

# DORSEY'S FINE ART GALLERY

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



Dindga McCannon, *At Lavinia's House*, 2022, Linoleum Cut, 5/22 EV, 18 x 23 inches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Acts of Art: Where We At Now**

**February 2 – March 30, 2025**

## **Artists**

Dindga McCannon  
Ann Tanksley  
Lloyd Toone  
Frank Wimberley

## **Curators**

Mary Lisette Morris  
Naima Wood

## **Opening Reception**

Sunday, February 2, 2025  
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

## **Artist Talk**

Sunday, March 9, 2025  
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**Brooklyn, NY**— Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery is pleased to present *Acts of Art: Where We At Now*, a group exhibition showcasing contemporary works by artists who exhibited at Nigel Jackson and Patricia Grey's Greenwich Village Acts of Art Gallery between 1969 and 1975. This groundbreaking gallery, the first Black-owned gallery in downtown Manhattan, played a pivotal role in the New York art scene by championing Black artists in a Black-run space. In 2024, the history of the Acts of Art Gallery experienced a renewed spotlight with the acclaimed exhibition *Acts of Art in Greenwich Village* at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College. Continuing this legacy, *Acts of Art: Where We At Now* provides a platform for artists from the original gallery to share new works, offering fresh perspectives on community, identity, and the creative process. The exhibition is timed to celebrate Black History Month and Women's History Month, providing a meaningful opportunity to explore the intersection of Blackness and womanhood. The exhibition title, *Acts of Art: Where We At Now*, celebrates the enduring legacy of the Acts of Art Gallery and the groundbreaking artists it championed. It also pays homage to the Where We At: Black Women Artists collective, featuring Ann Tanksley as an original member and co-founded by Dindga McCannon. By connecting the historical significance of these artists with their contemporary work, *Acts of Art: Where We At Now* underscores the ongoing vibrancy and relevance of their artistic practice.

Join us for the opening reception on Sunday, **February 2, 2025, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM**, and return for an artist talk on Sunday, **March 9, 2025, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM**, to hear directly from some of the featured artists as they reflect on their work and its enduring relevance. We will have a conversation reflecting on the artist's work, experiences, and careers.

## Artist Biographies

**Dindga McCannon** is a Harlem-born multi-media artist who has spent over six decades exploring Black history, culture, and identity through her work. Her art delves into themes of womanhood, relationships, and self-expression. McCannon's career has included projects such as the initiatives of the Where We At: Black Women Artists collective and her recent mural *Towards a Brighter Tomorrow!* at Rikers Island. McCannon co-founded the Black women's art collective Where We At in 1971 as a solution to the dismissal of Black women artists in professional spaces. WWA's inaugural exhibition was held at the Acts of Art Gallery in 1971, cementing its place in the gallery's storied history.

**Ann Tanksley** is an American artist who specializes in watercolor, oil painting, collage, and printmaking. Her tender representations of Black experiences, community, and histories are informed by her observations in places like her birth state of Pennsylvania, as well as Louisiana, New York, Haiti, Qatar, Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean, and Senegal. Tanksley was an original member of the Where We At collective and participated in *Where We At: Black Women Artists - 1971* at the Acts of Art Gallery alongside Dindga McCannon. She has had recent exhibitions at Kenkeleba House and Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery. She continues to expand her artistic scope with recent works that include a series of collages featured in Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery's *Acts of Art: Where We At Now*.

**Lloyd Toone** is an American mixed-media artist and educator. His work is primarily sculptural with a found-object philosophy. His motivation for this method of collecting is multifaceted – it is a practical means to provide materials for his lessons as an educator. It's also a metaphorical practice that connects his figures with the earth, imbues the found objects with new meaning, and weaves experiences from his world travels into his work. In 1974, Toone's work could be seen in the Acts of Art gallery window for *Black Artists in the New York Scene*. Viewers can see Toone's colorful works on paper at Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery's *Acts of Art: Where We At Now*.

**Frank Wimberley** is an abstract expressionist artist who has built a six-decade-long career in Queens and Sag Harbor, New York. His signature gestural and collage-style painting is largely inspired by music – particularly by jazz musicians like Miles Davis. The Berry Campbell Gallery describes his artistic method as akin to jazz – full of spontaneity and movement.<sup>1</sup> His practice combines abstract expressionist brushwork with collage, resulting in rich texture and dimension in his pieces. The artist's distinctive style shines through in his work, from his emotive brushstrokes to the delicate, torn edges of the elements in his works on paper. Wimberley has had a long and robust career, from a solo exhibition at the Acts of Art Gallery in 1974 to his upcoming solo exhibition at the Berry Campbell Gallery from February 6 to March 8, 2025.

*Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery extends its gratitude to the Berry Campbell Gallery for their generous support in contributing two remarkable works by Frank Wimberley for our exhibition and invaluable information on the artist's legacy.*

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<sup>1</sup> Berry Campbell. *FRANK WIMBERLEY (b. 1926)*. New York, NY: Berry Campbell, 2025.

## Curator Biography

**Mary Lisette Morris** is a Tennessee-born curator, art historian, and writer. Her research primarily focuses on women's work, feminist history, and the correlation between textile production and socioeconomic status. Morris is currently pursuing an MA in Art History and an Advanced Curatorial Certificate at Hunter College and serves as the Curatorial Assistant and Registrar at the James Howell Foundation. In 2024, Morris co-curated *Acts of Art in Greenwich Village* at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College, co-curated *Unraveling* at 205 Hudson Street, and assisted in curating *Twilight: 21 Works by James Howell* at the New York Studio School. Morris co-wrote the essay "Where We At: Black Women Artists 1971" and contributed research for the publication [\*Acts of Art in Greenwich Village\*](#). She holds a BA in Art History from The University of Tennessee, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, was named the 2022 Outstanding Art History Graduate, and was the recipient of the 2022 Dale Cleaver Award for a short paper.

## About the Gallery

In 1970, Mr. Lawrence P. Dorsey founded Dorsey's Fine Art Gallery, now one of the oldest Black-owned art galleries in New York City. Mr. Dorsey's mission was to create a space that uplifts underrepresented artists and establishes their careers within the community. He has produced a fifty-five year legacy rich with artists who make up art history in New York City. Mr. Dorsey created a haven that supports artists, ensuring that art would be an integral part of the community long after his time as Gallery Owner.

The exhibition includes important works selected from Dorsey's permanent collection. Artworks from **James Denmark** are currently on view.

## Press Inquiries

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