



DAVON BRANTLEY

ARTIST

Contact

-  dbrantleyart.com
-  2164715507
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-  1020 Hillstone Rd, Cleveland Heights
OH, 44121

About Me

Brantley implements self-portraiture and psychology within his work and is inspired by the dissociative behaviors that happen because of trauma and the repetition involved with these experiences. "I guide the audience through my own narratives involving experiences of colorism, racial stereotyping, and meditations on death, life, sexuality and masculinity," says the artist. "Through the use of my own image, the viewer is presented with images of someone who is not themselves, who may or may not share the same experiences as them and someone who is actively disrupting expectations based on identity."

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Davon Brantley is a 2018 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art in Drawing. Exhibitions include *We Not Linkin'* at BayARTS, Bay Village, OH; *Seen/UnSeen* at The Artists Archives and Sculpture Center, Cleveland, OH; and *Body Building : The Art of the Human Figure*, Indianapolis Art Center, IN. Brantley also curated two major group shows in 2021: *New Beginnings* at Waterloo Arts, and *Bridging the Gaps*, with MOCHA at the Morgan Conservatory, Cleveland, OH and *Where We Overlap* in 2022 with MOCHA at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Work Experience

- Admissions Counselor - The Cleveland Institute of Art (Present)
- Art Instructor - The Cleveland Institute of Art : (2019-2021)
- Painting Instructor/ Mixologist - Pinot's Palette, Woodmere OH : (2018-2021)
- Gallery Assistant/Installation Assistant - Wasmer Gallery, Lyndhurst OH : (2019-2021)
- Portrait Artist - Kaman's Art Shoppe , Sandusky OH : (2018)
- Gallery Assistant - Heights Arts, Cleveland Heights OH : (2014) (2017-2018)
- Server - Bon Appetit, Cleveland OH : (2015-2016)
- General Staff - Tropical Smoothie Cleveland OH : (2015-2017)

Education

- Bachelors in Fine Arts : Drawing - The Cleveland Institute of Art - (2014-2018)
- High School Diploma - Cleveland Heights High School - (2010 -2014)

Artist Talks/Publications/Media

- DayGlo Art Series
- SeenUnSeen Catalogue
- The Cleveland Institute of Art's Creativity Hour
- Who's Next ?
- About Body | About Face Artists Talk
- We Not Linkin' Talk
- Art History Artist Talk
- SHOUTOUT SOCIAL
- Massilon Independent Akron Life Magazine
- Cleveland.com
- NewsBreak
- Figuring it Out !
- Cleveland Magazine
- Clevelandmetroschools
- FRONT: After the Dust and Rainbows Settles Article
- CAN Journal : Where We Overlap Article
- MassMusings Podcast
- Kickin' It With Kenny - Bedford Mural Segment
- Kickin' It With Kenny - Black History Month Segment
- Museum Of Creative Human Art Podcast
- Native Son Movie ; (I was an extra)
- SCENE (Cleveland)
- Black Arts Showcase Talk : Museum of Contemporary Art
- Freshwater Cleveland :

Awards

- 2014 - The Cleveland Institute of Art Grant The Ohio Colleg Opportunity Grant
- 2015 - The Mary Suggett Ranney Scholarship 2016- The Woerhman Scholarship in Drawing
- 2020 - Grand Prize Winner from the This Is Us Exhibition at Young's Arts Center
- 3rd Place Prize winner from the DayGlo Exhibition at Waterloo Arts
- 2024 - CARTA Eterovich Award

Murals

- 2020 - Black Lives Matter Mural - E 93rd Street, Cleveland OH
- Westside Catholic Center Mural- 3135 Lorain Ave, Cleveland OH
- Road to Freedom Mural- 90 Willis Street, Bedford OH
- Euclid/Green Mural
- 2021 - The Tamir Rice Foundation/SPACES Art Donation Bins
- We Wear the Mask - Cleveland OH
- 2022 - NBA All Star Weekend , Airport Mural



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Exhibitions

2015

Cain Park Gets Schooled ! - Cain Park, Cleveland OH

2016

Drawn to Care Exhibition - The Cleveland Institute of Art Atrium, Cleveland OH

Honey Dew Export Exhibition-The Cleveland Institute of Art, Student Gallery, Cleveland OH

2017

Flesh Prison Exhibition - The Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland OH

The Fine Print - 1POINT618 Gallery, Cleveland OH

Transformations Exhibition - Negative Space Gallery, Cleveland OH

2018

Where The Sun Don't Shine Thesis Exhibition- The Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland OH

The Student Independent Exhibition- The Reinberger Gallery, Cleveland OH

CONNECT RAW Artists Exhibition- The HOUSE OF BLUES, Cleveland OH

The Dino Show-Derek Hess Gallery, Cleveland OH

High Arts Festival (Gallery Show)- Summit Space, Akron OH

2019

Woah Exhibition - BAYARTS, Bay Village OH

Emergent Exhibition - HEIGHTSARTS , Cleveland OH

Summer Mash-Up Exhibition - WASMER GALLERY, Pepper Pike OH

SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT - Prama Art Gallery

SEENUNSEEN - The Artists Archives/Sculpture center

2020

MEN DON'T CRY - A pop up show- Wasmer Gallery, Pepper Pike, OH

Body Building: The Art of The Human Figure - Indianapolis Arts Center

This Is Us - Young's Arts Center, Fairview OH

The DayGlo 8 Exhibition - Waterloo Arts Gallery

Ursuline College Quarantine Virtual Exhibition - Wasmer Gallery, Pepper Pike OH,

About Body|About Face - The Artists Archives\Sculpture Center , Cleveland OH,

DAVON BRANTLEY (ALL IS FINE) - Mahall's, Lakewood OH

2021

Familiar Faces- Young's Art Center , Cleveland OH.

YARDS Drawn to Paint- YARDS Complex, Cleveland OH

The May Show at Lakeland Community College (OH)

Waterloo Juried Art Show (OH)

We Not Linkin- Bay Village OH

ART HISTORY at SPACES Cleveland - in collaboration with Black Art Library (OH)

FAMILIAR PHASES- DEEPLIVE ART Projects - (OH)

Phoenix Coffee Pop Up Exhibition - Warehouse District - (OH)

New Neighbor - FIG/FUTURE INK GRAPHICS (OH)



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Exhibitions (Continued)

2022

- DayGlo 9 Exhibition- Waterloo Arts (Cleveland OH)
- Season of Self - Negative Space Gallery (Cleveland OH)
- The CAN Triennial : ArtNEO, Artists Archives of the Western Reserve and The Morgan Conservatory
- Wasmer Gallery Juneteenth Exhibition (OH)
- Cleveland Prints Exhibition -Tri-C East Gallery (OH)
- Cleveland Museum of Art Print Fair (OH)
- Mid America Print Conference - (OH)

2023

- Awaken in the Garden My Love - Solo Exhibition - Massillon Museum
- Egg Obelisk- Artists Archives of The Western Reserve (OH)
- Come, Rest Here By My Side - Cleveland Institute of Art (OH)
- ON-LINE, WORthington YARDS- Cleveland (OH)
- Emerging Artists Series - Tri-C Gallery West (OH)

2024

- Divided Together - Kink Contemporary , Waterloo (OH)
- Discover The Promise : Impact, Legacy Perspective - City Hall Cleveland (OH)
- Bare My Soul - Deeptotts Experience , Cleveland (OH)
- A Look Amongst The Stars - Wasmer Gallery , Ursuline College (OH)
- ELEVATE: Body & Mind - Fava Gallery, Oberlin OH

2025

- Midsommer In Granada Gardens - Akron Soul Train, Akron (OH)
- Nature of Healing - Botanical Gardens, Cleveland (OH)
- Five Guys- Cyrus Framing Gallery, Canton (OH)

Curation

2021

- New Beginnings Exhibition - Waterloo Arts Cleveland OH
- Bridging the Gaps - MCHA and Morgan Conservatory - Morgan Conservatory , Cleveland

2022

- Where We Overlap - The Museum of Contemporary Art in collaboration with The Museum of Creative Human Art (MCHA) Cleveland OH.

2024

- A Look Amongst the Stars - Wasmer Gallery , Ursuline College (OH)

Art Residencies/Grants

2021

- DeepDive Art Projects - Cleveland (OH)

2024


- Akron Soul Train - Akron (OH)
- Karamu Fellowship Grant
- CARTA Eterovich Award





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RE : Fine Artist

My name is Davon Brantley and I utilize self-portraiture and psychology within my work. I am inspired by the dissociative behaviors that happen as a result of certain experiences and the repetition involved with those experiences. Through drawing, painting, and other media: my work focuses on how these experiences can cause inner conflicts and a deeper investigation of self. These inner conflicts can influence your relationships with family, loves, and meditations on life, death, sexuality, masculinity, race and yourself. I want to lead the audience through my mind as if they were watching a play, utilizing dramatic compositions, absurd realism and characters that act out certain emotions and themes in which I play all of the roles. Through larger than life-sized work, I present a glimpse inside of my mental landscape and inhabitants; finding ground for what is invisible that bleeds into my waking world.

It is important to acknowledge these individual parts of the self in order to understand ourselves as a whole. Though my work can tackle feelings and situations that may be considered taboo or uncomfortable to certain groups, they become vulnerable and beautiful in their depictions of these personas. To stray away from just the negative connotations associated with each emotion presented and to acknowledge that we cannot live without them. My entire objective with my practice is to create a connection with the viewer, allowing them to see that they are not alone in the world when it comes to certain conflicts inside and that they can be beautiful when we understand and regulate them.

If I were given the opportunity to work with your organization, I would be able to create an amazing work that touches on the community and their needs in order to emphasize the importance of the community and mental health.

Best,

Davon Brantley

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