

Artist info and About the Art : Each Image is labeled to match the titles below. When required, there is an artist bio.

CC Mercer Watson

CC Mercer Watson is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and cultural strategist from Little Rock, Arkansas. Working through theatre, poetry, and textiles, she conjures narratives of Black womanhood, ancestral memory, and liberation. As Found(her) and Executive Director of *A BLACK SPACE*, and Lead Designer of Mercer Textile Mercantile, she merges art and activism to uplift Black voices and preserve cultural traditions. A published author and acclaimed textile artist, CC holds a BA in Theatre Arts and Dance and earned her Master's in Public Service from the Clinton School in 2019. She has exhibited and performed internationally and was named 2025 Artist of the Year by the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.

About the Art

***A Garden Wedding* (2021)**



A Garden Wedding uses the iconography of the Garden of Eden. There's a woman conversing with a rainbow serpent, holding an apple bouquet, naked, confident, and sure of who she is. The original sin is not indulging in the delicious fruit. In this world it is a woman coming into the knowledge of herself.

Medium/Material: leather, metal, upholstery cotton, cotton (42 hours hand-stitched)

Dimensions: 26 1/4 in. x 50 in

***Leo's Senior Portrait Night and Day* (2022)**



Part of a series entitled Leo Season, *Leo's Senior Portrait Night and Day* is mythical, spiritual and factual in nature. In this work, "Mercer taps into collective star power by charting a fresh interpretation of the zodiac through the lens of the 1970s, folklore and iconography and archetypes of divine bodies".

Medium/Material: cork, quilted cotton, vinyl, custom enamel pin, silk, African Wax print, vintage button (23 1/2 hours hand-stitched). Dimensions: 15 in x 20 in. (right) + 15 in. x 20 in. (left)

Ngozi Brown, AIA

Ngozi "Nome" Brown is an assistant professor of practice in architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. She is the owner and principal of NOB A+D, PLC, an architecture and interior design firm in central Arkansas. Her firm has been honored as a finalist for Minority Business of the Year and Emerging Minority Business of the Year by the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce. Her expertise includes learning environment design and evidence-based design.

About the Art

Black Historic District Single Family Dwelling 2-Story (2025)

Series Title: *The Supreme Houses: Afrofuturist Living in the Black Historic District*



What is the last of several communities in Fayetteville, the Black Historic district formed after emancipation was established by 1865. Like most Black communities and spaces, it has suffered the effects of erasure and gentrification has ensued. NWABH received unanimous support from the City of Fayetteville in 2023 to create and reconstitute the Black Historic district. Ngozi Brown, AIA has been engaged by NWABH to create iconic built environments for living in the district. This **2-story Single Family Dwelling** is one in a series designed with the **10 benefits of Black Homeownership in mind** – Generational Wealth – Pride – Stability – Tax Benefits – Improve Your Credit – Extra Cash – Build Personal Wealth – Improve Your Community – Freedom and Control – An Investment in the Future.

The Edge Afrofuturist Museum



The Edge was designed by Ngozi Brown for Northwest Arkansas Black Heritage (NWABH) as the cultural anchor of the Black Historic District. Envisioned as a showcase for the art, culture, and philosophy of Afrofuturism, The Edge embraces a futurist approach to harnessing joy as a transformative force. This dynamic space will serve as a national destination—drawing tourists, researchers, and artists—while generating revenue, fostering cultural pride, and advancing economic development within the district.

Donavon Brutus

Donavon Brutus is a five time NorCal Emmy®-winning Lead Animator and Public Artist now based in Washington, D.C. Born in Fort Smith and raised in Fayetteville, Arkansas, he was inspired by 80s and 90s cartoons to pursue a lifelong passion for animation and digital art. His work bridges motion design, illustration, and public storytelling, often centered on social justice, the environment, and mindfulness. His mother, a former teacher, still resides in Fayetteville.

About the Art



We are living in a disturbing time.

I'm disturbed by...

The continued devaluing of people of color's lives

The continued attacks on the rights of our sisters, daughters,
and mothers

The lack of empathy towards families being ripped apart

The lack of support given to one of our Country's Territories that
is still hurting

The constant ignoring of scientific facts

The constant flow of bad news that crashes down on us weekly

The many defending a man clearly doing so much harm

There are some things to be encouraged by, however.

I'm encouraged to see...

So many people paying attention right now

So many coming forth proud of their orientations and genders

So many marching, voting, calling representatives, and talking
in their circles

I'm encouraged to see a change is coming, because it must

Sharon Killian NWABH (photog)

About the Art

Juneteenth 2022 (photo)



Beautiful people celebrating Freedom from American bondage

Black Girl Excellence (photo)



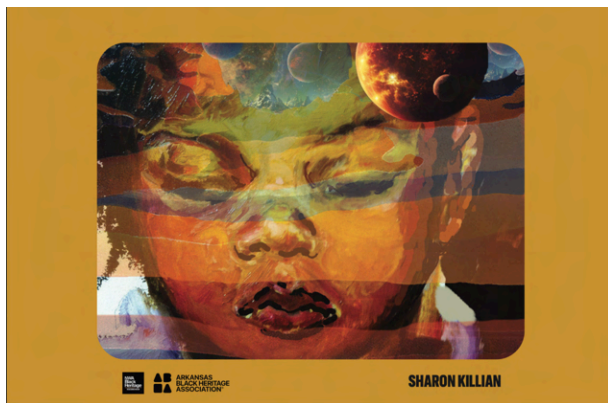
FHS Black Girl Excellence & young Mr. Fisher enjoyed participating in the NWABH program held at Crystal Bridges. It included a personal, curated tour of art by Black artists on display in the galleries

Babas - respected (photo)



Three longstanding elders raised in the Black historic district

Hope Beyond Boundaries 2024 (digital)

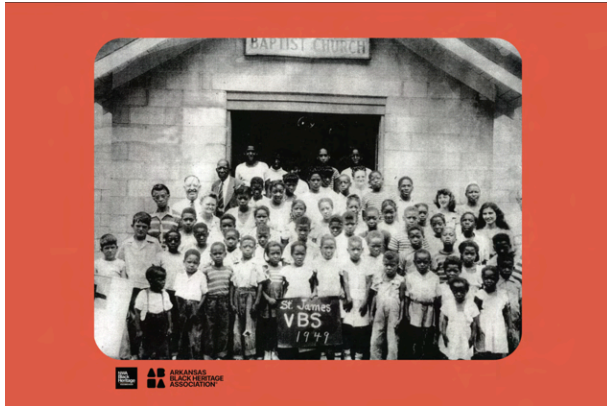


The limitless expectations we deserve to have for our present and future

Archival

About the Art

St James Baptist VBS 1949 (photo)



A multicultural group of children and adults at Vacation Bible School

Deffenbaugh-Whitfield Collection

About the Art

The Cotillion 1956 (photo)



Fayetteville high school was desegregated in 1954. There was a community, then there was intentional systemic removal of the people, a plan that we all must regret was too successful.

Slaughter Collection

About the Art

Love Mother (Anna Fisher Parker) (photo)



Gladys Parker Slaughter, 92 (in 2010), said of her mother, “My mother was a godsend lady that believed in education and family. She taught my father Otis Parker to read and write, rode her horse to the little white church on Highway 16 in Baldwin not far from the railroad tracks to teach the children in the community the three r’s...”