

# DORSEY'S FINE ART GALLERY

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[www.dorseysfineartgallery.com](http://www.dorseysfineartgallery.com)



Ann Tanksley, *Friends*, Oil, 2019, 24" x 30"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANN TANKSLEY CONVERSATIONS II

February 3 – March 31, 2024

## Artist Reception

Sunday, February 18, 2024

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery is pleased to present Ann Tanksley's solo exhibition, *Conversations II*. Fifty artworks showcasing the artist's collages, oil paintings, and monoprints dated from 1974 to 2023, will be on display. The *Conversations II* exhibition explores themes of religion, politics, travel, culture, and family to provide an in-depth look at the artist's personal experiences.

Mrs. Tanksley's *Homage to Katrina* series displays 12 collages highlighting the rich culture in New Orleans, while also remembering the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The collages display scenes of jazz music, creole cuisine, and festivals as well as scenes of rising water and remnants left after the storm. The artist's family roots in Louisiana influenced this series of 12" x 12" individual collages.

The exhibit features original monoprints inspired by the life and works of Zora Neal Hurston, titled *Images of Zora*. Ann Tanksley collaborated with psychoanalyst Hugh F. Butts, M.D. to analyze Hurston's literary works. Dr. Butts and Mrs. Tanksley worked closely together over an eight-year period to discuss and interpret the readings. From those discussions, Mrs. Tanksley created a series of 250 thought-provoking monoprints. The *Images of Zora* monoprint series toured the U.S. and were displayed in multiple exhibits from 1992 to 2010. Writer Maya Angelou described them as "dazzling." Ten carefully selected monoprints from the *Images of Zora* series are currently on display in the gallery.

Ann Tanksley has traveled throughout Africa, Qatar, Brazil, Venezuela, Haiti, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. During her time in Qatar, she exhibited and taught printmaking at the Virginia Commonwealth University. Her artwork expresses her travel and life experiences, as she reflects and brings awareness to social injustices. She sees herself as a 'social commentator' and communicates through figures of oil painting rather than abstract expression. Ann Tanksley disregards visual rules of perspective and proportion and deliberately distorts physical features in her work. She often incorporates certain childlike characteristics into her work yet, makes a powerful statement. Her work is energetic and fascinating.

Ann Tanksley is a Pittsburgh, PA native and currently lives in Long Island, NY. She is a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) in Pittsburgh and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting. After relocating to New York City, she studied at Parsons School of Design, The New School for Social Research, The Art Students League, and Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop. Mrs. Tanksley also studied with Master Printmakers Otto Neals, Kathy Caraccio, and Paulette Singer, who all helped her hone her skills in creating monoprints. Mrs. Tanksley began creating art at five years old and recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She creates every day and uses her art to retell stories that have been told by others as she did with her visual interpretations of Zora Neale Hurston's writings. Mrs. Tanksley has

exhibited throughout the world and her work is on display in many public collections, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, Colgate-Palmolive, NY, NY, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, and Oprah Winfrey's private collection. She and her late husband, John Tanksley, a fellow Pittsburg native, who was a commercial artist for his advertising studio, John Tanksley Studios, raised two daughters, Jane and Gail. Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery has an enduring relationship with Ann Tanksley, and we're honored to present her solo exhibition, ***Conversations II***.

Ann Tanksley has had a long successful relationship with Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery and exhibited her work in the gallery many times over the last 40 years. Mrs. Tanksley and Mr. Dorsey had a wonderful friendship and a successful business relationship. Throughout the years, they teamed up to make art accessible to children by donating artworks to Kings County Hospital and Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY. Mrs. Tanksley says she loved working with Mr. Dorsey because he always treated artists fairly and with respect. She considered him a father-figure.

Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery was established in 1970 by Mr. Lawrence P. Dorsey and is one of the oldest Black-Owned art galleries in New York City. Mr. Dorsey was passionate about giving a voice to artists to ensure that art continues to be an integral part of the community. He created an art haven that has been supporting artists for over 50 years.

#### **Press Inquiries**

Naima Wood, Gallery Director

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Gallery Hours: Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 PM