

Dionne Warwick: Queen of Twitter

Artists: Lavett Ballard, Pamela Council, Jo-El Lopez,
Beau McCall, Dianne Smith, and Felandus Thames

Curated by Souleo

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Dionne Warwick: Queen of Twitter is an art exhibition inspired by a single Twitter account user: @DionneWarwick. In 2020, the legendary entertainer's account went viral and was covered by major media outlets. Her commentary--on everything from perplexing celebrity stage names (yes, we're looking at you, The Weeknd and Chance the Rapper) to social justice issues--has offered laughs, wisdom, and comfort for an intergenerational audience during the Covid-19 pandemic and civil unrest.

In this exhibition, artists have created specially commissioned works referencing the humorous, sassy, profound, and inspirational tweets by Ms. Warwick. The works range from site-specific installations to mixed media pieces exploring Ms. Warwick's social justice and spiritual background and that sharp wit that makes her everyone's favorite "Auntie." Accompanying these works is an intimate selection of archival material spotlighting her illustrious and groundbreaking career.

Collectively, the artwork and archival materials celebrate Ms Warwick's creative resilience. The latter, is defined within the context of this exhibition as the ability to creatively use the arts and social media to surmount life's obstacles and imagine a better future. Throughout her career and via her online presence, Ms. Warwick has consistently demonstrated the power of creative resilience to uplift, educate, and unite people during challenging times. Thus, making her a true Queen.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

Use the good sense God gave you...I am logging off. Bye! 

8:21 PM · Jan 16, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Jo-El Lopez, *The Queen*, 2021.

Acrylic on canvas, 54 x 42 in.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

I am everyone's Auntie. 

7:10 PM · Jan 1, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Pamela Council, Dionne Warwick's New Year's
Message 2021, 2021.

Neon light, 1970s beaded curtain, 42 x 48 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

80 years old and still keeping up. The possibilities are endless when you're willing to learn from different generations. 🧓 👩 🧠 #IWD

3:22 PM · Mar 8, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Lavett Ballard, *I Say a Little Prayer*, 2021.

Mixed media collage installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Lavett Ballard, *I Say a Little Prayer*, 2021.

Mixed media collage installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Lavett Ballard, *I Say a Little Prayer*, 2021.

Mixed media collage installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Lavett Ballard, Heartbreaker, 2021.

Mixed media collage, 10 x 12 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

I am always tweeting while wearing a black, vintage, sequin gown... as divas do.

6:33 PM · Mar 12, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK


Beau McCall, Dionne: Queen of Twitter, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

Ok... Bye! 

7:59 PM · Mar 1, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Okay Bye Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

I hope [@NICKIMINAJ](#) likes my hair. It is very different now.

4:02 PM · Dec 29, 2020



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Nicki Minaj Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

I don't know what a "hot girl" is, but women support women in this house! I am happy to see kind people receive recognition. That's all. (I'm turning 80. Please do not tell me what a "hot girl" is 🙄)

8:43 PM · Nov 24, 2020



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

Thank you for telling me what a "hot girl" is, even though I specifically asked you not to.

2:00 PM · Nov 25, 2020



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Hot Girl Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

I am calling your parents.

8:40 PM · Dec 17, 2020



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Calling Your Parents
Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

Do you think I care what younger generations say about me? I will wear this fanny pack. Who cares.

4:38 PM · Feb 20, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Fanny Pack Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

Play with your friends. Don't play with me.

5:11 PM · Apr 6, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Don't Play Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

We are in a pandemic. Please save your money!



3:28 PM · Jan 5, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Save Your Money Tweet,
2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

I am now Dionne the Singer.

5:10 PM · Dec 5, 2020



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne the Singer Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

Hi, [@chancetherapper](#). If you are very obviously a rapper why did you put it in your stage name? I cannot stop thinking about this.

5:07 PM · Dec 5, 2020

FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Chance the Rapper
Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.





Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

No, I will not be egging [@WendyWilliams](#) house. It is cold outside.

5:13 PM · Feb 28, 2021

FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Wendy Williams Tweet,
2021.


Collage printed with dye sublimation on
aluminum, 16 x 20 in.





Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

I am only joking around and having fun on here. If you ever “catch shade” just know that Auntie still loves you. 

3:34 PM · Mar 22, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Beau McCall, Dionne's Don't Catch Shade Tweet, 2021.

Collage printed with dye sublimation on aluminum, 16 x 20 in.



Dionne Warwick 

@dionnewarwick

Karma doesn't care if you were “just doing your job”.

2:22 PM · Apr 7, 2021

FEATURED ARTWORK

Felandus Thames, Karma, 2021.

Hairbrushes, dimensions variable.





Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

The state of our country deserves our undivided attention. Pay attention and listen closely. I love you all. We will chat tomorrow. ❤️

2:34 PM · Jan 6, 2021



Dionne Warwick ✓

@dionnewarwick

Before I go I would like to ask when will this madness stop! A mistake??? My heart aches for Daunte's parents and family and especially for him! Gone much too soon. May he find peace within the arms of our Heavenly Father.

4:34 PM · Apr 13, 2021



FEATURED ARTWORK

Dianne Smith, *What the World Needs Now*, 2021.

Mixed media installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Dianne Smith, *What the World Needs Now*, 2021.

Mixed media installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Dianne Smith, *What the World Needs Now*, 2021.

Mixed media installation, dimensions variable.



FEATURED ARTWORK

Detail View

Dianne Smith, *What the World Needs Now*, 2021.

Mixed media installation, dimensions variable.



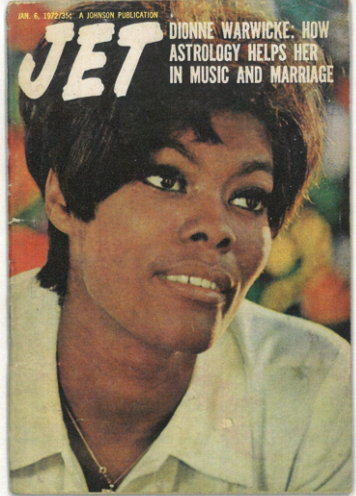
FEATURED ARTWORK

[Click image to view video.](#)

Dianne Smith, *What the World Needs Now*, 2021.

Video, 1 minute, 50 seconds.

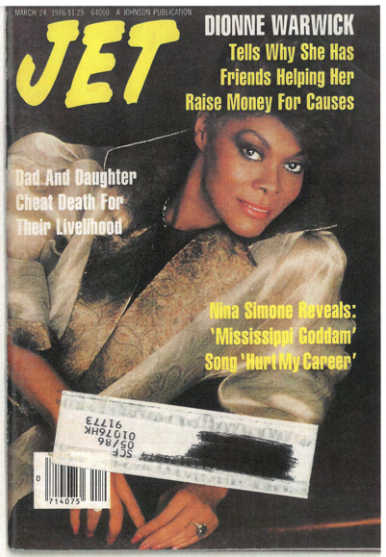
ARCHIVAL MATERIAL



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

JET magazines, 1966-1989.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.





ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Dionne Warwick concert souvenir program, circa 1968.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

Dionne



SOUVENIR PROGRAM \$2.00

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Dionne Warwick concert souvenir program, circa early 1970s.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

The Magic of Believing vinyl album recorded by Dionne Warwick featuring The Drinkard Singers, 1968.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Presenting Dionne Warwick vinyl album recorded by
Dionne Warwick, 1963.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.



A
Dionne Warwick
Album So Special,
She Invited Some
Of Her Best
Friends.

Friends like Elton, Gladys and Stevie, who sing with her on the once-in-a-lifetime collaboration, "That's What Friends Are For." Like a group of the very top producers and songwriters around:

Burt Bacharach & Carole Bayer Sager,
Stevie Wonder, Barry Manilow, David Foster,
Albhy Galuten, Narada Michael Walden

Friends
is Dionne at her most vibrant, surrounded by
the best company, singing as only she can.

Dionne Warwick.
Friends.




An occasion worth celebrating.

ARISTA
© 1985 Arista Records, Inc.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Trade advertisement poster for *Friends* album by
Dionne Warwick, 1985.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.



DIONNE WARWICK.
HEARTBREAKER.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Trade advertisement poster for *Heartbreaker* album by Dionne Warwick, 1982.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

THE ONE ESSENTIAL ALBUM OF 1982.

Dionne Warwick. Barry Gibb. Together, they've created the album that will alter the history of pop music. **Heartbreaker.** The Queen of urban pop breathtakingly sings ten sensational new songs, nine co-written by the master himself, Barry Gibb. Each destined to become a pop classic. The first hit single is "**Heartbreaker.**" After only two weeks, it's already one of the top 5 most-added singles of all time on all radio formats.

Produced by Barry Gibb, Karl Richardson and Alby Galuten.

ARISTA

DIONNE IS BACK WITH SOLID GOLD

FOUR-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER
DIONNE WARWICK RETURNS AS HOST FOR
SOLID GOLD'S 6TH SPARKLING SEASON.

Dionne Warwick, one of America's premiere song stylists, will perform solo and in a SOLID GOLD trademark closing duet with each week's co-host or special guest artist. No other music show will feature the dynamic talents of Dionne and her weekly guests.

The biggest and brightest names in music today will be presented in live on-stage performances. Plus, this year SOLID GOLD will broadcast in stereo with dramatic new sets and lighting. Add to that the SOLID GOLD DANCERS led by sensual Darcel who will keep SOLID GOLD sizzling every week.

WELCOME **DIONNE** AND WELCOME
NEXT SEASON'S HOTTEST PERFORMERS.
THANK YOU STATIONS FOR YOUR SOLID
GOLD SUPPORT.

**SOLID
GOLD**™ THE #1 WEEKLY
FIRST-RUN
SYNDICATED
SHOW*



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Trade advertisement poster for *Solid Gold* TV Show,
1985.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.



DOMESTIC TELEVISION
AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

*NFI SON Report, 9/84-4/85, among once-a-week shows

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DIONNE in Valley WARWICK of the Dolls



**THIS IS THE ONLY
ALBUM IN WHICH
DIONNE WARWICK
SINGS
VALLEY of the DOLLS!**

As performed by Miss Warwick in the
20th Century-Fox movie. 33,000,000
people will see Scepter's full-page
advertisement on Dionne's Valley of
the Dolls in the March 19, 1968,
issue of LIFE MAGAZINE.

See you at NARM in sunny Florida.

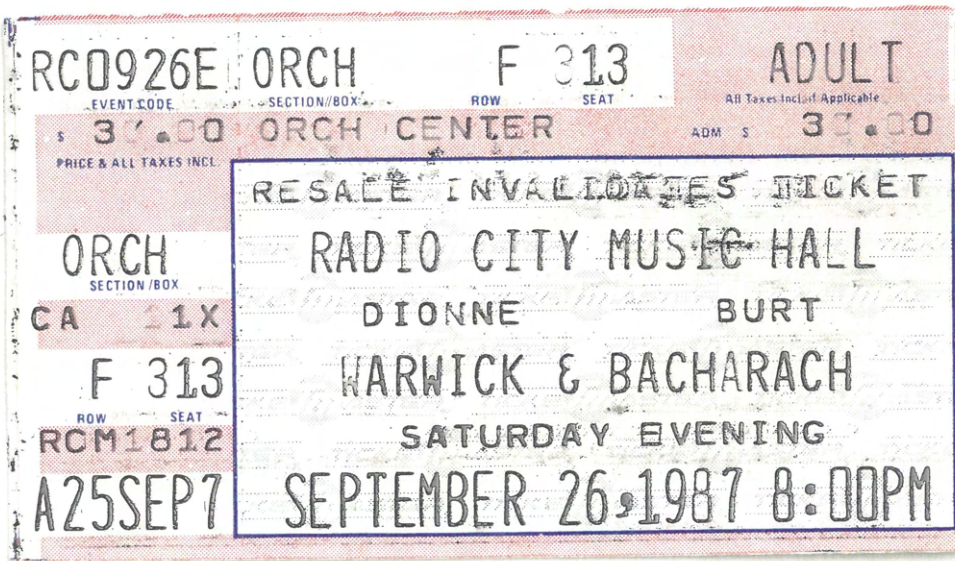
SCHEPTEER RECORDS

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Trade advertisement poster for *Valley of the Dolls*
Album, 1968.

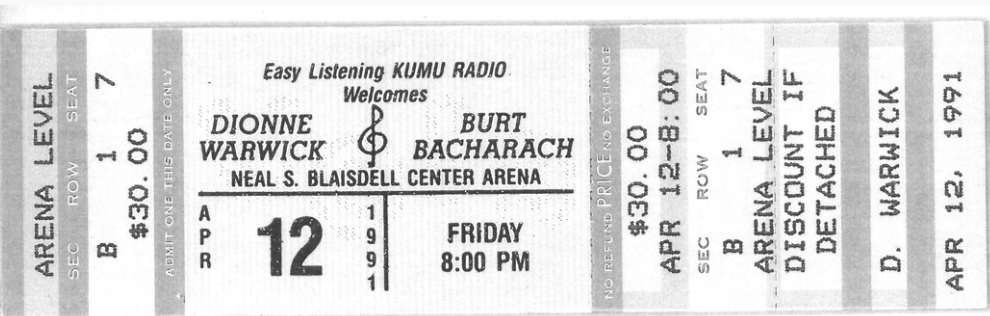
Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL



Top: Ticket stub from a Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York, NY, 1987. Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright

Bottom: Ticket stub from a Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach concert at Neal S. Blaisdell Center Arena in Honolulu, Hawaii, 1991.





jimmy fallon ✓

@jimmyfallon

Oooh yeah it's happening every night and we've upped our game this year! You have no idea. I'm sending one over to you buds. That's what friends are for. 😜



Dionne Warwick ✓ @dionnewarwick · Dec 9, 2020

Does anybody know if @jimmyfallon will be doing the Christmas Sweaters countdown this year? I love those wretched things.

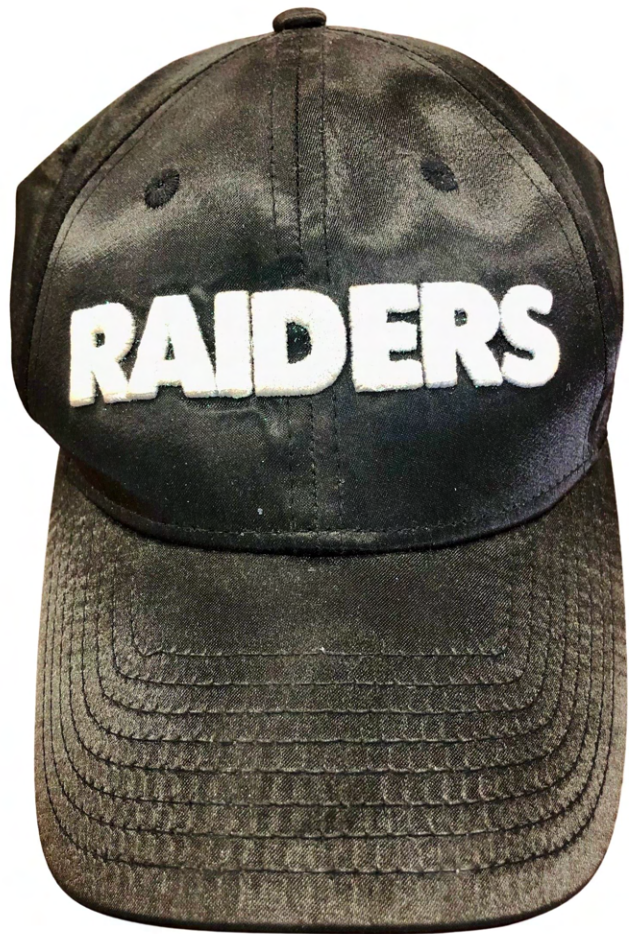
9:08 PM · Dec 9, 2020

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL



Christmas sweater gifted to Dionne Warwick by Jimmy Fallon, 2020.

Private collection of Dionne Warwick.



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Las Vegas Raiders cap, circa 2005.

Private collection of Dionne Warwick.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

People magazine spread from the article, *Dionne Warwick: My Life in Pictures*, 2019.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

first heard her voice." He asked if I'd do a demo recording for me because writing with his partner, Hal David," she recalls. The collaboration resulted in her first smash, 1963's "Walk on By." Dozens of memorable, mainstream tunes followed. "Every song had a message of hope, inspiration, joy and love," says Warwick, who went on to sell more than 100 million records and win five Grammys.

Born Marie Dionne Warwick (the label misspelled her surname on her first record), and she decided to use it professionally, the singer grew up immersed in music in East Orange, N.J. Her father, Marcel, was a Pullman porter, while her mother, Lee, worked in a lightbulb factory and sang with gospel's Diskard Singers. That group also included Lee's sister Clary Houston, mother of future superstar Whitney. After honing her voice in church, Warwick took her cues from stylists such as Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra. "Sammy told me to engage the audience," she says. "Lena Horne told me, 'The exactly who you are.'"

That advice sustained her stardom. Warwick's toughness has seen her through divorce: single parenthood to two sons (David, 50, and Damon, 46). Whitney's 2012 death, about which she rarely speaks, and a 2013 bankruptcy. And that rich alto? It's never wavered. She's back. Warwick's first album in five years, out May 17, is a collection of new and old favorites. "I don't consider it work," she says of her music. "It's a joy. It's just an extension of me."

Grammy Goodies, 2019
Warwick won a Grammy for *City of Stars* on the way to *Golden*.

Making Magic, 1964
"Her music wasn't the easiest to sing," says Warwick (in a London studio with Bacharach). "It was like taking an exam every time I went into the studio with him." But she made it sound easy. "She had a voice that was like the girls," says Bacharach. "It was so clean, so pure, so distinctive, so identifiable. You hear two bars and you immediately know it. The more I saw what she could do, the more I challenged her."

Future Star, 1959
When composer Bacharach first met Warwick (in her high school yearbook, above) she recalls, "she had sweaters on and I took pictures, but she had the look of a star. The way she carried herself."

Natural Beauty, 1974
Even onstage, she says, "I'm always doing my own makeup!"

That's What Friends Are For, 1985
Warwick (top right, with clockwise from left) Gladys Knight, Carole Bayer Sager, Bert Bacharach, Stevie Wonder and Elton John. Sager and Bacharach wrote the sentimental hit, which raised \$5 million for AIDS research. (Warwick refused John to sing after running into him at the grocery store the night before the recording.)

Proud Mom, 2019
Warwick (above) with her sons (David and Damon) at her 1985 Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony and (left) with Damon, who produced her new album, at the 2019 Grammy Salute to Industry Icons in February. "They were a priority," she says. "On summer vacations they were on tour with me and around the world."

Psyche Friends Network, 1992
Warwick was criticized for leaving the "Who's the Boss" which connected allies with gayle. "The people decided I was a psychic! It's hysterical," she says. "It was [singing] a living!"



But Punk Pals, 1989
"Whenever I needed them for something, they never failed," says Warwick (with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.). She shared the Dec. 12 hit with Sinatra. "I called him Pappy," she says. "I was his surrogate daughter. He sent me yellow roses every year."



That's What Friends Are For, 1985
Warwick (top right, with clockwise from left) Gladys Knight, Carole Bayer Sager, Bert Bacharach, Stevie Wonder and Elton John. Sager and Bacharach wrote the sentimental hit, which raised \$5 million for AIDS research. (Warwick refused John to sing after running into him at the grocery store the night before the recording.)



Psyche Friends Network, 1992
Warwick was criticized for leaving the "Who's the Boss" which connected allies with gayle. "The people decided I was a psychic! It's hysterical," she says. "It was [singing] a living!"




A Special Band, 1989
Warwick (top) singing with Bacharach (Houston) says singing together "was almost comical." "I've often said about their duets, which they did in February 2012 at age 48 following a long battle with deep-seated, life-long illness, 'I'm sorry they're not singing.'"





GRAMMY SALUTE TO MUSIC LEGENDS[®]

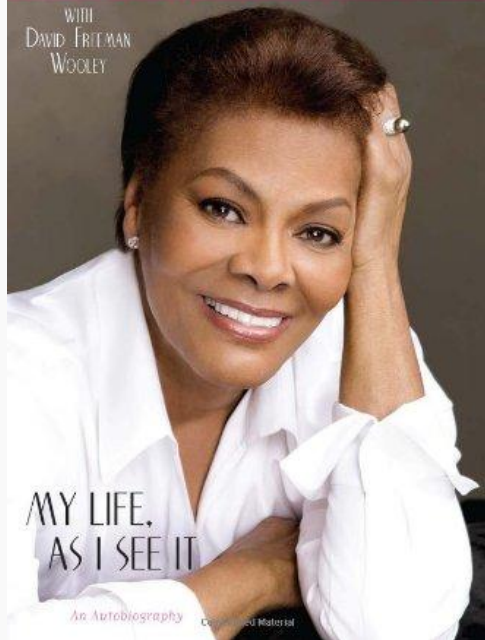
 DOLBY THEATRE

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Grammy Salute to Music Legends program, 2019.

Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

DIONNE WARWICK



My Point Of View

Dionne Warwick



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

My Life, As I See It autobiography by Dionne Warwick with David Freeman Wooley, 2010. Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

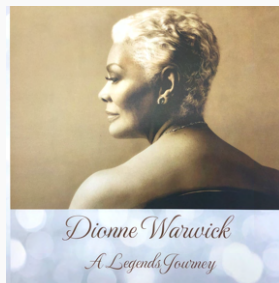
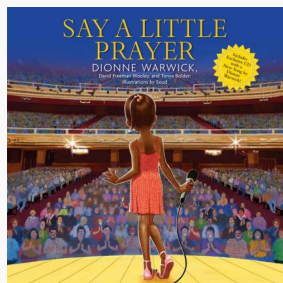
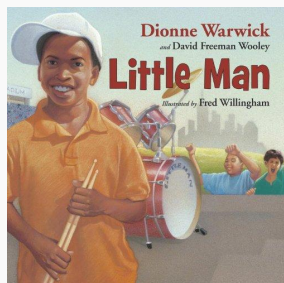
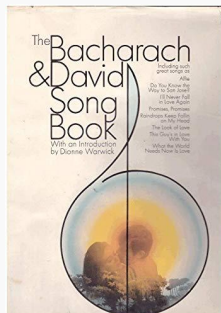
My Point of View book by Dionne Warwick, 2004. Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

The Bacharach and David Songbook, 1970. Private Collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

Little Man picture book by Dionne Warwick and David Freeman Wooley, 2011. Private collection of Peter "Souleo" Wright.

Say a Little Prayer picture book by Dionne Warwick, David Freeman Wooley, and Tonya Bolden, 2008. Private collection of Dionne Warwick.

Dionne Warwick: A Legends Journey fan club book designed and compiled by Dionne Warwick Fan Club president and website coordinator, Peter Pierce, undated. Private collection of Dionne Warwick.





STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Diome Warwick was born in the City of Orange as the first child of Lee Drinkard, manager of the talented Drinkard Singers, and Mancel Warrick, a gospel record promoter for Chess Records and attendant for the Pullman Company, and*

WHEREAS, *Diome's musical talents were evident early in her childhood, when at the age of six she began singing at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, and would occasionally assist the Drinkard Singers in their performances; and*

WHEREAS, *hailing from a family gifted with extraordinary musical talent, as a teenager, Diome formed the Gospelaires - later known as the Sweet Inspirations - along with her sister Dee Dee Warwick, her aunt Cissy Houston, Dorris Troy, and a plethora of other skillful singers; and*

WHEREAS, *Diome quickly became a pop music phenomenon, recording more than 60 charted lit songs, selling more than 100 million records, and earning five Grammy Awards and a vast myriad of other astounding accolades; and*

WHEREAS, *with hit song after hit song, Dionne Warwick made herself a household name with chart-topping tunes like "Alfie", "Walk on By", and "Don't Make Me Over" - each of which have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame - helping to cement her global status as a musical icon; and*

WHEREAS, *the barriers Diome Warwick has broken by becoming the first female African American solo artist to win the award for Best Contemporary Female Vocalist Performance, the artist to win the Grammys in the Best Female Pop and the Best Female R&B Performance categories, and the first female African-American singer to perform for Queen Elizabeth II, have made her an enduring inspiration for young men and women everywhere and have paved the way for many of today's top music artists; and*

WHEREAS, *Diome has used the fame and influence gained through her entertainment career to champion numerous humanitarian and philanthropic efforts including the Starlight Children's Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and AIDS awareness campaigns, even recording "That's What Friends Are For" with Gladys Night, Stevie Wonder, and Elton John to raise awareness for the cause; and*

WHEREAS, *a proud child of the City of East Orange, Diome Warwick's story is a shining example of the greatness our State has to offer and her sensational career serves as a boundless fount of inspiration and joy for countless fans everywhere;*

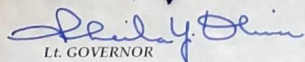
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby recognize:

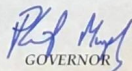
DIONNE WARWICK

for the tremendous impact her music has had on the lives of the people of New Jersey and around the world.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twentieth day of July in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

State of New Jersey Executive Department
Proclamation to Dionne Warwick.

Issued by the Office of the Governor Phil D. Murphy,
2019.

Private collection of Dionne Warwick.

CORY A. BOOKER
NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

July 20, 2019

Newark Symphony Hall
Terrace Ballroom
1020 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to join with you as you gather to celebrate the 50th musical anniversary of the international icon, Miss Dionne Warwick. I would like to thank the City of Newark and Dr. Albert J. Lewis, Jr. of the World Gospel Music Association for organizing this tremendous event.

For more than five decades, we have been privileged to experience the musical genius of Miss Dionne Warwick. Born and raised in Orange, New Jersey, Miss Warwick is one of the most-charted female vocalists of all time and her music has transcended generations. It has been a pleasure to meet Miss Warwick throughout the years, and I wish you all the best for a memorable occasion.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C.A.B.', written over a horizontal line.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Letter from U.S. Senator, Cory Booker (D-NJ), 2019.
Facsimile.

Private collection of Dionne Warwick.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

GRAMMY Museum Experience™ Prudential Center
Summer Session Scholarships donated in honor of

Dionne Warwick

In recognition of your five GRAMMY Awards, GRAMMY Museum Experience™ Prudential Center is providing five scholarships to Newark area high school students for our inaugural Summer Session - a multi-day intensive camp designed to develop the next generation of GRAMMY Award winners.

It is our sincere wish that your legacy of contribution to music, arts and the community carry on in these deserving students.



Mark D. Conklin

Director, Artist Relations & Programming



7/20/19

Grammy Museum Experience Prudential Center
Summer Session Scholarships donated in honor of
Dionne Warwick, 2019.

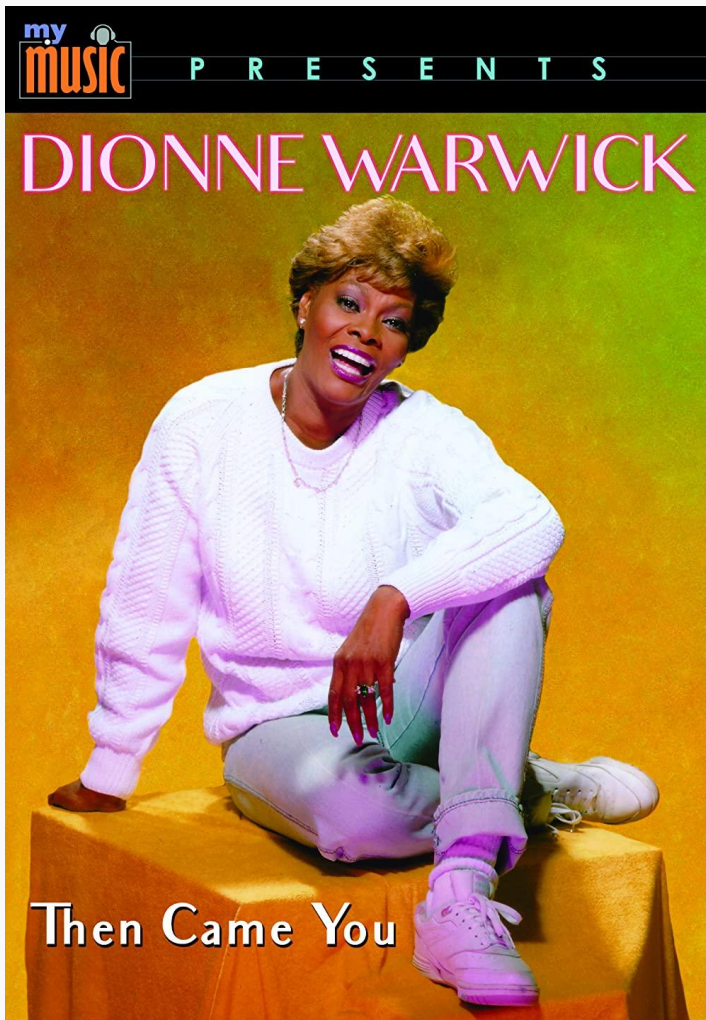
Private collection of Dionne Warwick.



ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition
presented to Dionne Warwick, 2019.

Private collection of Dionne Warwick.



VIDEO CONTENT

Click the image to enjoy these video clips featuring highlights from Ms. Warwick's career, excerpts from an exclusive interview, and some of her best moments on Twitter.

Included is the documentary, "Dionne Warwick: Then Came You (My Music)," 2018. Courtesy of TJL Productions.



1940

On December 12, Ms. Warwick was born. She was raised in East Orange, New Jersey. At the age of six, she received her first standing ovation after her grandfather, the Reverend Eliza Warrick, asked her to sing at his church, the St. Luke's AME Church in Newark, NJ.

You could say it was destiny as Ms. Warwick was born into a musical family. Her mother, Lela Driskell Warrick was a founding member of the gospel group, the Driskell Singers, which included Ms. Warwick's aunt and celebrated recording artist, Cissy Houston.

In 1957, Ms. Warwick and her sister, Dee Dee, start their own gospel group, the Gospelaires. The group (six members at one time) were all members of the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ.

After performing throughout New Jersey and the east coast, the group performed at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. That performance led the Gospelaires to become go-to background singers for the likes of Dinah Washington, Ray Charles, and the Drifters. Ms. Warwick soon became known as the "dems queen" and that title eventually led her to collaborate with the songwriting team, Bert Bacharach and Hal David.

1957-1962



In 1963, Ms. Warwick earned her first Top 40 hit with, "Don't Make Me Over" written by Bacharach and David. The song was from her debut album (also released in 1963 by Scepter Records), appropriately titled *Presenting Dionne Warwick*.

The album heralded a new voice on the scene with classic songs that fused pop, soul, R&B, and gospel elements. Over the next nine years Ms. Warwick released about 20 albums that blended classic and award-winning hit songs such as, "Wishin' and Hopin'," "Walk On By," "I Hate to Turn Out the Lights," "I Say a Little Prayer," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," and "What the World Needs Now is Love."

Ms. Warwick's achievements are even more remarkable considering that she rose to international pop stardom during the civil rights movement. Plus, her ascension was not detoured by the mid-1960s cultural phenomenon known as the British Invasion, when music acts from the United Kingdom (e.g. the Beatles, the Rolling Stones) dominated the U.S. music charts. At this time, Ms. Warwick was one of the few Black stars to achieve such universal acclaim and success and she became a blueprint and trailblazer for countless others.

During this golden era, she also gave birth to her son, David Leland Elliott in 1965.

1963-1972



In 1973, Ms. Warwick gave birth to her second son, Damon Elliott. This personal high came in the middle of a professional low.

In the early 1970s, after Scepter Records began to close its doors, Ms. Warwick signed with Warner Bros. Records. While she, Bacharach and David ended their professional relationship and Ms. Warwick was left to work with a different team of writers and producers. It would take about 12 years for the three collaborators to reconcile.

Ms. Warwick's career began to look up again when she released her first album for A&R Records titled, *Dionne* in 1979. The album became her first platinum recording and won two Grammy Awards.

In 1985, Ms. Warwick appeared (alongside Celine Ross, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Cyndi Lauper and more) on one of the biggest fundraising songs of all time, "We Are the World." The song was recorded in response to a famine in Ethiopia. That same year she released her single, "That's What Friends Are For" featuring Elton John, Gladys Knight, and Shavie Wonder. The worldwide Grammy Award-winning hit raised funds for amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

1973-1985



Ms. Warwick continues to release multiple albums and singles and embark on several TV, literary, business, and charitable endeavors. To date, she has sold over 100 million records.

Throughout these years she has also received numerous honorary doctorate degrees and lifetime achievement awards as a testament to her outstanding cultural contributions.

Plus, she notably served as U.S. Ambassador of Health, appointed in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan, and in 2002 acted as a Goodwill Ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organization section of the United Nations.

In 2020—about eight years after joining Twitter—the legendary entertainer's social media account (supervised by her niece and creative director, Terriann Warrick, @TerriannWarrick) went viral after a series of hilarious tweets caught the nation's attention.

Since then, she's earned a new honorific to add to her esteemed legacy: Queen of Twitter.

1985-Present



TIMELINE

Included in the exhibition is a timeline highlighting significant milestones in Ms. Warwick's career.

INSTALLATION IMAGES

Newark Arts Festival



INSTALLATION IMAGES

Newark Arts Festival



INSTALLATION IMAGES

Newark Arts Festival



STATEMENTS & BIOS

COMMISSIONED ARTISTS

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Lavett Ballard

The title for this work references Dionne Warwick's classic 1967 song of the same name and her roots within the Black church. As a child Ms. Warwick sang at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ where she honed her skills. Thus, Lavett Ballard creates an installation with a church pew as the centerpiece. The pew's various objects reference Ms. Warwick's cultural and historical relevance to the East Orange (where she was raised) and Newark communities and the Black church.

Meanwhile, the back wall acts as a timeline referencing Ms. Warwick's tweet. Tapping into her longevity and ability to foster intergenerational dialogues via social media, Ballard documents through collages, Ms. Warwick's life and the collective experiences of Black women. As the artist states, "My hope is to create a visual timeline and narrative of how each tweet came from life experience and wisdom."

You are invited to take a respectful selfie while sitting on the church pew and reflecting on Ms. Warwick's cultural legacy and the importance of the Black woman's narrative.

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Lavett Ballard is an Artist, Art historian, Curator, and Author. She holds a dual Bachelor's in Studio Art and Art History with a minor in Museum Studies from Rutgers University, she also has an MFA in Studio Art from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Ballard's art has been commissioned as a cover for Time Magazine special Woman of the Year double edition released March 2020. Among her accolades she is a 2021 Yaddo Artist residency fellow, named by Black Art in America as one of the Top 10 Female Emerging Artists to Collect. Ballard's work has been in film productions and exhibited at galleries and museums nationwide. Ballards work has been acquired by prominent collections such as the African American Museum of Philadelphia, the Colored Girls Museum, the Grant Hill and Petrucci Family Foundation Collection, and Syracuse University Community Folk Arts Center, and Jule Collins Smith Fine Art Museum at Auburn University Collections.

For more information visit LavettBeArt.com or IG: [lavettballardarts](https://www.instagram.com/lavettballardarts) or Twitter: [@Lavettballardart](https://twitter.com/Lavettballardart)

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Pamela Council

Everyone needs a good auntie, especially during difficult times. Someone sassy, fierce, fabulous, witty, and never too shy to tell it like it is or offer some (sometimes unsolicited but much-needed) advice. On New Year's Day 2021--as the world hoped for better days following 2020's Covid-19 pandemic and civil unrest--Dionne Warwick reminded the world that not only is she a legendary recording artist, but she is a global auntie to all, no matter one's background or how they identify. As Pamela Council states she was, "Kicking off the New Year by reminding us who she is. Auntie is a mindset, a status, an honorific, and a person to be revered."

Why do you think the artist chose to archive Ms. Warwick's tweet in neon (a medium usually associated with commercialism and kitsch aesthetics)?

Go ahead, take a selfie with "Auntie!" You know you wanna!

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Pamela Council is an interdisciplinary artist guided by material, cultural, and metaphysical quests. Council's practice embodies a darkly humorous and inventive maximalist Afro-Americana camp aesthetic, BLAXIDERMY. Through this lens, Council uses sculpture, architecture, writing, and performance to make dedications and monuments that provide relief for grief and shed light on under-valued narratives. Council has created commissions, exhibitions, performances or presentations for: New Museum for Contemporary Art, United States Library of Congress, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Studio Museum in Harlem, and MoCADA. Council has been Artist-in-Residence at MacDowell, ISCP, Red Bull Arts, Bemis, Rush Arts, MANA, Signal Culture, Mass MoCA, and Wassaic Project. A recipient of the 2017 Joan Mitchell Grant, Council holds a BA from Williams College and an MFA from Columbia University.

For more information visit IG or Twitter: @pamelacouncil

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Jo-El Lopez

Leave it to a queen to knock some sense into ya. In this tweet, Dionne Warwick reminds her followers that sometimes you need to pause, think, and use your common sense when dealing with life's micro annoyances and large challenges. Artist, Jo-El Lopez uses the tweet as a departure point to relish in the queendom of Ms. Warwick by depicting her in a graceful and regal pose. The stained glass background references Ms. Warwick's church roots and one of the sources for the "good sense" that she tries to instill in others via social media and music.

#GetSomeGoodSense

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Jo-El Lopez uses the visual storytelling of traditional realism to comment on the intersection of faith and modernity, the strength of family, and the multidimensional contemporary urban experience. The decades the artist spent under the Pentecostal doctrine, and a bold color palette informed by both abstract painting as well as older traditions of icon-making, all meld to create Lopez's kaleidoscopic worldview.

Lopez's work is in the permanent collection of The Newark Museum of Art and The Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University. His work has appeared regularly in tri-state area exhibitions at Gallery Aferro in Newark, NJ, The Bronx River Art Center, BRIC in Brooklyn, NY, BRAC in the Bronx, NY, The Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, NJ, Rutgers University in Newark, NJ, New Jersey City State University Gallery, Kean University, and many others.

For more information visit IG: [@jo_ellopez](#) or Twitter: [@JLopez53](#)

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Beau McCall

In this series titled, *Dionne Warwick: Queen of Twitter*, artist Beau McCall references the witty and sassy tweets of Ms. Warwick, which brought joy to her followers, made her a viral sensation, and helped her connect with an intergenerational social media audience. The collages combine close-up photos from McCall's button embellished and hand-sewn visual and wearable art with a range of photos and clippings.

The use of buttons--often a family keepsake--add a touch of whimsy to the visual narrative through their elaborate arrangements.

Look closely at each collage.

Which buttons and clippings stand out to you and help drive the narrative of the work?

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Beau McCall

Statement for *Dionne's Nicki Minaj Tweet*

After a follower asked Ms. Warwick if she was a member of rapper Nicki Minaj's fanbase, affectionately called the Barbz, she was perplexed, not knowing what this meant. After receiving an explanation she said that she was one of the Barbz and put out a call for her followers to create fan art of her in Minaj's iconic pink wigs. Here, McCall creates his own version of Ms. Warwick in a pink wig to highlight the sense of humor and fun that brings joy to Ms. Warwick's followers.

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Beau McCall

Statement for *Dionne's Hot Girl Tweet*

Against a vibrant backdrop of buttons McCall uses an image of Ms. Warwick wagging her finger in a sassy manner to reference her not wanting to know what a “hot girl” is. It is a phrase made popular by rappers such as Megan Thee Stallion who defined it in a tweet (dated July 17, 2019) as “...being unapologetically you, having fun, being confident, living your truth, being the life of the party, etc.”

Joining Ms. Warwick is an image of singer Teyana Taylor, who embodies the definition of a “hot girl” and was recently listed as Maxim magazine’s “Sexiest Woman Alive” (2021). Plus, Taylor is someone who has connected with Ms. Warwick via social media and received the legend’s blessing to play her in a potential film or TV project.

While Ms. Warwick playfully may not want to know what a “hot girl” is, she is certainly accepting of all the world’s “hot girls.”

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Beau McCall

Statement for *Dionne the Singer* Tweet

This was Ms. Warwick's follow-up tweet to inquiring about why Chance the Rapper puts his occupation in his stage name. Ever the wisecracking queen, Ms. Warwick then jokingly announced her new stage name as: Dionne the Singer, showing she can keep up with the younger generation.

Statement for *Dionne's Wendy Williams* Tweet

After talk show host Wendy Williams made some critical remarks about Ms. Warwick and her social media presence, the Queen of Twitter quickly responded with wit and class as seen in the tweet above. Here, McCall hilariously depicts what the scene might look like if Ms. Warwick did decide to egg Williams' house. Can you imagine? LOL!

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Beau McCall

Statement for *Dionne's Chance the Rapper Tweet*

In one of her most popular tweets, Ms. Warwick delighted her followers by asking Chance the Rapper a very direct and sensible question about his stage name. The tweet went viral and got the attention of Chance the Rapper. Ms. Warwick was then able to segue this into a forthcoming musical collaboration between the two, proving she is a savvy user of social media.

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Beau McCall—enthusiastically proclaimed by American Craft magazine as “The Button Man”—uses mother of pearl, wool, and decorative buttons to touch on various topics including race, economics, social justice, and pop culture. McCall’s wearable and visual artwork is held in numerous public collections such as Philadelphia Museum of Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, The Museum at FIT, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Amistad Research Center, The Museum of Modern Art Library, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, Stonewall National Museum & Archives, and The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Library.

For more information: BeauMcCall.com or IG: @beau_mccall

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Dianne Smith

On January 6, 2021 the nation reeled in shock and horror as rioters led a violent attack at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. to challenge the defeat of former President Donald Trump. About three months later many were once again devastated by another police shooting death, this time the victim's name was Daunte Wright. Both events took place against the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Warwick's tweets reference the anger and trauma many felt as a result of these occurrences and they showcase her willingness to use social media to address political and social justice issues.

Dianne Smith's installation brings the focus to this underrepresented aspect of Ms. Warwick's life and career. Although she was not as outwardly visible as others in the civil rights movement, Ms. Warwick regularly gave back to her community through numerous charitable causes and her success in the music industry as a Black woman helped to blaze a trail and open doors for countless others. In songs such as "What the World Needs Now is Love," she carried forth a message of peace and unity. Thus, Smith intersects references to Ms. Warwick with pivotal moments in our history as Black people in America. As the artist states, "Ms. Warwick's recent commentary on the pandemic, social justice, and civil unrest through her tweets acts as a springboard to reflect on where we are today."

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Dianne Smith's career as an interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker spans over two decades. Her collectors include National Museum of Women in the Arts, Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, The Brodsky Organization, Danny Simmons, the late Cicely Tyson, Arthur Mitchell, and Maya Angelou, George Faison, Tasha Smith, and Terry McMillian. 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. In addition, Smith's papers--capturing her nearly 30-year career--are now permanently archived at Barnard College.

For more information: diannsmithart.com or IG: @diannsmithart

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Felandus Thames

Ms. Warwick tweeted this message after sensationalist reports were being spread by news outlets following the hospitalization of rapper DMX (R.I.P.). While Ms. Warwick was taking aim at those in the media, Thames redirects the tweet's message to those (particularly, in law enforcement) who have killed Black people in senseless acts of violence while on "job duty." Thus, Ms. Warwick's wise tweet can be applied to any circumstance as a reminder that the excuse of "just doing one's job" holds no weight against the universal and spiritual force of karma.

Here, Thames archives Ms. Warwick's words using hairbrushes. The bristles are meticulously picked apart and arranged to form each letter of the tweet.

What do you think the hollow spaces and the sharp bristle edges that remain add within the context of this work? Does it make the words tweeted by Ms. Warwick resonate on a deeper emotional level?

ARTIST STATEMENTS & BIOS

Bio

Felandus Thames is a conceptual artist living and practicing in the greater New York area. Born in Mississippi, Thames attended the graduate program in Painting and Printmaking at Yale University where he received his MFA in 2010. He has been included in exhibitions at the Kravets Wehby Gallery, Tilton Gallery, Heather James Gallery, Virginia Museum of Fine Art, USF Contemporary Art Museum, International Center for Printmaking New York, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Mississippi Museum of Art, of Art, Yale University, MoCA Westport, Philadelphia African American Museum, Art LA, and Miami Basel.

Thames serves as Visiting Critic to Rhode Island School of Design's MFA in Printmaking program. Media appearances are numerous and periodicals include the New York Times, Financial Times, Frieze Magazine, Essence, Politico Magazine, Vanity Fair, and Art in America. Thames' work can be found in a myriad of prominent international collections and will be featured in the forthcoming Venice Biennale.

For more information: FelandusThames.com or IG: @felandus

CURATOR BIO

Bio

Souleo curates entertaining and informative events, exhibitions, and cultural programs. Souleo has collaborated with noteworthy institutions and brands, including the New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Museum of Arts and Design, Columbia University, Barnard College, Newark Museum of Art, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, and AARP. Souleo's work has been widely covered in outlets including the *Associated Press*, *NY Times*, *The New Yorker*, NBC, and more.

For more information: [SouleoUniverse.com](https://souleoUniverse.com) or IG: @souleouniverse

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Dionne Warwick: Queen of Twitter

Artists: Lavett Ballard, Pamela Council, Jo-El Lopez,
Beau McCall, Dianne Smith, and Felandus Thames

Curated by Souleo