

ANTOINETTE ELLIS-WILLIAMS & FEMI J JOHNSON

Intentional Improvisation

CURATED BY DANNY SIMMONS

To curate this show I poured through lots of online images of Black abstract artists. I looked at artists from all over the African diaspora but after I narrowed it down by a number of factors including geography in reasonable proximity to The Jazz Gallery I did something new, something I never did before: I tried to listen to the visual flow and Rhythm of the artwork. The longer I tried to listen to the work the more the visuals receded and I heard the rhythm of several artists' works. Then I looked for the most creative abstract sounds looking to pinpoint improvisation, the work and sound that moved beyond boundaries and moved intentionally into uncharted territory. Femi J. Johnson and Antoinette Ellis Williams' artwork played the most untraditional music I had found.....their painting reflected free form Jazz found in little hip off beat jazz clubs where one went late at night to be transported to new places to new sounds to new visual languages... Each beautifully different from each other each blazing new fantastical paths. These two artists are all about Intentional Improvisation. – Danny Simmons

ANTOINETTE ELLIS-WILLIAMS

My creative process is based on the idea of layering, recycling, reimagining, and mixing methods. Mixed media abstract collaging is at the heart of the process even when doing conceptual work. I am constantly searching beneath layers for hidden messages and light. For example, in some of my work I combine my original work (acrylic and watercolor paintings, silk batik, digital photos, and drawings) with print and digital images found in magazines, newspapers, brochures, textiles, cards, and/or various objects. The image continues to evolve, shifting as the sociopolitical and cultural road map changes.

FEMI J. JOHNSON

Femi J. Johnson's abstract storyscapes embody a uniquely raw and permissive form of contemporary abstraction. Floating harmonized color, shaped figural elements, and snippets of line drawing all find their position and coalesce as expressions of Johnson's worldview. Familiar places, formal or self-educated beliefs, and personal or media-influenced subjects abstractly saturate his mutable compositions, freeing the viewer to explore interchangeable scenarios. Translating chaos into temporary but believable order on canvas, Johnson's cohesive improvisations exalt the rich connectivity of life.

DANNY SIMMONS

Danny Simmons, Jr., is an American abstract painter from Queens, NY currently living in Philadelphia where his most recent mural "My Crazy Red Rooster" in which he collaborated with Black Arts Movement poet Sonia Sanchez, was unveiled two days his 3rd mural in Philly as well as two in Allentown, PA. Danny coins his particular style of painting as "neo-African Abstract Expressionism." His talent and passion for the arts reaches beyond the canvas; He is a published author, poet, painter and art philanthropist. He has become a leader in the art world with his philanthropic ventures, artistic talents and creative mind and drive. Danny played an instrumental role in the conceiving of and co-producing the hit HBO show Def Poetry Jam, and won a Tony Award for the Broadway version of the show.

For enquiries, please contact Nerissa Campbell: nerissa@jazzgallery.org

Antoinette Ellis-Williams



DizZy's Band, 2023
Oil, Fabric on Canvas
24"x 30"
\$2,000



FINAL SET, 2023
Mixed Media
(Oil, Paper, Marker) on Canvas
62"x 42"
\$3,800



NIGHT ON THE TOWN, 2023
Oil on Canvas
22"x 32"
\$2,700



***OM RAMA
FOR ALICE COLTRANE***, 2023
Digital Collage
22.5" x 30"
\$2,400



***SOMETHING ABOUT
JOHN COLTRANE BY
ALICE COLTRANE***, 2023
Digital Collage Acrylic Print
22.5" x 30"
\$2,200



***PREMA,
FOR ALICE COLTRANE***, 2023
Digital Collage
22.5" x 30"
\$2,400

Antoinette Ellis-Williams



QUIET TIME, 2023
Mixed Media
(Oil, Paper, Fabric) on Canvas
32"x 32"
\$2,200



OUTTA SITE/JIVE TIME, 2023
Mixed Media
(Oil, Marker, Ink) on Canvas
24"x 28"
\$1,900



THE SECRET GARDEN, 2023
Oil, Fabric Markers, paper on Canvas
26"x 32"
\$2,500"



VILLAGE VANGUARD, 2023
Oil, Ink, Marker on Canvas
38"x 50"
\$3,000



MILES TO GO, 2023
Oil, Ink, Fabric on Canvas
42"x 62"
\$3,800

Femi J. Johnson



THIS HERE, 2023
Acrylic, Graphite & Collage on Canvas
48" x 36"
\$4,400



ESCORT TO THE CROSSROADS, 2023
Acrylic & Collage on Canvas
40" x 30"
\$3,000



WHEN YOU FLY BY PICK ME UP, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas
48" x 48"
\$6,000



OUFU OODU, 2022
Acrylic & Collage on Canvas
40" x 30"
\$3,000



DOORMAN I, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas
36" x 24"
\$1,800



THAT THERE, 2023
Acrylic, Graphite & Collage on Canvas
36" x 48"
\$4,400

Femi J. Johnson



PARK JAZZ, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas, plein air
48" x 36"
\$4,400



**RAW INTENTION
OR SKINNY DIP**, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas
36" x 36"
\$3,200



SOLO, OFF THE GRID, 2023
Acrylic & Collage on Canvas
36" x 36"
\$3,000



UNLOCK THE DOO BOP, 2023
Acrylic & Collage on Canvas
30" x 30"
\$1,900



ANSWERING THE ECHO, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas
40" x 30"
\$3,000