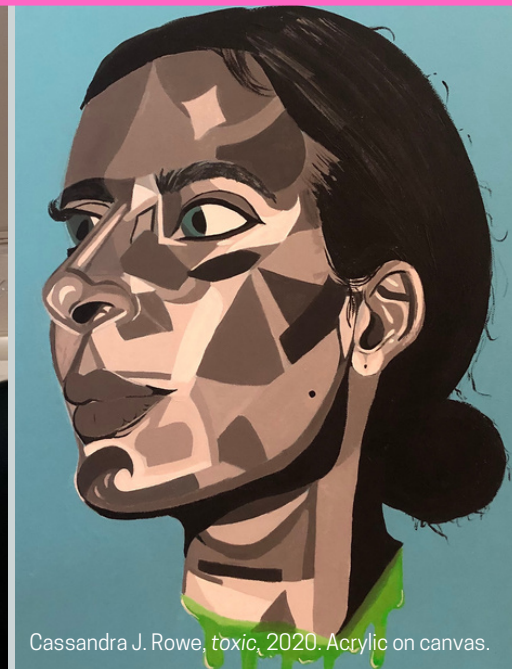


# THE ART CHOSE ME

## 2022



2nd Annual Holiday Artist Market, December 16, 2022. Hayti Heritage Center, Durham, NC.



Cassandra J. Rowe, *toxic*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas.

Maybe it was Jupiter in Aries or optimism brought on by the waning pandemic that made 2022 so expansive. Whatever the reason, opportunities kept presenting themselves and I kept saying "Yes"!

LIVE! 3rd Fridays at Hayti showcased the area's dopest artists. This year's theme, *precarity | possibility*, explores the ways in which artists respond to navigating the complexities of being a black person in the United States. I love that artists consistently come to the artist talks in support of each other.

We added more artist markets so that the community had more opportunities to support local BIPOC creatives. We doubled the number of participating artists for December's 2nd Annual Holiday Market.

With support from Be Connected, I commissioned Claire Alexandre to create a mural of Lyda Moore Merrick--community leader and Founder of the Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind.



Candy Carver, *Save Room For My Love*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas.



Sloane Siobhan, Artist



Zaire McPhearson, *Melanin Bloom (detail)*, 2021. Mixed media on canvas



Rox Campbell, *Untitled*.



Craig Cutright, *Big Moma and Ms. Ocie*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas



BlackArt Salon studio visit with artist Morel Doucet. December 2022. Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, FL.

Equitable engagement underpins LIVE! 3rd Friday: during each event, organizations and advocacy groups are on site soliciting feedback and providing resources to residents of the Fayetteville Street Corridor. Equity also means that there are no vendor fees for the art markets and exhibitions are zero commission.

With support from DURMPac and the Office on Youth, we launched a Youth Artist Call in February. High school aged students were invited to create art celebrating the history of the Historic Hayti District.

A diverse nine-member selection panel evaluated the submissions. Seven amazing works by four youth artists were chosen and displayed in the Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery during the Juneteenth celebration at Hayti Heritage Center.



Installation, November LIVE! 3rd Friday at Hayti. Artists Samantha Everette and C. J. Murphy



Gemynii, *Cancer Rising*, 2020. Acrylic on canvas.



Clarence Heyward, *The Oracle*, 2021. Acrylic, mirror and gold leaf on canvas

I facilitated several slow art tours this year. I continue to be amazed at how a group of people engaged in close looking and committed to the exchange of ideas change the way we appreciate art and deepen our understanding of each other. On the few occasions when the artist attended the tour (a first for me!) a new layer of discovery was uncovered as the artist experienced their art through the lens of the viewer.

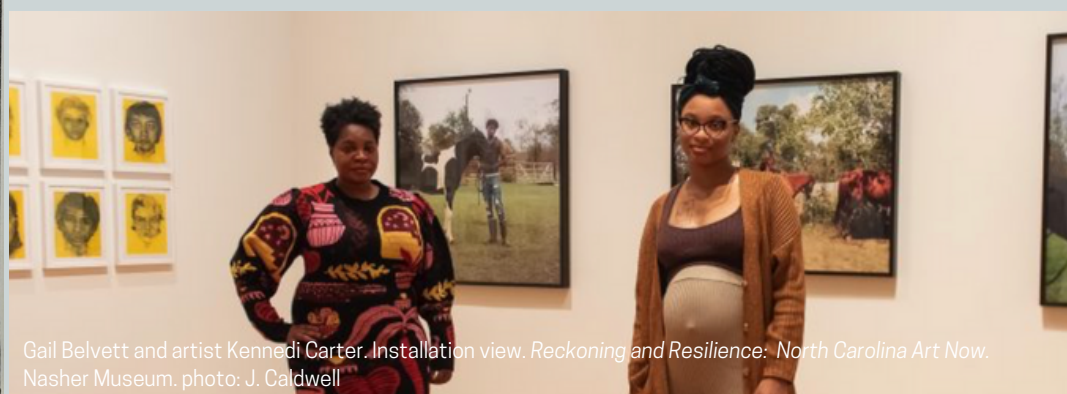
In February, I had the privilege of interviewing artist Kennedy Carter for the Nasher Museum podcast. Kennedy approached our conversation with the same unique vulnerability and thoughtfulness that make her photography so compelling. In the spring, LIVE! 3rd Friday alums Craig Cutright, Whitney Stanley and I reunited to present *In Relation*, an exhibition of new works at Provident1898 in Durham, NC.

After four years, I returned to Art Basel. This time, we organized a group of art enthusiasts to travel with us to Miami. We saw amazing art, visited artist studios, met with museum directors, enjoyed good food and great parties. The group, BlackArt Salon, will reconvene in 2023 to explore the ways that we can directly support local artists.

This expansion would not have been possible without collaboration. I am deeply moved by the authentic generosity of Durham creatives and the support of everyone who attended an event, shared information with their network, introduced me to artists and said a kind word. I am humbled, I am encouraged and I am grateful.



Lennie Vernet, *01*, 2022. Mixed media on canvas



Gail Belvett and artist Kennedy Carter. Installation view, *Reckoning and Resilience: North Carolina Art Now*, Nasher Museum. photo: J. Caldwell



Slow Art Tour, *Colonies* by Catherine Edgerton. October 22, 2022 at Perfect Lovers Coffee Shop, Durham, NC  
photo: Mavis Gragg



Whitney Stanley, *Untitled: Relatable II*, 2022

"Your life is  
already artful—  
waiting, just  
waiting, for you  
to make it art."  
*Toni Morrison*



Leighla J. Kimbrough, *Marigold, creativity or the drive to succeed*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas