

Artists on View

Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola is an interdisciplinary Nigerian American visual artist based in New York City. Through a range of material, Olubunmi's work aims to question and examine the complexities of an international Black identity. His work is held in the collections of the Verbeke Foundation, Keith Rivers, Hill Harper, and the Japour Family. In 2019, he was awarded a Museum of Art & Design MAD Fellowship.

Elan Cadiz is an interdisciplinary North American visual artist that deconstructs and balances her intersectionality through her projects. Her art and practice are grounded in domestic, documentation, historical imagery and personal narrative. Elan Cadiz graduated from City College of New York with a BA in Studio Art and received an MFA Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts where she was awarded the SVA Merit Scholarship, Paul Rhodes Memorial Award and the Martha Trevor Award. Cadiz has been commissioned by the Studio Museum in Harlem, El Museo de Barrio, Art in Flux Harlem, Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and more. She was one of the first Sustainable Arts Foundation AIRspace Parent Artist in Residence at Abrons Art Center and her An American Family Album series was featured in VOGUE and her artworks are in the recent issue of New American Paintings no.146 curated by Jerry Saltz.

Willie Cole is an internationally renowned artist whose work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions: Montclair Art Museum (2006), University of Wyoming Art Museum (2006), the Tampa Museum of Art (2004), Miami Art Museum (2001), Bronx Museum of the Arts (2001) and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1998). In addition, his work is held in numerous collections including the Whitney Museum, Yale University, National Gallery of Art, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

EPPERSON began his career in fashion by following a "crush" to a design class. His desire to be near a "beautiful girl" led him to his life's work. Since then the Harlem-based designer credits amongst his clients Alicia Keys, Venus Williams, Erykah Badu, and Patti LaBelle. EPPERSON was featured in the Museum of the City of New York's *Black Style NOW* exhibit and was highlighted amongst a handful of designers for the fashion anthology *American Beauty* by Patricia Mears. He has been a longtime collaborator with the Complexions Dance Company and was commissioned to design costumes for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Juilliard Dance Ensemble. Most recently, EPPERSON partnered with the Francesca Harper Project to design costumes for the Limon Dance Company. He currently services a private clientele and operates a developing wholesale business.

Felicia Megan Gordon is a Sugar Hill, Harlem resident who began her training as a visual artist and writer at The Brearley School in New York City. She continued to study the arts at Harvard University, the International Center of Photography and the New York Studio School. She started her career in publishing at Conde Nast and went on to produce film, provide artistic direction for musicians and design clothing. Gordon has

appeared in *ELLE*, *Allure*, and *The New York Times*. Her work has been exhibited by No Longer Empty and the New York Design Center, and as part of the *Uptown Triennial*, an initiative of Columbia's Wallach Art Gallery. Her first book of photography, "Where's Wendell?" will be reprinted for sale next year.

Gregory Gray received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland. Gray has art directed numerous magazines in the United States and Europe, including *Essence*, *Allure*, *Elle*, *Madame Figaro*, and *Maison Madame Figaro*. He also art directed major advertising campaigns, commercials and promotions for such well-known brands such as Revlon, Bloomingdale's, Target and Estée Lauder. Ever expanding his creative universe, Gray invented *Matisse*, a font inspired by French Impressionist artist, Henri Matisse. Designed for ITC, (International Typeface Corporation) *Matisse* (circa 1980s) continues to be implored by graphic designers today - an international success. He has worked for over 30 years as an art director and graphic designer while painting, drawing and most recently creating his *Paperhats* wearable sculpture, narrowing the divide between his art and design.

Hollis King is the former vice president and creative director at the Verve Music Group, the largest jazz record label in the world. He was responsible for art direction of all CD packaging, logos, advertising, point-of-purchase and signage. King worked at several design studios before entering the music industry. King has received numerous achievement awards and citations from Communication Arts, HOW and Print magazines, American Institute of Graphic Arts, Graphis and the Society of Illustrators, as well as five Grammy nominations. His credits include set design for the TV series "AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange," creative direction and set design for *August Wilson's American Century Cycle* at The Greene Space. Currently, Hollis runs his own creative company, sits on an executive board in New York, handles creative direction at The Billie Holiday Theater and regularly lectures about creative design and photography at advertising agencies, the School of Visual Arts, Fashion Institute of Technology, Pratt Institute, Art Directors Club, Society of Illustrators, and the Stella Adler Acting Studio.

Beau McCall—enthusiastically proclaimed by American Craft magazine as "The Button Man"—is a visual and wearable artist. His button works have been included in exhibitions at the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Houston Museum of African American Culture, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Langston Hughes House in partnership with the inaugural Columbia University Wallach Art Gallery *Uptown* triennial and StoryCorps, and is held in the permanent collection of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. With his new line of wearable art titled Triple T-shirts, McCall combines three (sometimes more) T-shirts into one seamless flowing garment that can be configured to be worn in six unique styles. Each style—from poncho to hoodie to shrug and beyond—brings dynamic versatility to traditional T-shirts. The variety of themes covers everything from pop culture to social justice.

Ruben Natal-San Miguel is an architect, fine art photographer, curator, creative director and critic. His stature in the photo world has earned him awards, features in major media, countless exhibitions and collaborations with photo icons. His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries, institutions, international art fairs and published in New York Magazine, The New York Times, and The New Yorker. His photographs are in the permanent collections of El Museo Del Barrio, The Center for Photography, The Contemporary Collection of the Mint Museum, The Bronx Museum for the Arts, School of Visual Arts, The Fitchburg Museum of Art and The Museum of The City of New York.

Busayo Olupona is a fashion designer and the founder of the line, Busayo NYC. She believes in the power of color to communicate the dynamism, personality and nuances of the individual. Busayo grew up in Nigeria and wanted to continue to explore the ways in which traditions inform the present. Textiles are such a rich medium to connect the past with the present. Busayo NYC creates clothing using a tradition called adire, which means tie and dye. As we explore the traditional methods of textile making we want our audience to understand the rich traditions that underlies our culture, and its cultural productions and create a conversant consumer base.

Born in 1990 in the Bronx, where she lives and works today, **Yelaine Rodriguez** is an Afro-Dominican United Statesian artist, educator, curator, and cultural organizer. She received a B.F.A. from the New School (2013) and will receive an M.A. from New York University (2021). Rodriguez conceptualizes wearable art and site-specific installations, drawing connections between Black cultures in the Caribbean and the United States through fashion, video, performance, and photography. Her interfaith and intercountry narratives examine identity and race. Rodriguez is the recipient of the Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship from the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (2017), Wave Hill Van Lier Fellowship (2018), Latinx Project Curatorial Fellowship at NYU (2019), and Bronx Museum AIM Program (2020). Her work has been included at Longwood Art Gallery, American Museum of Natural History, Wave Hill, Rush Arts Gallery, El Centro Cultural de España, and Centro León Biennial XXVII in the Dominican Republic. Rodriguez is an Adjunct Instructor at the New School and NYU.

Dianne Smith is a Bronx native of Belizean descent. She specializes in abstract art, sculpture and installation. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at numerous galleries and institutions throughout the United States and abroad. She is an arts educator with teaching credits including New York City's Lincoln Center For the Performing Arts, Lehman College, Brooklyn College, Columbia University Teachers College, City College, and St. John's University. Her private collectors include: poet Dr. Maya Angelou, Broadway choreographer George Faison, Danny Simmons, Vivica A. Fox, Rev. and Mrs. Calvin O. Butts, III, Cicely Tyson, Arthur Mitchell and Terry McMillan. Most recently, she has been commissioned by the Park Avenue Armory for its 100 Years | 100 Women project to commemorate the 19th amendment (granting women the right to vote) 100 years after its ratification. She currently lives and works in Harlem, New York.

Stephen Tayo is a Nigerian photographer who lives in and draws inspiration from Lagos. His work has been featured in Vogue US, British Vogue, Teen Vogue, Vogue Italia, Vogue Australia, The New York Times and Interview Magazine among others. Tayo was recently shortlisted amongst 14 other photographers around the world in the book, *The New Black Vanguard* curated by renowned art critic Antwaun Sargent.

Ricky TheJones launched AfrolipglossOriginals in 2018 during Wigstock in New York City. Since then he has styled afro wigs for creative performers, pageant contestants, and the general public. Some of his notable clients include "Rupaul's Drag Race" stars Trixie Mattel and Mrs. Kasha Davis. Ricky TheJones has also been featured in numerous exhibitions, music videos, and is a popular personality and performer on NYC's nightlife scene.

Margaret Rose Vendryes is an art historian, visual artist, and curator. She received her BA in fine arts from Amherst College, MA in art history from Tulane University, and Ph.D. in art history from Princeton University. Among several honors, Vendryes was an American Association of University Women Fellow and a Scholar-in-Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 2008, University Press of Mississippi published Vendryes' book *Barthé, A Life in Sculpture*, the first comprehensive monograph on the late African American sculptor Richmond Barthé. Also recognized for *The African Diva Project*, manifested in multimedia work that reveals Vendryes' engagement with African art and aesthetics and its intersection with popular Black creatives and visual culture. *The Project* began in 2005 and has grown to over 75 works of art. Solo exhibitions of her work took place in New York City, Boston, Minneapolis, and Biloxi in addition to several group shows. Vendryes is currently Professor of Art History and Chairperson of Performing and Fine Arts at York College, City University of New York.