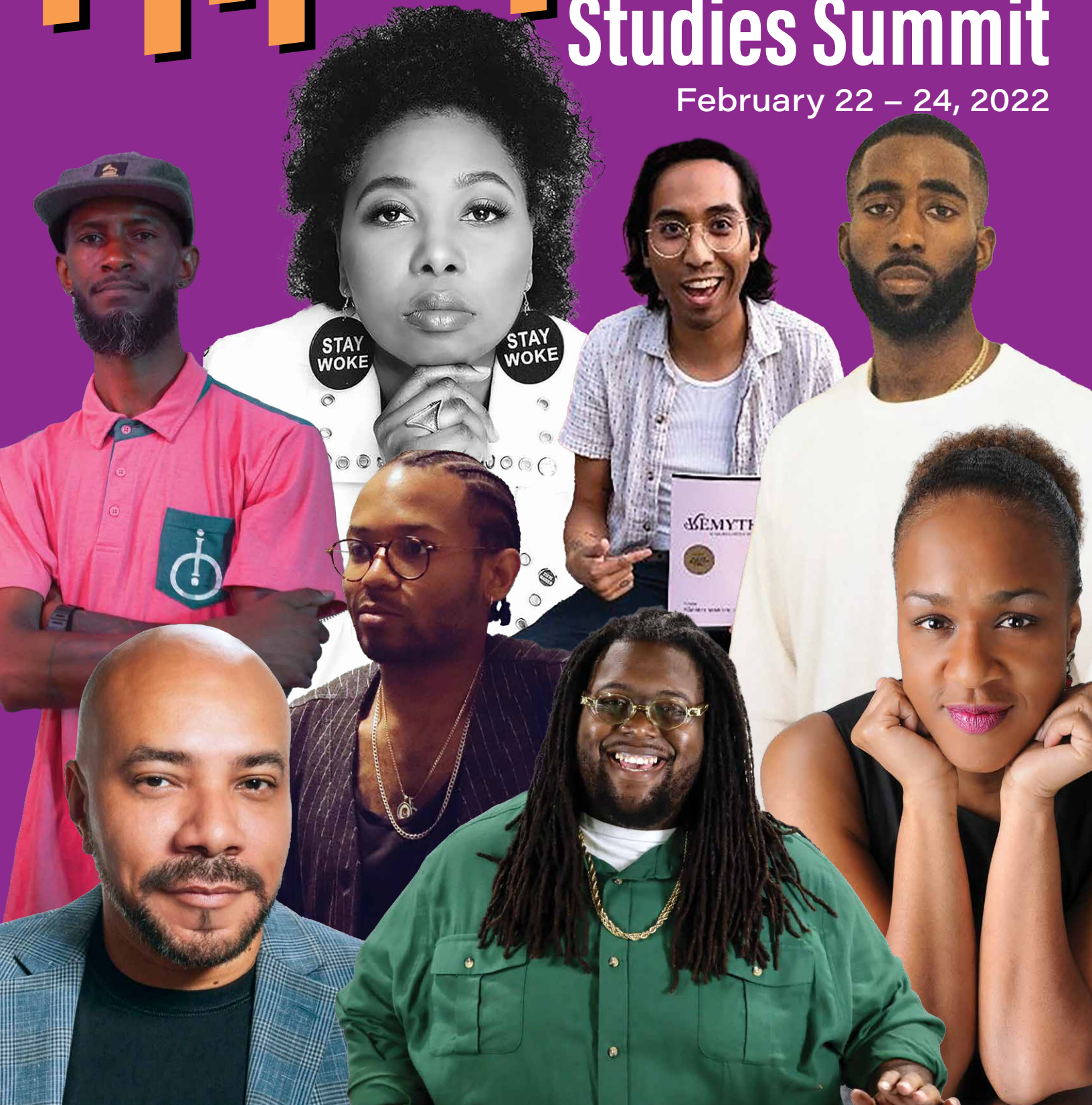


Hip Hop

Studies Summit

February 22 – 24, 2022



Presented by the Arts, Communication, & Design Academic and Career Community in partnership with UMOJA and the Center for Culture and Social Justice.

The Chaffey Hip Hop Studies Summit is an annual conference designed to bring together diverse scholars—students, faculty, researchers—and visual and performing artists from local communities in order to promote social justice and to celebrate African American/Black and Brown literacies through hip hop. This year, we are highlighting our local hip hop community while showcasing the connections to the national—and now global—movement of hip hop around the world.

In an ode to the roots and sound of hip hop, our featured artists rep’ both the East and the West—Rob Newman from NYC and Jonah Elijah from LA, each gracing us with their unique take on Blackness and hip hop culture. We are also hype to welcome back our guest juror, John Jennings, who served as the keynote speaker at the Inaugural Hip Hop Studies Summit. Jennings is a professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UCR, a NY Times bestselling author, graphic novelist, curator, Harvard Fellow, and editor.

Jennings examines the visual culture of race in various media forms including film, illustrated fiction, comics, and graphic novels. He is also the director of Abrams ComicArts imprint Megascope, which publishes graphic novels focused on the experiences of people of color.

In KRS-One’s *Ruminations*, he contends that “Rap is something you do. Hip Hop is something you live.” He also frequently reminds us that hip hop has the power to change the world. For this virtual exhibition—titled *Ruminations ‘n Rhythm: Reflections on Hip Hop* as an homage to KRS-One—we asked artists to consider how hip hop appears, manifests itself, and/or operates within their lives as well as the power that hip hop has to spark dialogue, reflect experience, critique structure(s), envision new possibilities, and/or enact the type of change that KRS-One so famously imagines. This exhibition seeks to capture some of the ways that hip hop has been (and continues to be) a part of our lives—individually, collectively, locally, broadly, intimately, publicly.

Hip Hop Studies Planning Committee, 2022

Emilie Koenig, English

Donald Essex, DPS Counseling

Brent McLaren, Counseling

Tara Johnson, Fashion Merchandising

Adam Martinez, English

Taisha McMickens, Communication Studies



Robert Newman, *Young Kings*, 2019.
Acrylic and ink on metalsheet. 36 x 24 inches.



Robert Newman, detail from *Baptized in Fire, The Return of Cleopatra*, 2021.

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

**2pm /
Poetry Workshop #1 / D.E.E.P.**
Live poetry workshop with former Poet Laureate Emeritus of Houston and #2 Best Female Performance Poet in the World, Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton.

**5pm /
Graf Art Workshop #1 / Rob Newman**
Live graffiti art workshop with New York-based visual artist, Rob Newman.

**630pm /
Opening Event**

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2022**

**2pm /
Graf Art Workshop #2 / Rob Newman**
Live graffiti art workshop with New York-based visual artist, Rob Newman.

**5pm /
Poetry Workshop #2 / Judah 1**
Live poetry workshop with the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Pomona, Judah 1.

**630pm /
Community Artist Talk-Back Panel**
Featuring professional hip hop artists from throughout the IE and beyond.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

**12pm /
Keynote Address / Dr. Elaine Richardson**

**5pm /
Dance Workshop**
Live hip hop dance workshop. No experience necessary!

**630pm /
Hip Hop Summit Showcase**
Featuring professional artists, Chaffey students, and our local hip hop community.

REGISTER NOW

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-hip-hop-studies-summit-2022-tickets-251455218327>

Jonah Elijah, detail from *Do you see what i see*, 2021.





ARTIST SPOTLIGHT /


Jonah Elijah

Jonah Elijah is a Houston, Texas native now working in Los Angeles. He received his BA in studio art from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2017, and MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 2020.

Jonah Elijah's work encapsulates black life in America and addresses controversial issues that actively affect the African American community. Using materials to explore economic inequality, displacement, or human rights Elijah's artist practice embraces discomforting realities. Being raised around lower income hardships Elijah builds off his own personal upbringing and creates works that reflect the black experience. Whether in his paintings or installations, Elijah layers his work with coded language offering an abstracted or representational view of what it's like to be black today.

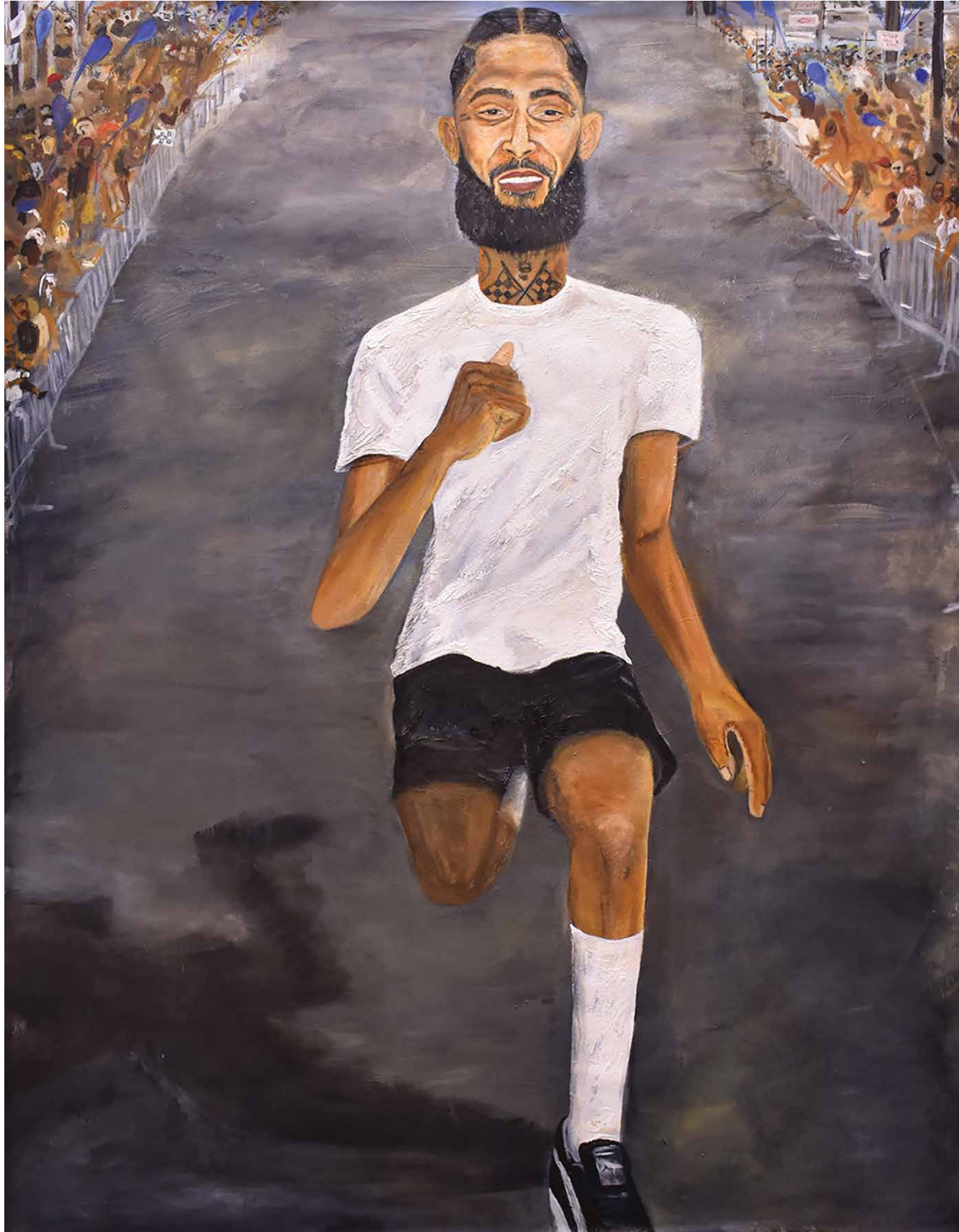
STATEMENT

I negotiate and celebrate the concept of being black, through narratives, exploration of identity, portraiture, and language. Through abstraction, representation, and assemblage I use my memories to depict the experience of being raised in a predominately black neighborhood. I depict the scenes from my journey with the hopes of providing nostalgia for a viewer. When it comes to innovation, I'm always in search of news way to bring my ideas to life. Currently I have been dissecting sneakers and attaching them in my pieces to help the viewer walk in my shoes. My work invites viewers to look at these experiences both literally and metaphorically, echoing my upbringing. I not only want people to see scenes from my life, but also to feel what it's like to be a part of my larger community and maybe even feel what it's like be black in America.

 www.jonahelijah.com

 [@jonah.elijah](https://www.instagram.com/jonah.elijah)

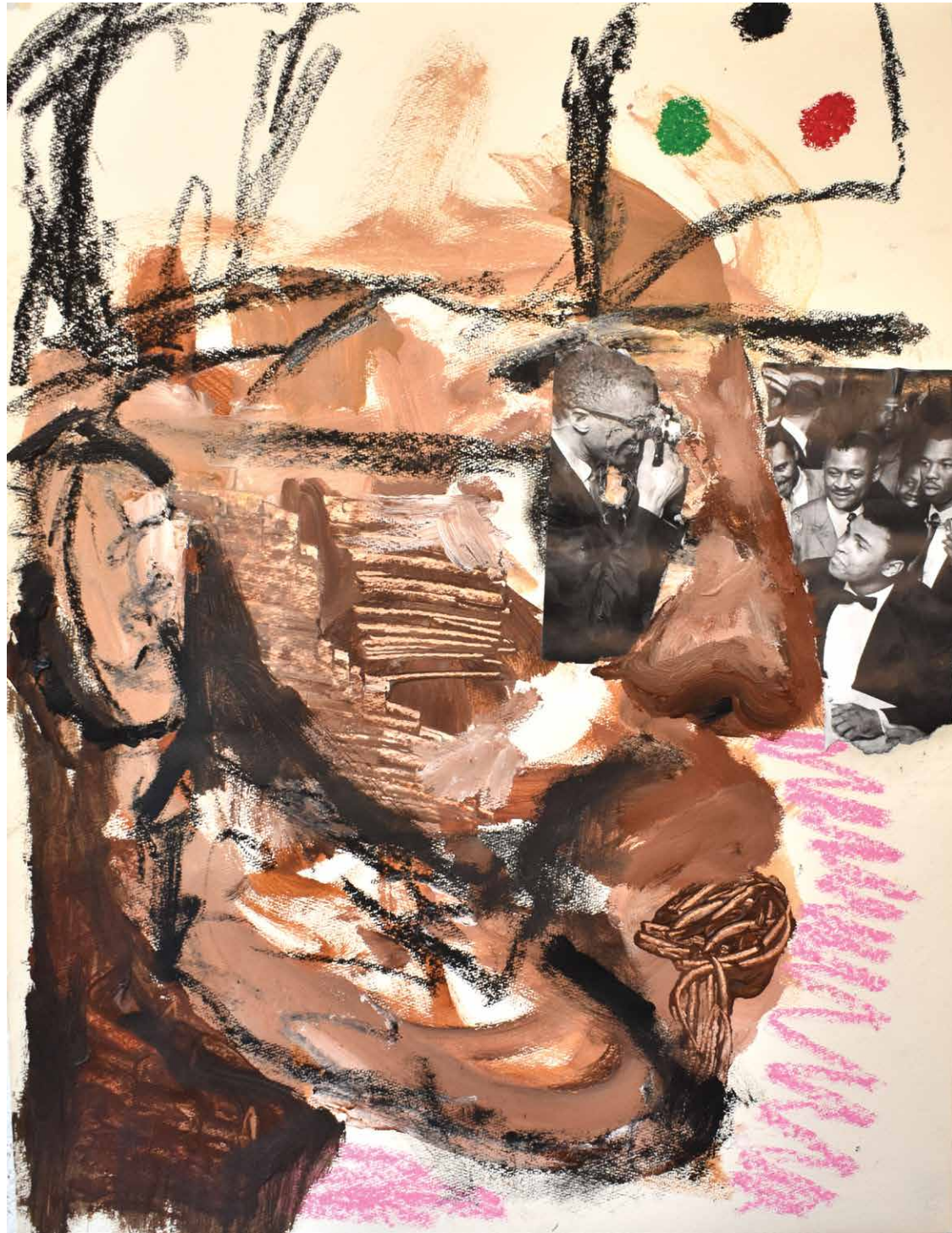
◀ Photograph of **Jonah Elijah**. Artwork left: Jonah Elijah, *Epitome (Houston Freestyle King)*, 2021. Acrylic, spray paint, paper, lighters, license plate. Artwork right: Jonah Elijah, *25 lighters*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas.



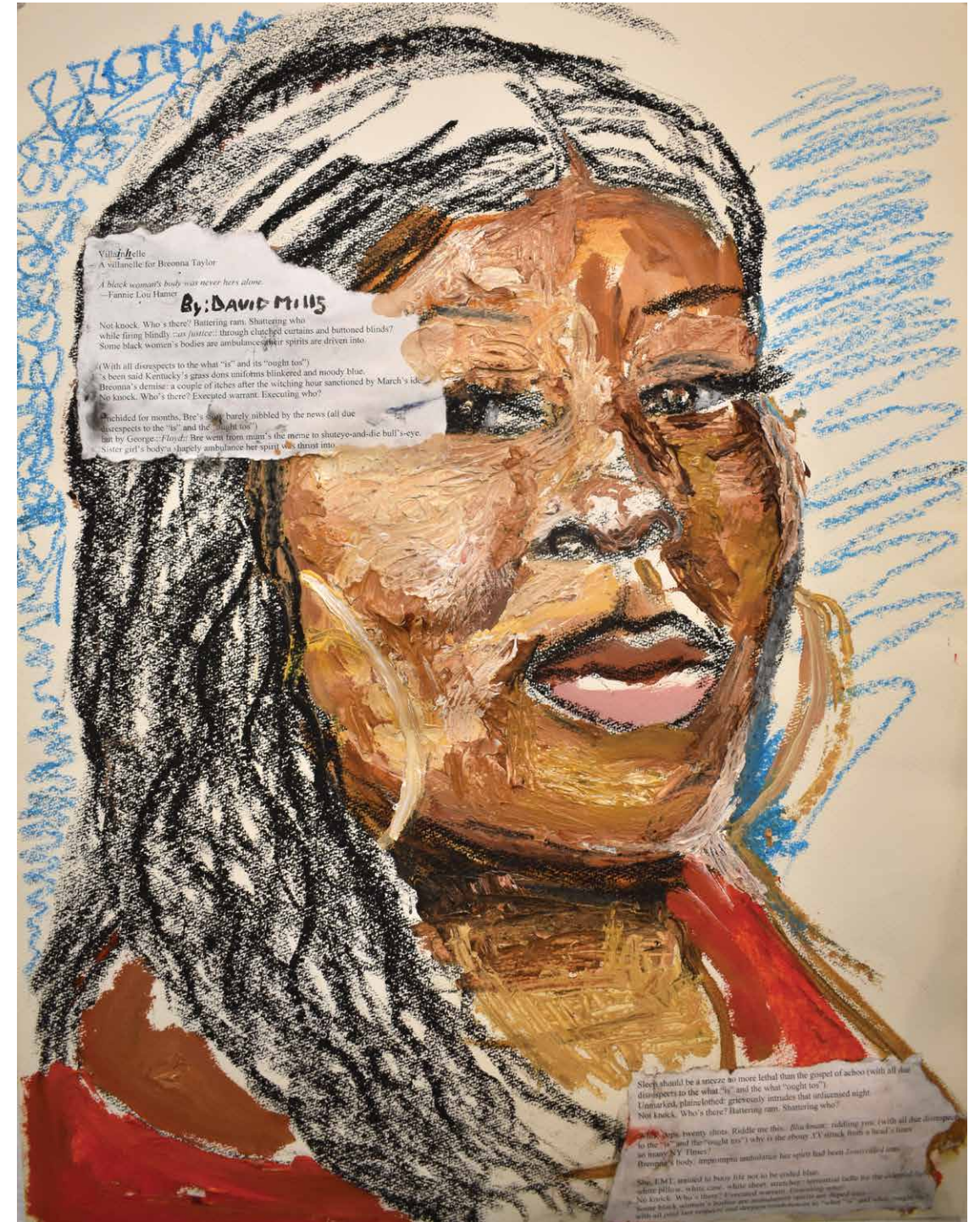
Jonah Elijah, *Crenshaw's Annual Marathon*, 2020. Oil on canvas. 84 x 61 inches.



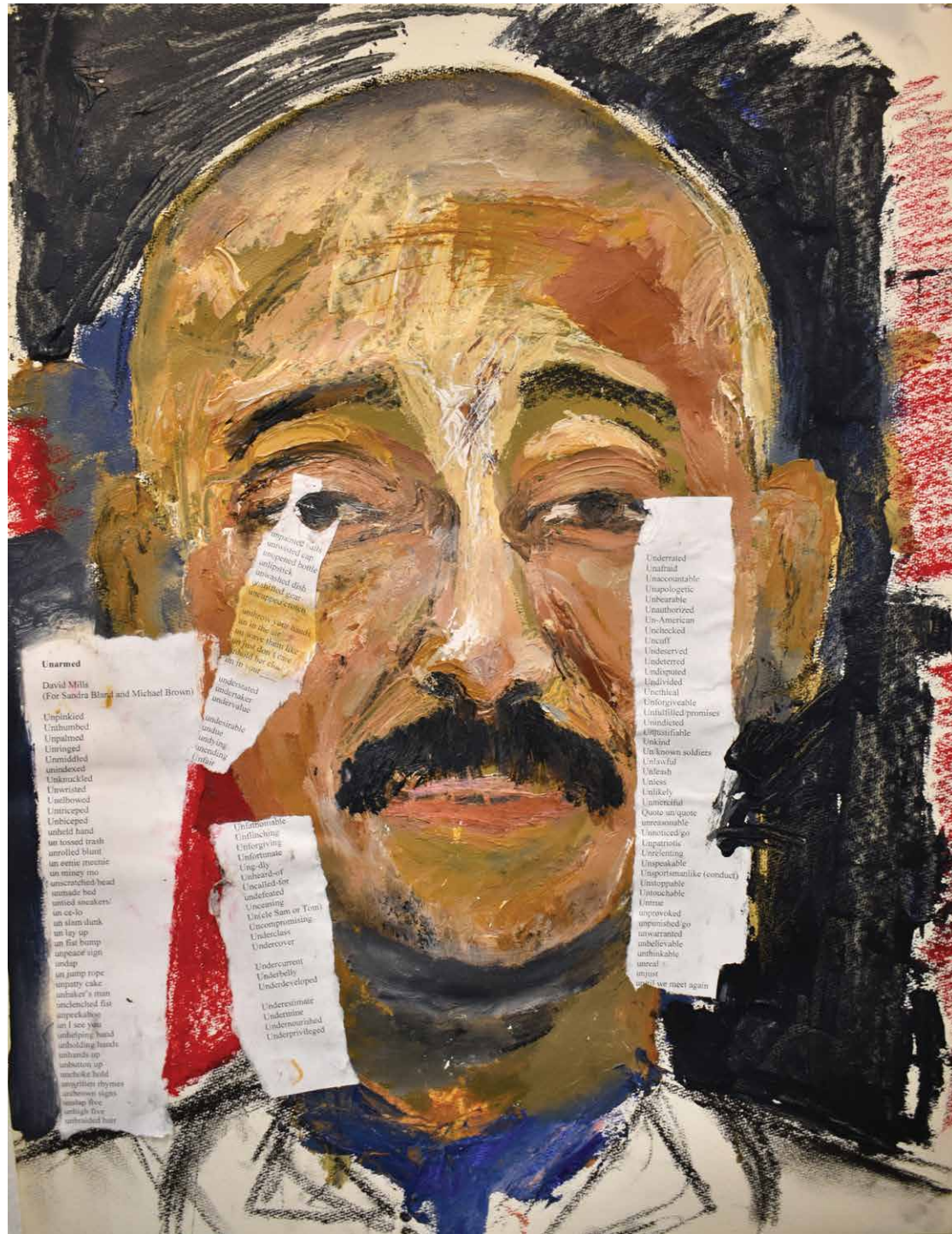
Jonah Elijah, *Ghetto Dreams*, 2021. Acrylic, chalk, shoes, on canvas. 96 x 48 inches.



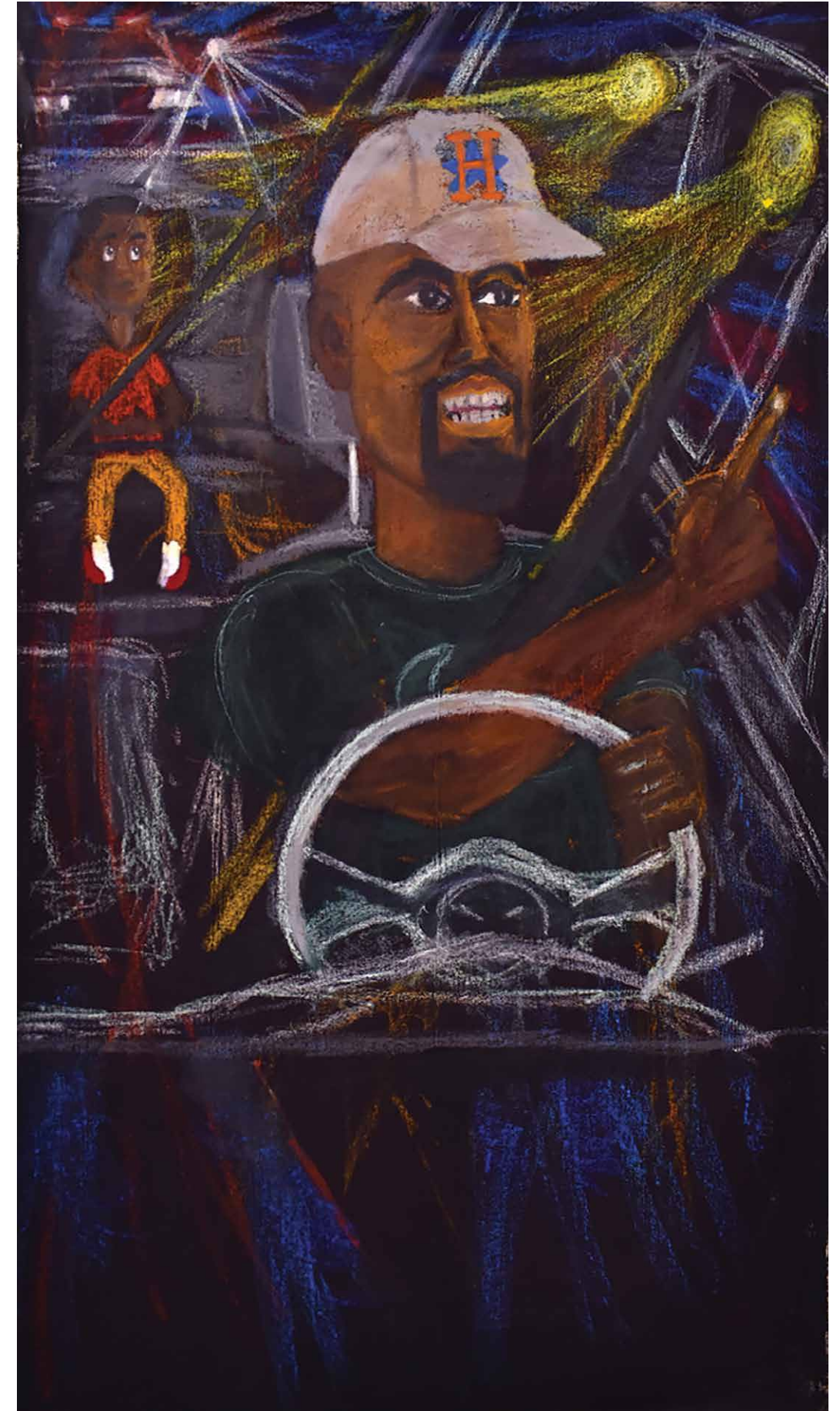
Jonah Elijah, *Do you see what i see*, 2021.
Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel on paper.
24 x 18 inches.



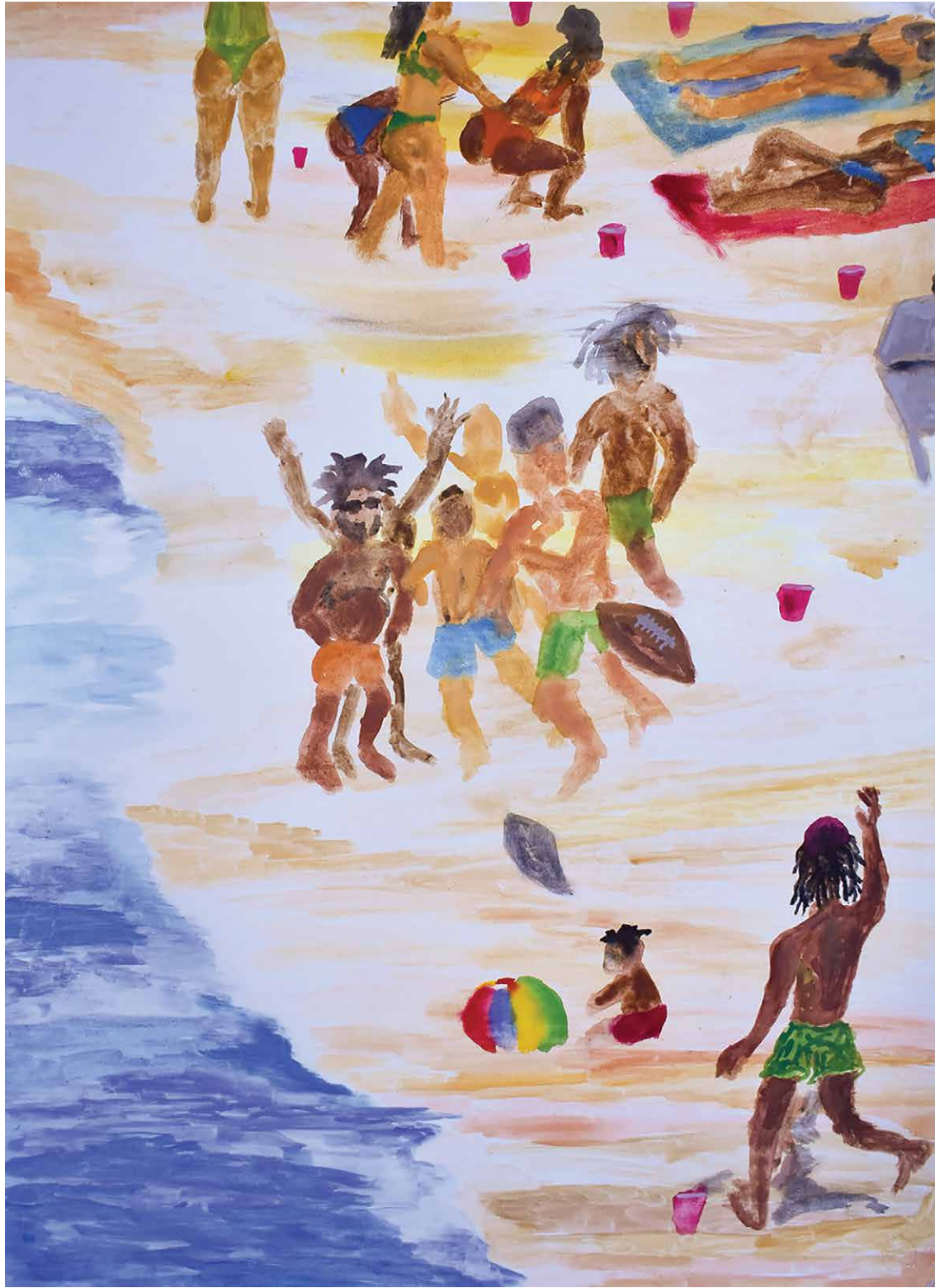
Jonah Elijah, *Breonna Taylor (David Mills)*, 2021.
Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel, paper,
on paper. 24 x 18 inches.



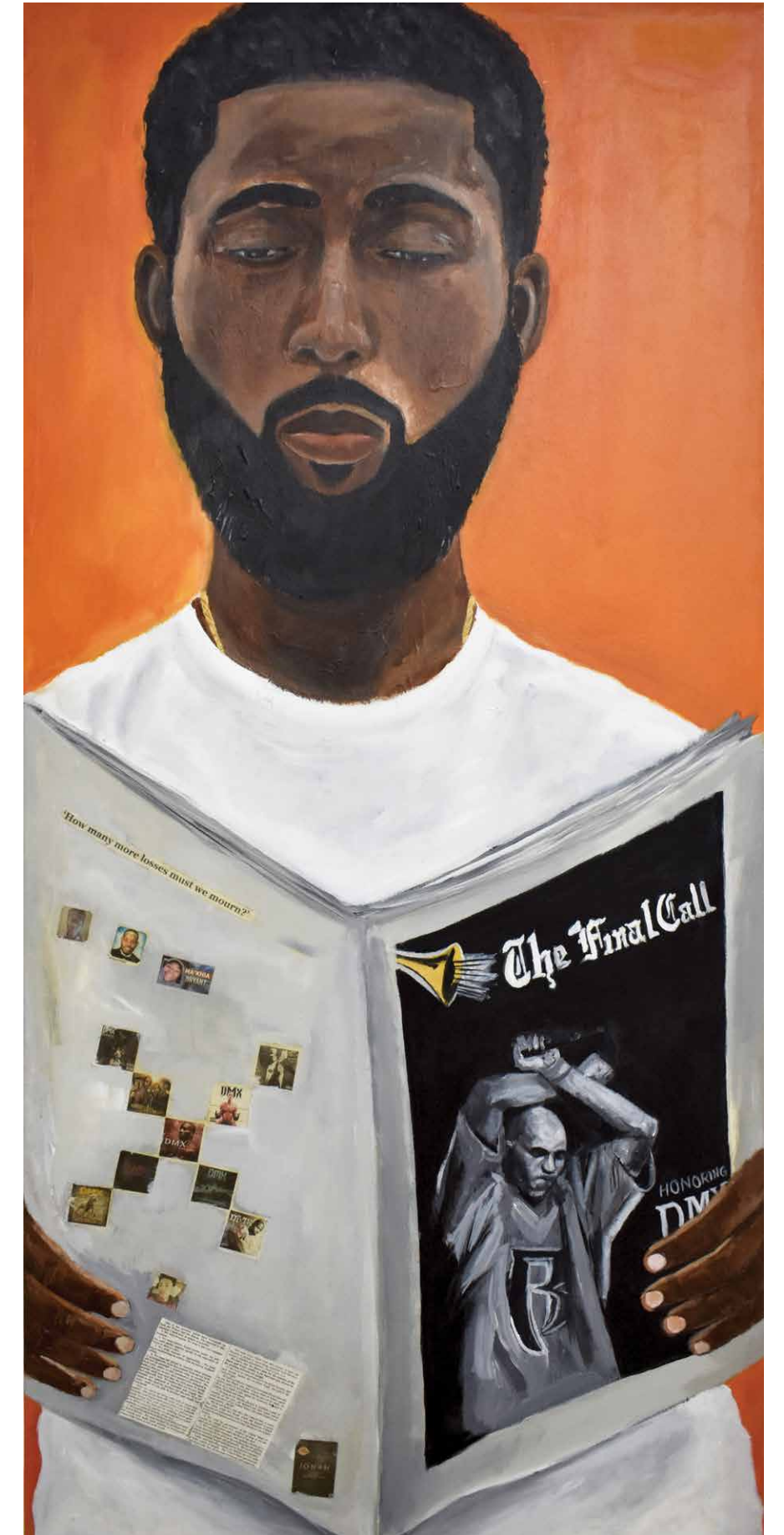
Jonah Elijah, David Mills - Unarmed, 2021. Acrylic, charcoal, oil pastel, paper, on paper. 24 x 18 inches.



Jonah Elijah, Pops going off on the cops, 2019. Oil on canvas. 63 x 34 inches.



Jonah Elijah, *2019 BC (before covid), 2020*.
Watercolor on paper. 30 x 22 inches.



Jonah Elijah, *The news you can use, 2021*.
Acrylic, paper on canvas. 69 x 32 inches.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT /

Robert Newman

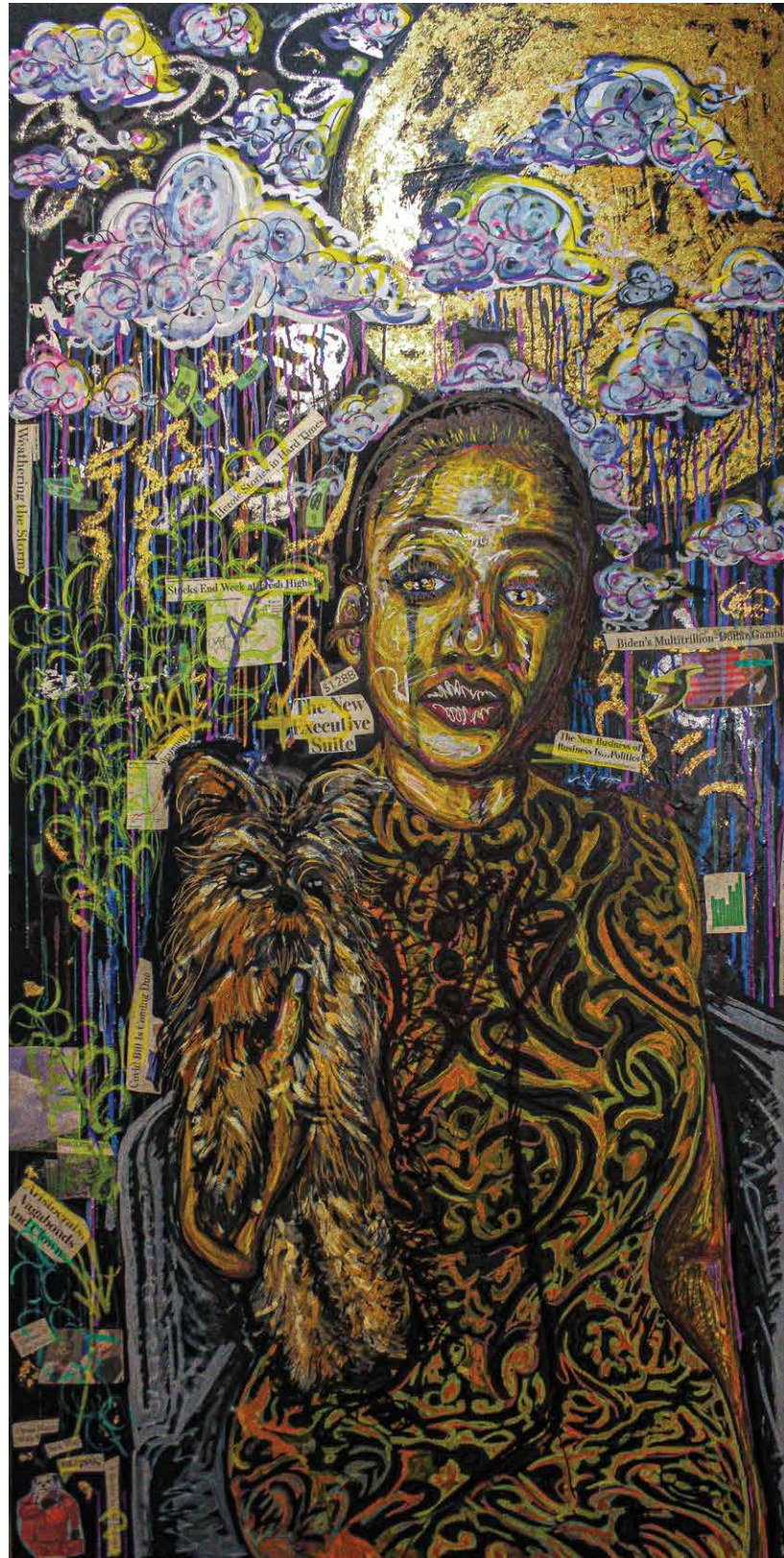
Robert L. Newman III is a self-taught Black American multidisciplinary artist, best known for his expressionist portraits. Currently living and working in Harlem, New York, Newman's work primarily follows and examines the narrative of Black Folks through a post-Civil War Reconstruction era lens. Newman's artistic journey began in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the window of his grandmother's doll store. Since then, Newman has traveled and lived throughout the United States with a significant amount of his time situated in what is known as the "Jim Crow South." Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee and Georgia. Newman utilizes his intimate and life-long experiences within Black culture to showcase the continued liberation efforts of Black Folks in America, evoking and honoring his ancestors throughout each piece he creates.

STATEMENT

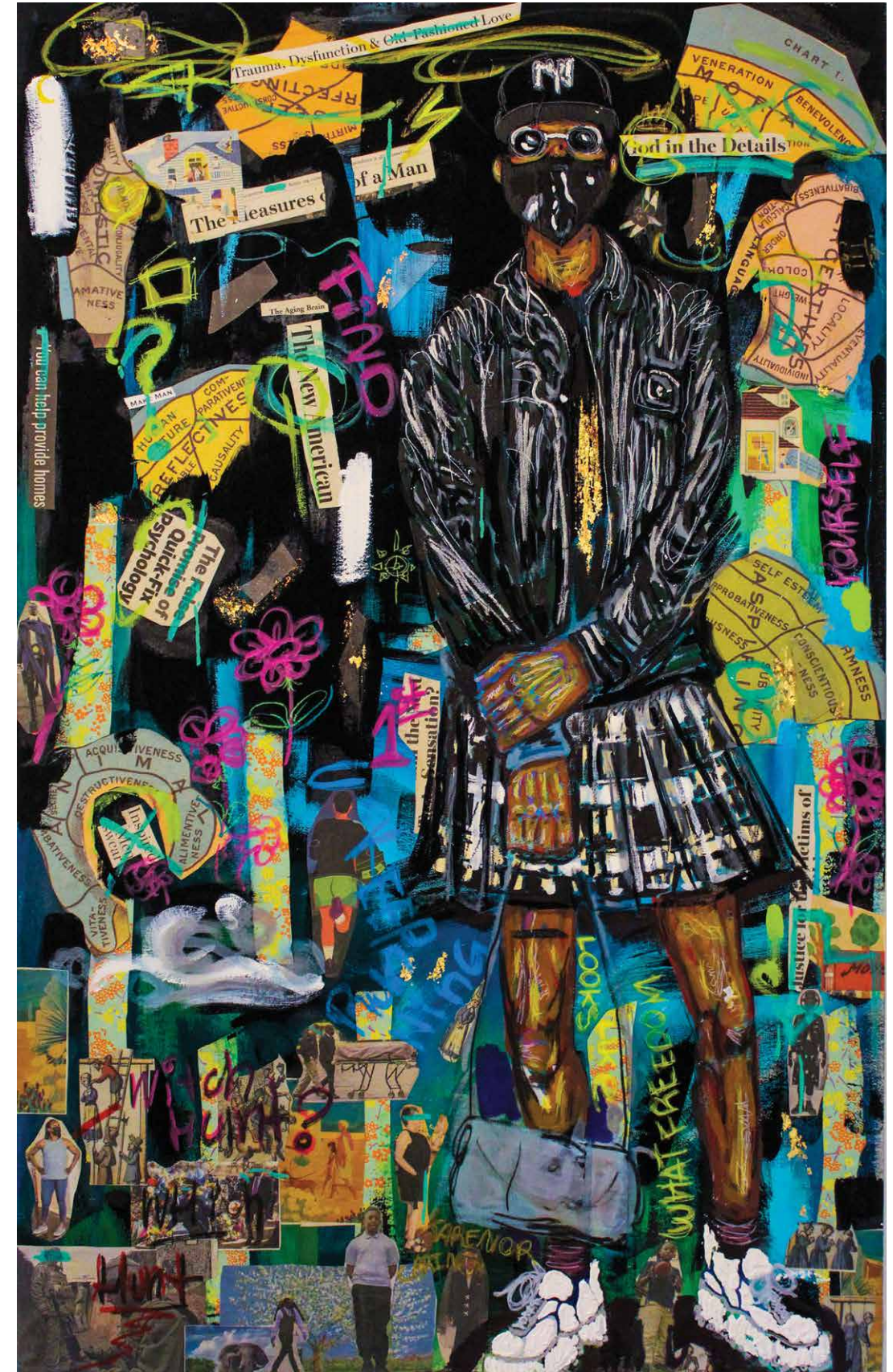
Drawing and painting have always been my first loves, but in my growth as an artist, I have become more interested in fashion, photography, curating and writing. Much of my work is still influenced by my grandmother. She was my first teacher. I have since had the opportunity to study at Morehouse College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, GA and the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Because of this, my work is in constant conversation with my community. I seek to create work that represents my peers and neighbors in the way I see them [and they see themselves]. My hope is that through this process of storytelling, I can facilitate healing and growth for Black folks in American who have lived with, and for some through, the generational trauma of slavery and oppression.

www.rxbart.com
[@robnewmaniii](https://www.instagram.com/robnewmaniii)
[@rxbart](https://www.instagram.com/rxbart)

◀ Photograph of **Robert Newman**.



Robert Newman, from the series *Birth of the Kool*, *Baptized in Fire; The Return of Cleopatra*, 2021. Acrylic, ink, gold leaf, and collage on canvas. 72 x 36 inches.



Robert Newman, from the series *Birth of the Kool*, *Breakthrough*, 2021. Acrylic, ink, gold leaf, and collage on canvas. 48 x 30 inches.



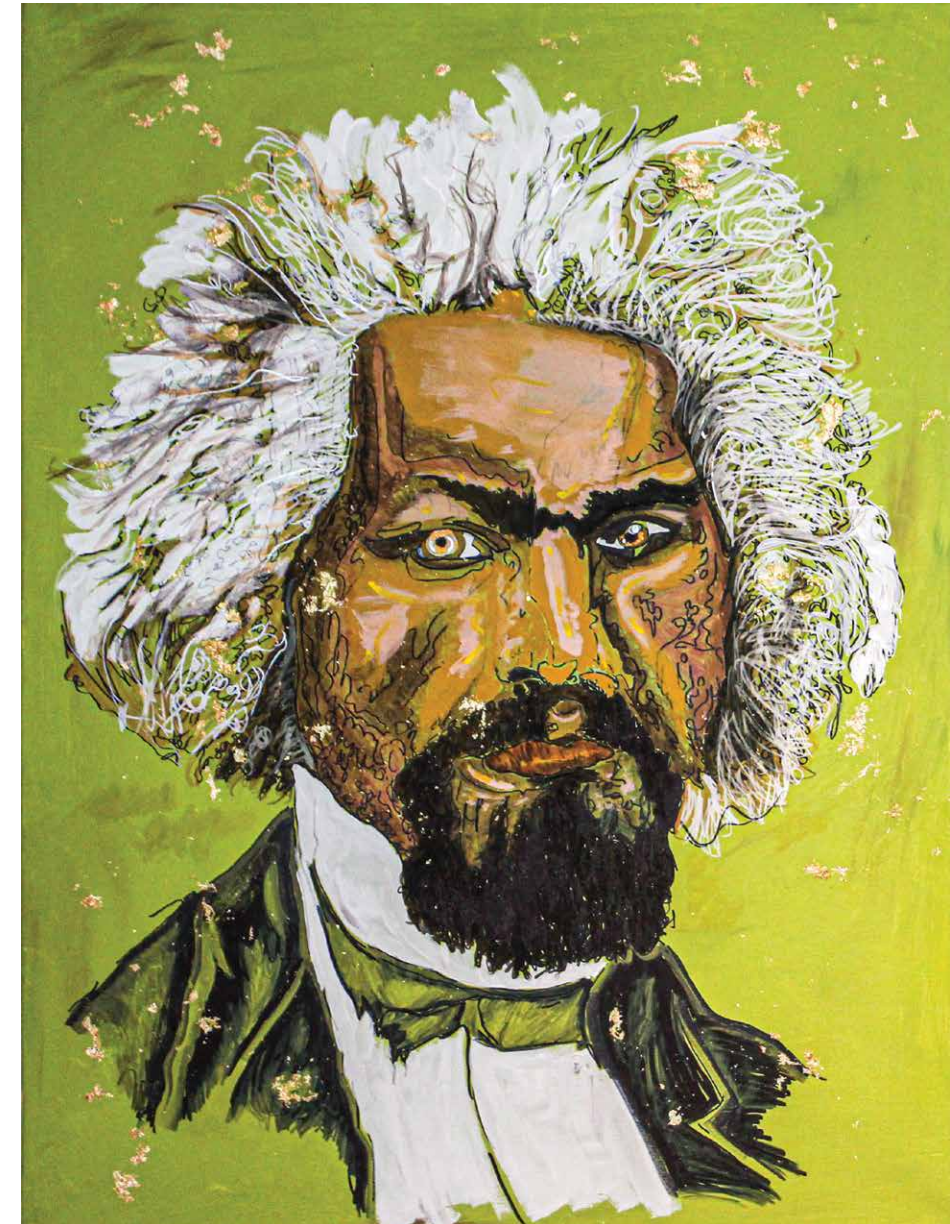
Robert Newman, *My Favorite Hue No. 1*, 2019.
Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on canvas. 40 x 30 inches.



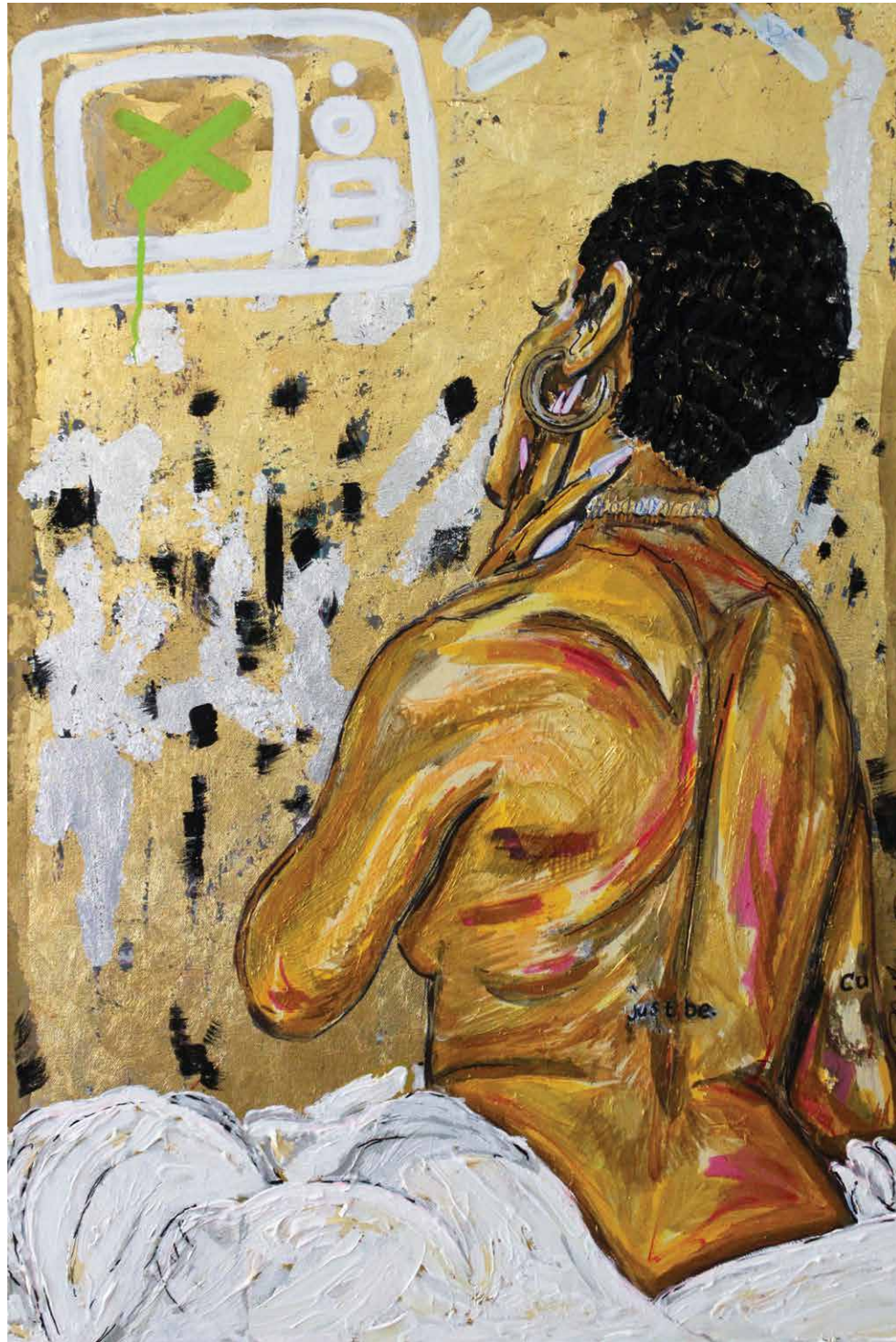
Robert Newman, from the series *Birth of the Kool, St. Ignis*, 2021.
Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on canvas. 40 x 30 inches.



Robert Newman, *No Fury*, 2020.
Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on canvas.
40 x 30 inches.



Robert Newman, *Without Struggle*, 2020.
Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on canvas.
40 x 30 inches.



Robert Newman, *Girl with the Hoop Earring*, 2021. Acrylic, ink, and gold leaf on canvas. 36 x 24 inches.



Robert Newman, *Grandma's Garden*, 2021. Acrylic, ink, and newspaper collage on canvas. 24 x 18 inches.



Robert Newman, *Bebop #3*, 2021.
Acrylic and ink on canvas.
14 x 11 inches.



Robert Newman, *Bebop #4*, 2021.
Acrylic, ink, and newspaper collage on cardboard.
18 x 24 inches.


Community Exhibition
Ruminations 'n Rhythm /
Juried by John Jennings

John Jennings

John Jennings is a professor, author, graphic novelist, curator, Harvard Fellow, New York Times Bestseller, 2018 Eisner Winner, and all-around champion of Black culture.

As Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of California at Riverside (UCR), Jennings examines the visual culture of race in various media forms including film, illustrated fiction, and comics and graphic novels. He is also the director of Abrams ComicArts imprint Megascope, which publishes graphic novels focused on the experiences of people of color. His research interests include the visual culture of Hip Hop, Afrofuturism and politics, Visual Literacy, Horror and the EthnoGothic, and Speculative Design and its applications to visual rhetoric.

Jennings is co-editor of the 2016 Eisner Award-winning collection *The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in Comics and Sequential Art* (Rutgers) and co-founder/organizer of The Schomburg Center's Black Comic Book Festival in Harlem. He is co-founder and organizer of the MLK NorCal's Black Comix Arts Festival in San Francisco and also SOL-CON: The Brown and Black Comix Expo at the Ohio State University.

 www.johnjenningsstudio.com

 [@johnjenningsart](https://www.instagram.com/johnjenningsart)

 [@jjennings](https://twitter.com/jjennings)

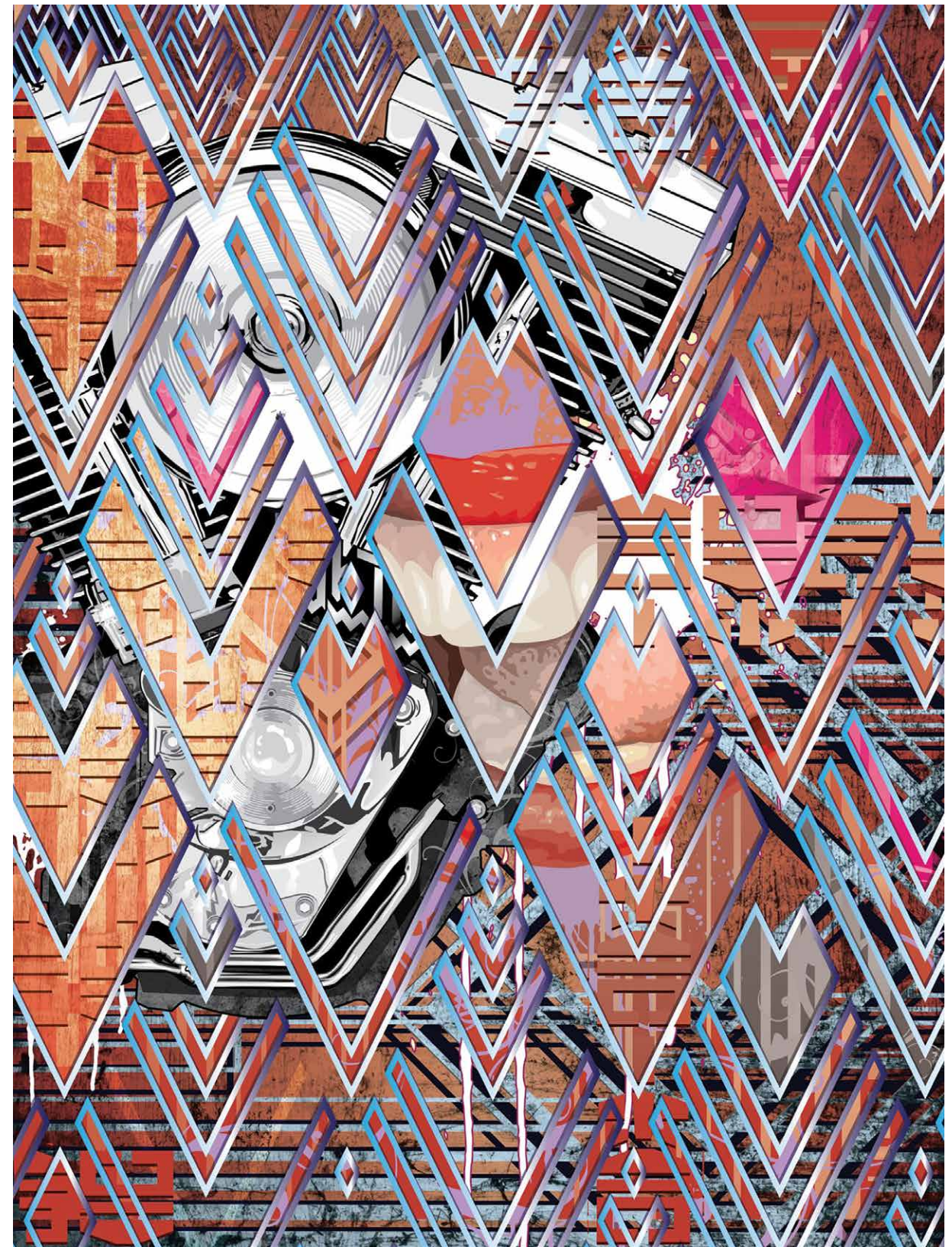
Photograph of **John Jennings**. ▶



Ruminations 'n Rhythm: Reflections on Hip Hop

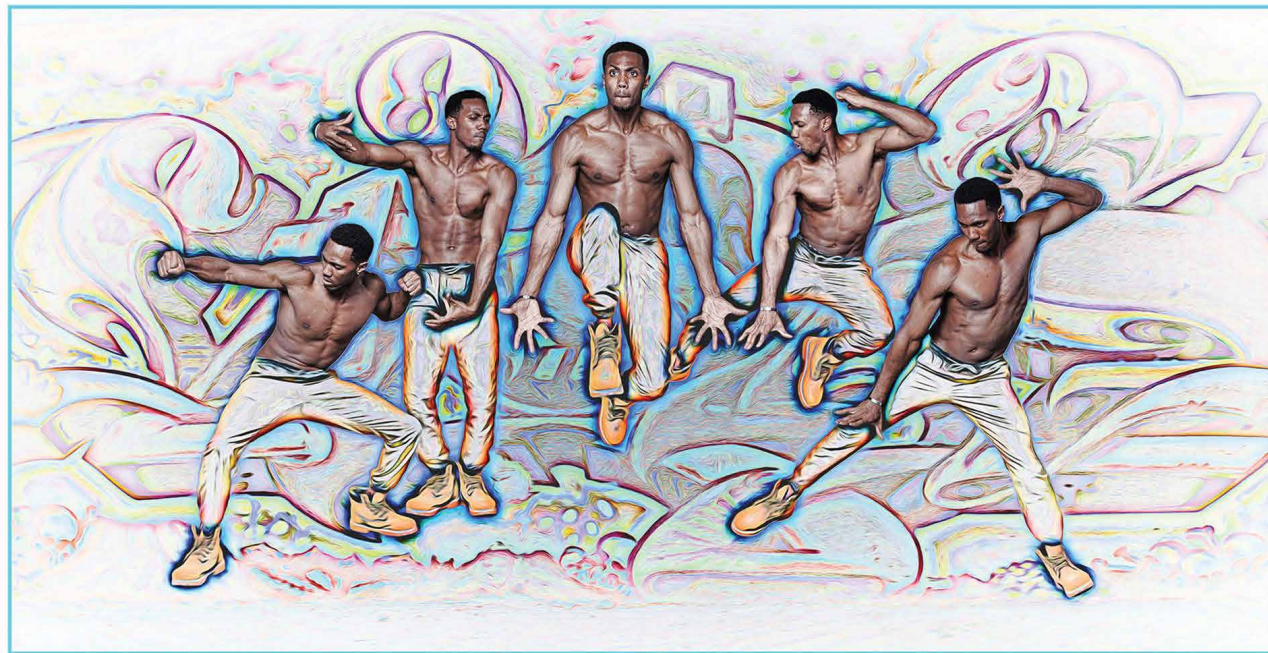
In KRS-One's *Ruminations*, he contends that "Rap is something you do. Hip hop is something you live." He also frequently reminds us that hip hop has the power to change the world. This exhibition seeks to capture some of the ways that hip hop has been (and continues to be) a part of our lives—individually, collectively, locally, broadly, intimately, publicly.

We invited artists to consider how hip hop appears, manifests itself, and/or operates within their lives as well as the power that hip hop has to spark dialogue, reflect experience, critique structure(s), envision new possibilities, and/or enact the type of change that KRS-One so famously imagines.



JUROR SELECTION

Michael Laughlin, *Overlook #1*, 2021.
Computer-generated imagery.
(www.michaellaughlinart.com)



JUROR SELECTION

Jerry Stevenson, *Hip Hop Dancer*, 2021. Digital artwork.
(www.jerrystevensonphotography.com)



JUROR SELECTION

Lauren Jacob, *Brooklyn*, 2020. Digital photography.
([@laurenjmedia](https://www.instagram.com/laurenjmedia))



KEYNOTE ADDRESS / Elaine Richardson

Elaine Richardson (aka Dr. E) was born in Cleveland, Ohio. An inspirational Ohio State University professor of education and author, in the tradition of Dr. Maya Angelou, Dr. E is a multi-dimensional personality—a performer, recording artist, and speaker—with an inspirational message of spiritual and educational empowerment.

She is Professor of Literacy Studies at The Ohio State University, Columbus, where she teaches in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Her research interests include the liberation and critical literacy education of people of the Black African Diaspora. Her books include *African American Literacies* (Routledge, 2003), focusing on teaching writing from the point of view of African American Language and Literacy traditions, *Hiphop Literacies* (Routledge, 2006), a study of Hiphop language use as an extension of Black folk traditions, and *PHD (Po H# on Dope) to Ph.D.: How Education Saved My Life*, (New City Community Press, 2013), an urban educational memoir that chronicles her life from drugs and the street life to the university. Richardson has also co-edited two volumes on African American rhetorical theory, *Understanding African American Rhetoric: Classical Origins to Contemporary Innovations* (Routledge, 2003) and *African American Rhetoric(s): Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2004), and one volume on Hiphop Feminism—*Home Girls Make Some Noise* (Parker Publishing, 2007).

Among her awards, she was Fulbright lecturing researcher in the Department of Literatures in English at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica (2004); Community Cultural Icon Award from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ Frank Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center, The Ohio State University (2013); National Council of Negro Women Community Service Award (2012), an Outstanding Woman of Columbus Award (2011), and other honors. She is founder of The Ohio State University's Hiphop Literacies Conference, as well as the creator of the mother-daughter network, which grew out of her afterschool literacy club for middle school Black girls. Dr. E is also the founder of Education Foundation for Freedom (EFF), a registered charitable 501c3 non-profit dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls to prevent vulnerability to human trafficking and abuse. EFF seeks to provide empowering community experiences to bring women and girls together in strength and support.

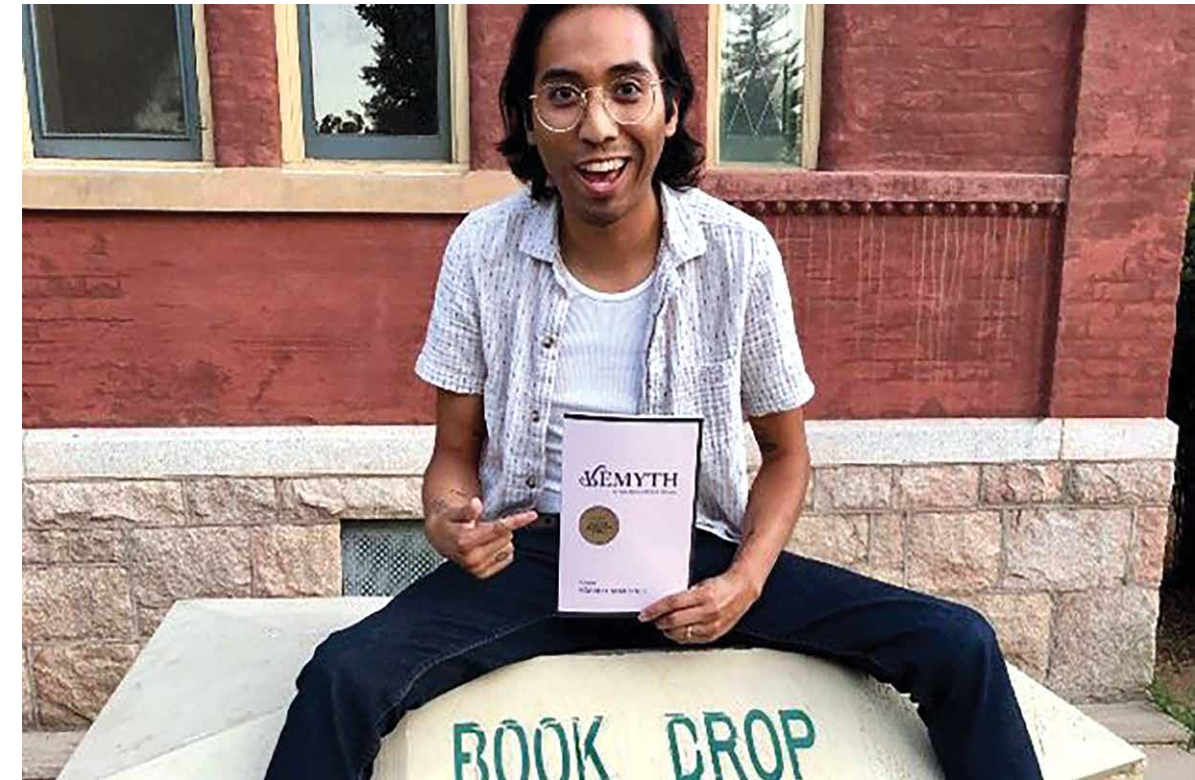
 @DoctaE1

◀ Photograph of Elaine Richardson.

Hip Hop Studies Summit 2022 / Visiting Artists

VISITING ARTIST /

Adam et al.



◀ Photograph of
Adam et al.

Adam et al. is an author, educator, and music artist hailing from the Inland Empire. Born and raised in San Bernardino, CA, Adam has been rapping since 11 and writing songs on his guitar since 18. While pursuing an English B.A. at UC Riverside, Adam began releasing music and performing as Faimkills and as a guitarist/vocalist in an indie/hardcore punk band. Adam spent the better part of a decade performing, touring, and collaborating with peers all around California and nearby states. While working on music, Adam was also pursuing his dual MA/MFA in English and Creative Writing with an emphasis on Poetry from Chapman University. This is where he co-founded the digital literary zine, *Pour Vida*, wrote more poetry and gained deeper interest in being a college professor. Adam has been teaching English at Chaffey College since 2016 and supporting his campus community through his work in the classroom and through various committee activities. In 2021, his debut poetry book, *Remyth: A Postmodernist Ritual*, was published by Inlandia Institute as the winner of the 2019 Hillary Gravendyk Prize. Last year, he also began his journey as Adam et al. with the purpose of creating poetry, educational approaches, and music holistically amongst his many selves.

www.adametal.soy
[@adam.etal](https://www.instagram.com/adam.etal)
[@adam.etal](https://twitter.com/adam.etal)



VISITING ARTIST /

D.E.E.P.

Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton is an internationally known writer, educator, activist, performer, and the first Black Poet Laureate of Houston, Texas. Formerly ranked the #2 Best Female Performance Poet in the World (PSI), Her work has appeared in *Houston Noir* by Akashic Press (2019), *Black Girl Magic* by Haymarket Books (2019), *The Texas Observer*, and *Fjords Journal*, and on such platforms as NPR, BBC, ABC, Apple News, Blavity, Upworthy, and across the TedX circuit. Honored by *Houston Business Journal* as a part of their 2021 40 Under 40 class, She has served as a contributing writer to *Texas Monthly*, *Glamour Magazine*, and ESPN's *The Undefeated*. Heralded as a "Literary Genius" by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in 2019, D.E.E.P.'s most recent poetry collection, *Newsworthy*, garnered her a Pushcart nomination and was named a finalist for the 2019 Writer's League of Texas Book Award and an honorable mention for the Summerlee Book Prize. A German translation, under the title "Berichtenswert," was released in the summer of 2021 by Elif Verlag. Currently, she is a Resident Artist at the American Lyric Theater and Rice University.

A fellow with The Writer's Hotel and The Poetry Foundation's Poetry Incubator, D.E.E.P.'s collaborations with The Houston Ballet, The Houston Rockets, and the Houston Grand Opera have opened new doors for performance poetry. The opera, *Marian's Song*, for which she wrote the libretto, debuted in 2020 to roaring reviews. As a finalist for Texas State Poet Laureate, a Kennedy Center Citizen fellowship, and the prestigious Breadloaf Retreat, her work has been highlighted

and studied in Canada, England, New Zealand, and Germany. She had the pleasure of performing and leading a workshop at the Leipzig in Autumn literary festival in 2018, where she bridged the gap between the poetry slam and international publishing communities. She recently performed as a part of the Kennedy Center's Arts Across America and was named a two-time Houston Artist Commissioning Project award winner by the Society for the Performing Arts Houston. Her most recent stage play, *The World's Intermission*, debuted at Jones Hall in Houston, TX in Fall 2021. Her second book, *Black Chameleon* is set to release in 2023 by Henry Holt & Co. A storybook opera, entitled "*Lula, the Mighty Warrior*", which reinterprets one of the stories from *Black Chameleon* is set to debut in Spring 2022 with the Houston Grand Opera.

D.E.E.P. holds two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan- Ann Arbor, in English and African American Studies respectively. She also holds a M.Ed from the University of St. Thomas. She is a certified teacher with the State of Texas and has dedicated over 16 years towards the education of young minds, the expansion of literacy, and the dismantling of literary racism.

Her love for community transcends the classroom and the stage making her a mentor to many and a notable force to be felt. She now resides in Houston with her loving husband and two energetic children.

 www.livelifedeep.com

 Linktree: @DeborahMouton

 @livelifedeep


◀ Photograph of D.E.E.P.



VISITING ARTIST /

Noa James

Over the years Noa James' autobiographical rhymes have made him a pioneer in the art of storytelling. Although his powerful, energetic stage presence and has made him a force to be reckoned with, it is the size of his heart that has remained most imminent. James approaches his songs with the vocal tone of a playground bully and the empowering sensitivity of that kid who stuck up for the victims. You can also hear his love for anime & wrestling and his message of self-love throughout his music. Not only making a name for himself as an artist, James is also widely known as a leading force in So. California's Hip Hop Community especially in the Inland Empire.

-  www.noajames.net
-  www.bemajestic.store
-  [@noa_james](https://www.instagram.com/noa_james)
-  [@NoaJames](https://twitter.com/NoaJames)
-  [@NoaJames](https://www.youtube.com/NoaJames)

◀ Photograph of **Noa James**.



VISITING ARTIST /

Judah 1

Judah 1 is...the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Pomona

To understand who Judah is, you've got to know the work and it'll all fall into Alignment. David Judah Oliver is an accomplished poet and author of two published books of original poetry. He is the co-host and founder of LionLike MindState Poetry and Art Series at the Pomona Fairplex. He has been a member of the Los Angeles Slam Team 2005 and 2006, and coach/SlamMaster of the Empire MindState Poetry Slam Team of Pomona 2009 and 2010, leading his team to 2nd in the nation.

As an entrepreneur, he owned and operated the now legendary Machine Pomona Art Gallery in the Pomona Arts Colony from 2011-2014. For this work, he was awarded a full scholarship to further his education at Pitzer College of the Claremont Colleges. He is an art consultant for the Ontario Montclair School District 2012 to present.

David Judah 1 has taught poetry to kindergarteners and college students alike. He's taught beyond bars and barriers as an art instructor for the Prison Education Program, teaching inmates at Chino Men's and Women's Prison, Norco Rehabilitation Center for Men, and Camp Glen Rocky Detention Camp for Boys in San Dimas, CA.

David Marcus Oliver/Judah 1 was recently unanimously voted to serve on the Pomona Arts and Culture Commission as a Citizen Advisory Committee Member.

He is also a licensed minister and has officiated 13 Weddings.

 www.theartofdavidjudah.com

◀ Photograph of Judah 1.

Acknowledgements

Institutional support for the Wignall Museum of Contemporary art is provided by Chaffey College, the School of Visual & Performing Arts, and the President's Office.

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Andrew Hadle

PRINTING, GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN

Strategic Communications Office

Presented by the Arts, Communication, & Design Academic and Career Community in partnership with UMOJA and the Center for Culture and Social Justice.

This was printed on the occasion of the Hip Hop Studies Summit at Chaffey College. Presented virtually during February 2022.

With respect and honor for the lands we gather on and the leaders before us, we acknowledge the Gabrieleño-Tongva Peoples, the original stewards of these sacred and unceded homelands. The Tongva people's history, language(s), cultural traditions, and legacy continue to shape this region and we recognize their continuing presence in their homelands.

In the spirit of truth and equity, Chaffey College commits to uplifting the voices of indigenous peoples, building an inclusive and equitable educational environment, and decolonizing the institution. We also encourage members of the Chaffey College community to learn about the land they reside on and the original caretakers and advocate for culturally responsive action.

To learn more visit:
www.native-land.ca and www.usdac.us/nativeland.

Robert Newman, detail from *Grandma's Garden*, 2021.

WIGNALL MUSEUM *of* CONTEMPORARY ART

www.chaffey.edu/wignall

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Chaffey College

VISION

Chaffey College: Improving lives through education.

MISSION STATEMENT

Chaffey College inspires hope and success by improving lives and our community in a dynamic, supportive, and engaging environment of educational excellence where our diverse students learn and benefit from foundation, career, and transfer programs.