

Jesse Howard

Artist's Statement

During the past several years my work has embodied a moment in time, sourced by media imagery of outrage and protests. I am sensitive to the African American portrayal by a white-centric media as well as an observer. The misconception that the African American community is a homogeneous community has been perpetuated by the dominant society.

Most communities are more than a singular philosophical concept of a culture, they are diverse with conservatives, progressives and liberal thinkers. Community organizers express the diversity of the community. As you observe a community, one can see the diversity of the protesters. People within the community are tired of too many false and empty promises. They want realistic changes and want them now! As an artist, my job is to reflect the development of these counter cultures and its anxieties. This exhibition reflects those different voices through imagery.

At times, the faces of my esthetics are formally powerful, beautiful, and charged with a spark of empathic intensity which commands my audience's attention. The portraits of African Americans in my view exist in a singular world—human and ancestral, living and sculpted—with an immediacy and economy. I use lines often found in contemporary graphics, working in tandem with gray and black washes, suggesting ancient stone. Spots of color can take one back to the current moment—the red and green of black empowerment, that represent the African American Colors created by Marcus Garvey, which give a race of people dignity, who have been denied their identity.

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Resume

Solo Exhibitions

2022

"Blue Nile With Daughter" Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL

2021

"A Village Refuses to Be Silent" Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL

2020

"Spirit of Community", South Side Community Art Center, Chicago IL

2019

"The Love & Hate of A Culture In Defiance", Robert Morris University, Chicago IL

The Hieroglyphics of an Urban City, Curator: Cecilia Vargas, Waubensee College, Chicago IL

2018

"The Streets are Talking", Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago IL

"The Abyss of Urban Street Life", South Suburban College, Oak Forest, IL

2017

University Club of Chicago, Chicago IL

2016

Wright Museum Beloit College, Beloit, WI

2015

Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL

Chicago Artist Month, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago IL

2014

Morton College, Cicero, IL

Aurora Public Art Commission, Aurora, IL

2012

Concordia University, River Forest, IL

2002

Concordia University, River Forest, IL

Group Exhibitions

2021

Museum of Contemporary Art- "The Long Dream" Curators Carla Acevedo Yates & Naomi Beckwith

12th Annual Drawing Discourse-International Contemporary Drawing Exhibition- Host UNC Asheville/ Juror, Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum

2020

Beloit College Logan Museum- "Being American" Christa Story Collection Manager & Exhibitions Coordinator

Booooooom Magazine- "Artist Spot Light" Director of Publication Kimi Hamada

54th Annual National Drawing and Small Sculpture – Juror Katherine Liontas-Warren

2019

New American Paintings – in – Print – Midwest Issue, 143

South Shore Art 76th National Salon Show – Award winner – Juror David Klamen

Teresa Hofhmeier Gallery, "Sense of Gravity"

Quincy Biennial Quad-State Exhibition – Juror, John Schuerman

2018

Wright Museum of Art Beloit College, An Activist Poiesis; Black Matter/ing – Curator M Shadee Malaklous

DuSable Museum – Diaspora Rhythms, Collectors Exhibition, The Love Affair Continues – Curator Juarez Hawkins
professor Chicago State University

Beverly Arts Center 42nd Annual Competition & Exhibition – Jurors Paul Nudd, Bert Green

Oak Park Art League, Through The Cracks The Light Comes In, Award Winner – Curator Doug Stapleton

I American Tall Grass Art Association – Curator Sergio Gomez
Bridgeport Art Center Annual Competition & Exhibition – Curator Lelde Kalmite
2017
Purdue University National Drawing Exhibition- Curator Elizabeth Erlewine
We Are Enough National Exhibition
New American Paintings – in – Print – Midwest Issue, Juror Arnold Kemp, Artist, Dean of Graduate Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Chautauqua 60th Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art – Jurors Lois Jubeck, and Judy Barie
Bridgeport Art Center – Inspired by Social Issues: Male Artists of Color Reflect on Today's Urban Experience – Curator Lelde Kalmite
2016
Elmhurst Museum Biennial – Chicago Statement, Curator Staci Boris
2015
ARC gallery, I CAN' BREATH National Exhibition – Jurors, Romi Crawford, PhD and Mary Patten
2014
23rd Evanston Vicinity Biennial Competition / Curators Sergio Gomez 33 Contemporary Gallery Director / Allison Peters Quinn Senior Curator Hyde Park Art Center
2013
Dominican University / Urban Insights- Gallery Director and Curator, Angela Bryant

Professional Experience

2019
Waubonsee Community College – Guest Lecture / Drawing Workshop
Robert Morris University – Guest Lecture / Drawing Workshop
2018
King High School – Drawing Workshop sponsored by Diaspora Rhythm Collectors
2017
Proviso East High School – Guest Lecture / Drawing Workshop
2016
Waubonsee Community College – Guest Lecture
Elmhurst Museum Biennial – Guest Lecture
2015
Chicago Community Policing Office – Guest Lecture
Elmhurst College – Guest Lecture / Drawing Workshop

Permanent Collections

DePaul University Art Museum
Beloit College – Wright museum of Art
Oak Park Public Library
Diasphoral Rhythm Artist Group
Minnesota Museum of Art
West Publishing Co.
Rutgers University

Film

2018
Featured Artist – The Color of Art Documentary – Director David Weatherby. Winner of Black Film Excellent Award
Video: – The Color of Art Promo
2017
Featured artist WYCC PBS – Art Chicago, Producer Mario Tharpe

Publications:

2021
Artist Spotlight Booooooom.com
Scapi Magazine author Tanya Kornilovich

2020
Wednesday Journal– Author Michelle Dybal
Village Free press -Author Michael Romain

2018
The Chicago Sun-Time film critic Richard Roeper – “What a glorious feast for the eyes and the soul” Black Harvest Film Festival
The Village Free Press, Maywood artist lights up void

2017
Project Fusion , Water Street Studio Exhibition

2016
Village Free Press, Jesse Howard Wants To Make Black Life Visible – Editor Michael Romain

2015
The Village Free Press – Editor Michael Romain

Awards/Grants:

2018
61st Annual Beloit & Vicinity Exhibition, Award Winner – Curator Christa Story
Oak Park Art League, Through The Cracks The Light Comes In, International Competition & Exhibition, Award Winner – Curator Douglas Stapleton Associate Curator of Art Illinois State Museum

2017
Purdue University National Drawing Exhibition, Drawing Resurfaced II – Grand Prize winner Curator Elizabeth Erlewine

2015
ONE STATE CONFERENCE – Arts Alliance Illinois Scholarship
Art/Teaching 3Arts Nominee
58th Annual Beloit & Vicinity Exhibition- First Place

2014
38th Annual Beverly Arts Center Competition Judges Award – Curators, Edra Soto and Alberto Aguilar
Oak Park Art Council Regional Competition First place winner – Judge, Sabina Ott owner Terrain Gallery

2013
Visual Arts 3Arts Nominee
Ragdale Foundation Residency Scholastic Award
37th Beverly Art Competition Honorable Mention

2011
Carriage House Gallery National Juried Exhibition & award winner– Juror, David M. Sokol

2010
Oak Park Art League – Best of Show & People’s Chose Award

1980
Illinois Art Council Project Completion Grant/Solo Show

1978
University of Illinois Medical School purchase award
America Artist First National Art Competition – Awarded Honorable Mention
Chautaugua 21st National Juried Drawing Show – Awarded the Harriet De Weese Award – Juror, Patterson Sims
Whitney Museum curator New York, NY.

1977
Rutgers National Drawing Competition – Awarded a permanent collection – Jurors, Lee Botecou and Ilya Bolotowsky