

TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY [#BUYART: Within Reach] SECOND ITERATION of accessible art for emerging and established collectors



from left to right

Lamar Bailey : Beautiful Things, 2025 | 18" x 24" | Mixed Media on Panel

Mayowa Nwadike : Where You Go, I'll Go, 2025 | 24" x 30" | Acrylic and Charcoal on Panel

Sofia Saleh: The March of Intellect, 2025 | 35.7" x 30" | Natural Chicle (gum), Mixed Media collage on Wood Panel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Brooklyn, New York] May 28, 2025 Tanya Weddemire Gallery is proud to present the second installment of **#BUYART: Within Reach**, a dynamic group exhibition championing The Art of Art Collecting, running from **June 12th through August 16th of 2025**. With every piece priced at **\$4,000 and under**, this showcase reimagines what it means to collect. High-quality fine art is accessible to both seasoned collectors and first-time buyers.

TWG has positioned itself on the frontlines of artistic innovation, and this activation of the proves this. Last year's debut of **#BUYART: Within Reach** was well received and supported, the influx of positive reception came just ahead of a wave of data from **ART BASEL and UBS ART MARKET REPORT 2025** and other trusted art platforms, all confirming what we already knew: **accessible art is on the rise**.

From fiscal year-end 2024 into early 2025, reports have shown that the majority of art acquisitions are taking place **below the \$5,000 threshold**. Whether for investment, patronage, or passion, more buyers are turning toward emerging artists and more intimate works.

This year's show featuring 12 new artists: **Lamar Bailey, Honey Pierre, Brandan Henry Ken Forbes, Grei T. Booker, Will Watson, Chermia Lucas, Mayowa Nwadike, Taj Anthony, Sofia Saleh, Tasanee Durrett and Sandy Clafford** is about new beginnings: fresh voices, new perspectives and reimagined entry points into collecting. Each artist will debut one featured work on opening night and share the story behind it. It's an invitation, not just to view art but to

truly engage with it. This isn't just an exhibition but it's a movement. A movement rooted in equity, access, and joy. From collectors who are building their first gallery wall to those seeking the next great investment, **#BUYART: Within Reach** offers work that is reflective of our vibrant, multicultural artistic landscape.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Lamar Bailey

Lamar Bailey is an Atlanta-native, husband, and father who captures the energy and love within Black community through mixed media art. His expressive style features loose brushstrokes and abstract textures which help convey emotion and movement. He often paints on unconventional materials like cardboard and cardstock, tactile quality to his pieces that adds authenticity and dimension. His art explores the beauty and complexity of Black family life—centering themes of love, resilience, and the everyday moments that shape identity. Through powerful visual storytelling, he seeks to honor and uplift Black communities, shining a light on both quiet and profound moments that reflect their strength, tenderness, and humanity.



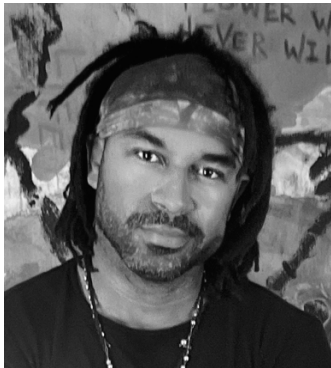
Honey Pierre

Cassandra Hickey, known as Honey Pierre, was born in Cleveland, OH, into a vibrant family. Her artistic journey began with a fascination for fashion magazines, leading to daily illustrations and exploration of various mediums, guided by a high school mentor. Choosing an unconventional path, she served three years in the U.S. Army, which shaped her perspectives and commitment to art. After relocating to Atlanta, Honey expanded her creative horizons through diverse engagements. Her evolution as a textile artist found expression in punch needle, an eco-friendly technique that intertwines yarn into vivid narratives. Each piece serves as a portal for storytelling, highlighting her accomplishments, including her first solo exhibition with Moca Cleveland, her Leap Year residency at Mint Gallery, and her installation at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Honey envisions her future as an ever-unfolding tapestry of narratives, eager to craft stories that celebrate the essence of life.



Brandon Henry

Delaware-based artist Brandon Henry explores themes of identity, solitude, and stillness through charcoal and graphite drawings. After high school, Henry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving two tours overseas, including a seven-month deployment in Iraq, where he drew portraits of fellow troops to send to their families. Following his honorable discharge, he used the Montgomery G.I. Bill and Post-9/11 Bill to attend the University of Delaware, earning his BFA in 2013 and MFA in 2022. Henry is a recipient of the Delaware Division of the Arts Individual Fellowship and has exhibited internationally, including in Berlin, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. His solo exhibition *Ebon Solus* was recently on view at the Mezzanine Gallery in Wilmington, DE.



Ken Forbes

Ken Forbes “ArtBoy” is an artist from Brooklyn who specializes in interactive artworks that tell stories, including paintings made with coffee and cacao. Forbes uses those elements and various shades of brown, as both an homage to his heritage and as a reminder - we are all nothing more than different shades of brown; we are all human. Working from his studio in downtown Manhattan, Forbes is an award - winning artist with work features at Miami’s Art Basel and showcased at Bitcoin Miami. He also held the prestigious honor of a residency in Manhattan’s historic Germanic Building, once the home of Pop Art legend Roy Lichtenstein. Primarily painting in abstract expressionism and cubism, Forbes is self-taught. Having lived a lot of lives including culinary, hospitality, acting and modeling, and finance, Forbes fell into art about 8 years ago whilst on a retreat with friends. It then became the conduit through which he was finally able to express things he otherwise didn’t know how to. Forbes hopes his artworks inspire people to become a better version of themselves, to that we can all be better together.



Grei T. Booker

Grei Booker a self-taught mixed media artist and Therapeutic Art Practitioner based in Newark, NJ. She is a former attendee of Howard University, and graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with honors and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. She received her MBA with a concentration in Marketing from American Intercontinental University-Buckhead, based in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Booker's talents are multi-disciplinary, but her passion lies in mixed media collage. Ms. Booker sprinkles elements, textures, grit, and beautiful contradictions reminiscent of 1980's New York City Street art, and Hip-Hop Culture into her works. Her artistic expression is an homage to her inner child and heavily inspired by black culture, her relationships, spirituality, love of music, and vast life experiences. Ms. Booker has also designed and facilitated various enrichment programs and Art Therapy workshops for youth, adults, and organizations.



Will Watson

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure." – Author unknown. The profound significance of memory unfolds within the intricate layers of our personal family archives, life's wisdom, activities, and values. These elements collectively serve as the cornerstone of my creative practice, fueling the imaginative power of world-building. I aim to create a space for dialogue about identity, mental health, resilience, and finding joy in life's constant shifts. Through my work, I deconstruct memories and reimagine narratives that celebrate individual existence and resonate with the broader essence of being, entwined within the collective consciousness of human experiences and the processes of remembering, works explore the vibrancy of everyday American life. They offer nonfictional accounts brimming with love and light, reimagining Black people as a precious and powerful mix of golden beings, creating a vibrant space where life happens; however, Black joy thrives. This endeavor connects the concepts of identity and mortality with notions of value, self-worth, and self-love. It's about seeing oneself as more than just a physical entity, defying the constraints imposed by society.



Chermia Lucas

Chermia Lucas is a self-taught painter based in Baltimore, MD. Her work explores themes of identity, selfhood, and collective memory through the lens of the African American experience. Guided by a foundation of love, unity, and liberation, her paintings serve as visual narratives that honor everyday moments, ancestral connections, and untold stories. Rooted in both personal reflection and cultural storytelling, Chermia's practice is deeply informed by her lived experiences as a mother and educator. These perspectives shape her approach to art-making—intuitive, intentional, and emotionally resonant. Her work invites viewers into a space of contemplation, where beauty and truth exist in quiet resistance.



Mayowa Nwadike

Mayowa Nwadike is a self-taught Nigerian multidisciplinary artist based in Manhattan, New York. He recently completed an Artist-in-Residency at The Anderson Center in Minneapolis, MN. Nwadike's work has been exhibited in esteemed galleries and museums, including the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago and The African American Museum in Dallas. He was recently awarded Best in Show (Mixed Media Art) at the 27th Carroll Harris Simms National Black Art Competition & Exhibition. His most recent solo exhibition was held at Warnes Contemporary Gallery in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to painting, he has explored film as a creative medium, with his short film premiering at Outfest in Los Angeles and screening at the Producers Club in New York. His work has also been featured in various print and video interviews such as Hyperallegic, TimeOut Magazine and New Visionary Magazine, all highlighting his artistic journey and process.



Taj Anthony

Taj Anthony, a 24 year-old artist originally from Houston Texas and currently based in Brooklyn, NY specializes in contemporary and street art. With his work exploring the themes of personal identity, the ups and downs of mental health, and his unique worldview living in America. Since his debut exhibition in 2022, Taj has demonstrated notable evolution in both style and technique, continually refining his craft and presenting thought-provoking concepts that captivate and engage viewers.



Sofia Saleh

Sofia Saleh (French, b. 1991) is a New York-based artist of Franco-Algerian and Yemenite descent, with ancestral roots in the Ouled Nail tribe. Her work traces the remnants people leave behind marks of presence, loss, and memory. After graduating from Aix-en-Provence University, Saleh's practice took a personal turn following the loss of her father to suicide, prompting a deep engagement with the silent imprints found in urban landscapes. In 2013, she moved to New York, where she began using discarded chewing gum as a central medium. For Saleh, gum is an intimate and often overlooked remnant of individuality—simultaneously mundane and poetic. Through it, she explores themes of identity, displacement, and collective memory. The material becomes a conduit for addressing larger humanitarian issues, including war, hunger, and violence against women and children—grounding the global in the personal. Her practice spans performance, printmaking, and installation, often engaging public space to create direct, embodied experiences for viewers. Saleh's interdisciplinary approach seeks to blend the delicate with the urgent, confronting invisibility with presence. She has exhibited at La MaMa Galleria in New York with Every Woman Biennial, and at the Monira Foundation at Mana Contemporary in New Jersey. Her 2022 performance in Washington Square Park was featured in Washington Square News. She currently lives in New York and is part of the Mana Contemporary cultural center.



Tasanee Durrett

Durrett (1994) is a Chicago-born architect and abstract figurative artist whose mixed-media paintings and sculptures explore the intersection of ethnobotany, identity, and psychological healing within the Black Diaspora. Her practice, informed by her B.Arch from the University of Arizona School of Architecture, weaves together architectural precision with deeply personal narratives of the Black experience. In 2022, painting emerged as a medium for liberation and healing as she reclaimed her voice after surviving an eight-year abusive relationship. Her work has garnered national recognition through exhibitions at prestigious venues including the Museum of Science and Industry Chicago (2023), Orlando Museum of Art (2022), and Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum (2024). Recent milestones include a solo exhibition in Orlando (2024), exhibitions at Art Basel Miami and EXPO Chicago (2024), and installations at the Mint Museum (2024). Her contributions to contemporary art have been featured in the Orlando Foundation for Architecture archives, 1919 Mag, Blacque, and Sugarcane Magazine. Based in Central Florida, Durrett's practice continues to evolve as a platform for amplifying marginalized voices and fostering collective healing through cultural dialogue.



Sandy Clafford

Sandy Clafford is an interdisciplinary visual artist based in Brooklyn. Drawing from her Afro-Costa Rican heritage, her work explores the intersections of identity, re-imagination, defiance, and transformation. Working under the moniker *The Queen's Artillery*, she combines painting, assemblage, photography, and design to create visually layered narratives rooted in storytelling and reclamation. Her practice is driven by themes of autonomy, vulnerability, femininity, and power. Whether through intimate self-portraits or larger conceptual works, Clafford uses the body as both symbol and site—layering materials like fabric, sequins, gold leaf, microbeads, and shiny objects to construct compositions that assert presence, amplify softness, and reclaim space. Across her series—including *The Queen's Court*, *Reclaiming My Time*, *What That Mouth Do*, and *The Deck of Queens*—she uplifts the complexity of Black womanhood and challenges the boundaries placed on expression, desire, and agency. Her solo exhibition *Autonomy Redefined* debuted in 2023 and centered on the shifting contours of identity under societal pressure.

Through her practice, Clafford creates visual offerings that celebrate resilience, critique expectations, and honor emotional truth—inviting viewers into worlds that are textured, reflective, and unafraid to feel or confront.

about TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY

The Tanya Weddemire Gallery is a Brooklyn-based art gallery that thrives from being a vital source and representation of the arts. It's a premier art destination dedicated to showcasing the work of emerging and established artists. Its mission is to deepen the value and importance of art by enriching each person's perspective on life explorations through exhibits. The gallery applies thoughtful and intentional curation while integrating cultural and historical connections to all their shows that can include, but are not limited to, paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography, fashion, and furniture. Renowned for its impact on the art scene, the Tanya Weddemire Gallery has been featured in respected publications such as Forbesblk, Vanity Fair, ARTNEWS, Art in America, Brooklyn Rail, Industry City Publication, Amsterdam News, Black Art Magazine, PR News Wire, Brooklyn Reader, Hyperallergic, Bleucalf, Voice of America, and Park Magazine. Located at Industry City Building 2 : 254 36th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232.

Come celebrate the power of collecting with intention.

OPENING NIGHT: THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2025 | 6PM – 10PM

Tanya Weddemire Gallery
INDUSTRY CITY | BLDG 2.
254 36th Street Suite C257 Brooklyn, NY 11232

GALLERY HOURS

WED - SAT : 11AM - 6PM

SUN : 12PM - 5PM

For more information about Tanya Weddemire Gallery, please visit:

<http://www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org/>

PRESS CONTACT | Info@weddemiregallery.org

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