

# BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

## PRESS RELEASE

Oct. 11, 2021

### **Exhibition Celebrates the Dynamic Legacy of Abstraction in African American Painting**

*Featured abstract paintings collected from several galleries span 70 years*

#### **EXUBERANCE: Dialogues in African American Abstract Painting**

Exhibition Dates: Oct. 26–Dec. 10

Opening Reception: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. (opening remarks at 5 p.m.)

Public Program:

- Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5 p.m., History and Politics of African American Painting: In-Person Conversation with Dr. Jordana Saggese, Duke Gallery Court
- Tuesday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m., Artist Talk with Lisa Corinne Davis, online

The upcoming exhibition at Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art, *Exuberance: Dialogues in African American Abstract Painting*, celebrates African American painters and challenges commonly held mindsets about abstract art and who makes it. Abstract paintings by African American artists have often been overlooked and omitted from the history of art presented by white scholars and white-dominated art institutions, yet their works have contributed powerfully to the field of painting. This focused presentation of paintings will feature a range of works from the 1950s to present day, forging cross-generational dialogues about racial identity, dynamics of color and pattern, as well as rhythm, movement and breath. This exhibition is sponsored by F&M Bank.

Featured artists include Charles Burwell, Nanette Carter, Lisa Corinne Davis, Lamerol Gatewood, Rico Gatson, Felrath Hines, Norman Lewis, Erika Ranee, Ronald Walton, Benjamin Wigfall and Susan Zurbrigg. Lenders to the exhibition include the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, the Ackland Museum of Art at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Berry Campbell Gallery, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Jenkins Johnson Gallery New York and San Francisco, Miles McEnery Gallery and Walton Gallery.

Public programming will include a discussion Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. about the history and politics of African American painting led by Dr. Jordana Saggese, associate professor at the University of Maryland and award-winning author of *Reading Basquiat: Exploring Ambivalence in American Art*. Contributing artist Lisa Corinne Davis will offer an online artist talk on Nov. 16 at 5pm. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with scholarly essays and selected bibliography.

*Exuberance* is co-curated by Susan Zurbrigg and Dr. Beth Hinderliter. Zurbrigg is a nationally exhibited artist, educator and activist. She is assistant dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at JMU and a professor of art. Hinderliter is director of the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art and an associate professor of art history. Her book, *More Than Our Pain: Affect and Emotion in the Era of Black Lives Matter*, was published by SUNY Press in 2021.

Contact Beth Hinderliter at (540) 568-6407 or by email at [hindersb@jmu.edu](mailto:hindersb@jmu.edu) for more information or to schedule a group visit.

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#### **Gallery information:**

The gallery is free to all guests. Please contact the gallery for groups larger than 25. Visit [jmu.edu/dukehallgallery](http://jmu.edu/dukehallgallery) for location, hours and parking information.

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**Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art's mission is to present the highest level of fine art experiences and to create an active space for robust discourse of vital issues facing our society. It is a space where the local and academic community share ideas about contemporary art and our wider cultural experiences. Art breaks barriers between languages and brings us together to be inspired and knowledgeable citizens, no matter where we come from.**

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