

**NEWARK ARTS X TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY : “COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES”
DECEMBER 17th 2024 – FEBRUARY 4th 2025 | NEWARK ARTSPACE : NEWARK NJ**



from left to right

MOSES SALIHOU | LITTLE BLACK GIRL, 2024 | 36" X 34" | Oil on Canvas

GREGORY SAINT AMAND | MORNING SUNSHINE, 2024 | 24" X 30" | Mixed Media on Paper

O'NEIL SCOTT | A TALE OF TWO DREAMS, 2024 | 40" X 30" | Oil on Panel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[NEWARK, NJ November 18, 2024] NEWARK ARTS and TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY presents **COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES** from December 17th, 2024 to February 4th, 2025 at NEWARK ARTSPACE : 355 Broad Street, Newark NJ, 07104. This captivating exhibition will showcase works from six remarkable artists: **MOSES SALIHOU, GREGORY SAINT AMAND, O'NEIL SCOTT, CANDICE TAVARES, TOMMY MITCHELL, and GUY STANLEY PHILOCHE.**

This exhibition is an amalgamation that celebrates diverse voices and powerful storytelling while highlighting the beauty of figurative language across various mediums, including mixed media on paper, oil on canvas, oil on panel, and mixed media on panel. Each artist contributes their distinctive background to shape **COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES**, creating a profound tribute to our stories. These narratives speak of family connections, the beauty of natural hair, resilience, recognition, and the shared joy of nostalgic childhood memories. It honors our shared and individual experiences, representing a hopeful vision for our community—one where every perspective is valued, and every voice is heard.

Moses Salihou abstract oil paintings on canvas are characterized by rich textures and layered intensity. He uses a distinctive scraping technique, applying thick layers of paint with a palette knife to create stout, rectangular strokes. These strokes guide the viewer's eye across the canvas, establishing a rhythmic pathway. His skillful manipulation of form and texture reflects the complexity of the human experience, encouraging contemplation of the diverse narratives and emotions we all carry.

Gregory Saint Amand skillfully incorporates hidden symbols and found objects into his layered mixed media works on paper and canvas. He depicts figures in striking greyscale, which contrasts boldly with the vibrant bursts of color that surround them. This contrast highlights the reflection of youth and enhances the playful energy and visual impact of the artwork. His innovative framing technique positions elements just outside the edges of the canvas, creating a sense of expansiveness and intrigue that evokes motion and depth.

O'Neil Scott oil-on-panel artwork explores the transformative role of memory in shaping identity and envisioning the future. Scott conveys a profound sense of shared history by using deep, evocative shades of primary colors. Blending these colors at their foundation creates a subtle interplay of light and dark. His ominous tones act as a visual metaphor for introspection, inviting viewers to reflect on how past experiences continue to influence one's sense of self.

Candice Tavares offers a refreshing perspective on mixed-media wood artistry. She intentionally balances intricate designs with an organic flow to replicate the inherent beauty within Black Women. As a self-taught artist, she approaches each piece with a refined sense of structure and composition, using laser cutters and carving tools to achieve meticulous precision. The diverse grains and tones from multiple types of wood bring depth, texture, and unity to her work.

Tommy Mitchell artwork on paper seamlessly combines ballpoint pen and acrylic paint, resulting in an intricate and tactile quality that enhances the realism of his portraits. His exploration of contrast through these mediums enriches his portrayal of identity and strength. By centering the eyes of his subjects within the composition, he establishes an immediate connection with the viewer. Through meticulous line work and vibrant colors, Mitchell celebrates the beauty of individuals within the Black Diaspora.

Guy Stanley Philoche vibrant colors and thoughtful compositions invite viewers to reflect on their viability while he utilizes a layering technique that resembles a concrete building, further acknowledging the complexities within the human experience. His mixed media works on canvas, paper, and panel offer structured symmetry and balance, featuring the tagline "Post No Bills" at the top and a delicate floral daisy motif at the bottom.

FEAUTURING ARTISTS



about **MOSES SALIHOU** | [@amoses_salihou](https://www.instagram.com/amoses_salihou)

Moses Salihou is a Cameroonian artist based in Toronto. He explores the ideas of belonging and existence by creating work that blends elements of portraiture and abstraction. Salihou's thick application of paint creates a textural intensity that mirrors our own internal complexities. Central to Salihou's work is his belief that human beings are composites of various identities, experiences, beliefs, and emotions. Salihou's gestural application leaves the defining features on the faces of his portraits only loosely representational. The portraits become composites of various people rather than fixed and stable identities, allowing the observer to be a participant rather than just a viewer. These rich surface effects provide Salihou's work with a sense of dynamism that captures the fluidity and movement he ascribes to the concepts of identity and personhood. Salihou has exhibited across the United States and Canada. His work is also in private collections globally, including in Europe, New Zealand, Africa, Asia, Canada, and the US.



about **GREGORY SAINT AMAND** | [@gregorysaintamand](https://www.instagram.com/gregorysaintamand)

Gregory Saint Amand, also known as GOGO, is a contemporary and figurative American and Haitian artist. He was born in New York but spent much of his early formative years growing up in Haiti. His perspective on what speaks to human consciousness and understanding, the visual lexicons that influence our communication and culture, is gentle but observantly powerful in its nature. He displays his conversation with art, loving to paint in layers to open the canvas and its limits, bringing about a never-ending exploration. His signature vision is evident in the work, which uses bright colors, inks, and other intriguing mediums and details. He plays with ideas that carry weight and then juxtaposes them with more light-hearted subjects. GOGO attended and graduated from The Cooper Union School of Art. His work has been featured in multiple venues and publications such as the Huffington Post, Scope, The Grio, Crème, Art Voice, 101 Top Artist, and MILK mag, to name a few.



about O'NEIL SCOTT | [@oneilscott](#)

O'Neil Scott is a self-taught artist based in Philadelphia. He was influenced early on by his grandfather and uncle, both of whom pursued creative careers. As a child, he began drawing and spent much of his youth filling the pages of empty notebooks with images of both fictional and real individuals. In college, Scott planned to study art, but he received a football scholarship from Syracuse University and had to focus on that commitment. He majored in Information Technology and later earned his MBA at the University of Delaware. Despite this, he never lost his passion for art, which he continues to use to express his innermost concerns. Inspired by the Old Masters and contemporary realists, Scott has always been captivated by portraiture and its ability to reflect the complexities of the human condition. It wasn't until he started experimenting with oil paints that he began to spend more time at the easel. He found the pliability of oil paint easier to work with, which encouraged him to explore deeper subject matter and address his apprehensions about issues such as social justice, climate change, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement.



about CANDICE TAVARES | [@noellrx](#)

Candice Tavares is a self-taught illustrator and wood artist born and raised just outside of Philadelphia, PA. Her art celebrates Black beauty, love, and culture, highlighting the rich history and diversity of black hair and skin complexion. She sees her art as an opportunity to challenge the negative narratives about blackness that are so prevalent within the healthcare system and mainstream media. Her art is intended to remind Black people of their inherent beauty and value and remind non-black viewers of their shared humanity with Black and Brown people through the common bonds of love, joy, and longing.



about TOMMY MITCHELL | [@tommymitche11](#)

Tommy Mitchell, born in 1983 in Biloxi, Mississippi, is an American artist who specializes in ink portraits that celebrate BIPOC individuals. His work is a journey of artistic growth and mastery, capturing the dynamic beauty of the Black experience through powerful and evocative representations. Mitchell's choice of ballpoint pen was inspired by a friendly competition with a classmate, who mentioned that their grandmother used ink to minimize mistakes. This led Mitchell to adopt the medium as well. A self-taught artist, Mitchell has studied the work of tattoo artists like Jun Cha and Mister Cartoon, admiring their attention to detail and skillful execution with ink. He splits his time between Los Angeles and Baltimore.



about GUY STANLEY PHILOCHE | [@guystanleyphiloche](https://www.instagram.com/guystanleyphiloche)

Guy Stanley Philoche, a Haitian-born modern artist, immigrated to Connecticut when he was three years old. He chose to pursue art as his calling, diverging from his family's sports-oriented background. While remaining close to his Haitian Roots, Philoche pursued his artistic journey, first attending Paier College of Art and later Yale University. He now resides in New York City. Philoche's richly textured works have garnered international acclaim, having been exhibited at prestigious events such as the *Scope Art Show*, *LA Art Show*, *Art On Paper*, *Atlanta Art Fair*, and *the Hamptons Fine Art Fair*. His diverse palette, which consists of works on paper, canvas, and panel, exudes strength and sophistication. He employs innovative layering techniques that invite viewers to engage with the tactile richness of each piece. Philoche envisions a profound connection between his audiences and the textures of his art, fostering a deeper appreciation for each creation.

about NEWARK ARTS | [@newarkarts](https://www.newarkarts.org)

The Newark Arts Council is a vital institution that positions Newark as a global City of the Arts. Since its founding in 1981, Newark Arts has dedicated over 40 years to enriching the city's vibrant arts and culture scene, ensuring that its benefits reach all Newark residents. With a mission of "Powering the Arts to Transform Lives," they leverage the arts to inspire meaningful change within the community. As a trusted intermediary, dynamic collaborator, cultural catalyst, and marketing powerhouse, Newark Arts embodies the essence of creative placemaking. By showcasing Newark as a beacon of artistic and cultural innovation, they enhance the city's vibrancy and highlight the arts' incredible potential to drive urban economic growth.

Lauren LeBeaux Craig, Executive Director of Newark Arts, shared, *"For over four decades, Newark Arts has been at the heart of our city's cultural vibrancy, positioning Newark as a global City of the Arts. 'Powering the Arts to Transform Lives' is not just a mission statement for us—it's a testament to the role arts and culture play in shaping Newark's identity, driving economic growth, and building a more vibrant, inclusive city. This exhibition, in partnership with Tanya Weddemire Gallery, is an example of how Newark Arts continues to amplify the voices of local and global artists, inspire innovation, and showcase the raw talent that defines Newark."*

about TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY | [@tanyaweddemiregallery](https://www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org)

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 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 *Forbes*, *Vanity Fair*, *ARTNEWS*, *Art in America*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Industry City Publication*, *Amsterdam News*, *Black Art Magazine*, *PR News Wire*, *Brooklyn Reader*, *Hyperallergic*, *Bluecalf*, *Voice of America*, and *Park Magazine*. Located at Industry City Building 2 : 254 36th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232.

Tanya Weddemire, Founder and CEO of Tanya Weddemire Gallery, shared, *"I'm truly honored to partner with Newark Arts to present this beautiful exhibition, **COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES**, and introduce new talents through our commitment of amplifying community, culture, and legacy. I believe that each piece in this body of work, and each artist involved, shares a unique and deeply personal connection within the lines they create."*

JOIN US for OPENING NIGHT ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH | 5:30PM - 9PM
NEWARK ARTSPACE | 355 Broad Street Newark NJ 07105

For more information about the exhibition and Tanya Weddemire Gallery, please visit:
www.tanyaweddemiregallery.org

PRESS CONTACT | Info@weddemiregallery.org
INSTAGRAM | [@tanyaweddemiregallery](https://www.instagram.com/tanyaweddemiregallery)
FACEBOOK | [@tanyaweddemiregallery](https://www.facebook.com/tanyaweddemiregallery)
ARTSY | [Tanya Weddemire Gallery](https://www.artsy.net/gallery/tanya-weddemire-gallery)