

Cris LaNiese



As a black contemporary artist, my work focuses on exploring the joy and experiences of being black in America, specifically within the context of southern black culture. Through my figurative paintings and graphic design and illustration, I aim to celebrate and honor the rich history and traditions of my community. My current collection, *Children of the Nile*, focuses on the development years and the unique beauty and style found within black culture's childhood, from the fashion to the hair.

I am heavily influenced by the work of Emory Douglas, Faith Ringgold, Kerry James Marshall, Amy Sherald, and others, and I am inspired by their ability to use art as a means of activism and social commentary. My passion for art was ignited at a young age through the influence of my godmother, Carol Alexander, who opened the Ritz Theatre and Lavilla Museum in Jacksonville, Florida. I am also deeply grateful for my education at Bethune Cookman University, a historically black college founded by Mary McLeod Bethune, which has further fueled my passion for black art and its rich history.

I am an artist who is interested in exploring the ways in which our emotions and experiences shape and are shaped by the world around us. Through my work, I aim to create a space for contemplation and introspection, encouraging viewers to think deeply about their own nostalgic feelings and the world around them. My pieces often feature expressive faces, full story details, and vibrant colors, as I believe that art has the power to move us on a deeply emotional level. I am constantly inspired by the beauty and complexity of the black human experience, and I hope that my art can inspire others to look inward and discover the beauty within themselves and their own story.

CV

Solo Exhibitions

2018 *Caffeine*, The W Atlanta Downtown, Atlanta, GA

2015 *All of the Lights*, Gallery 992, Jacksonville, FL

Group Exhibitions

2023 *Young, Gifted, and Black*, Ritz LaVilla Museum, Jacksonville, FL

- 2022** *Art of Fashion* (Fulton County Arts & Culture), Fulton County Govt. Center, Atlanta, GA
Beloved Community, Black Wall Street Gallery, Chelsea, NY
- 2020** *23rd International Open Exhibition*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
When and Where I Enter Exhibit, House of Trilogy, Atlanta, GA
- 2019** *Tru Colors Art Basel*, 387 Studios, Miami, FL
Upper Echelon, Museum of Modern Perspective, Atlanta, GA
Art and Afro Beats, OPE Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2018** *ArtpocalypseATL All Girls Show*, Museum of Modern Perspective, Atlanta, GA
Grand Opening, God is Dope Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Black History Exhibit, Hobi Studios, Atlanta, GA
- 2017** *ArtpocalypseATL All Girls Show*, Facet Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Artswim Celebrity Swim, The W Atlanta Downtown, Atlanta, GA
Speak Nation, A6 Gallery, Atlanta, GA
The After Affair, Jacksonville Downtown Cigar Lounge & Gallery, Jacksonville, FL
- 2016** *EmergeATL*, The Gathering Spot, Atlanta, GA
- 2015** *Dirty Ego*, Studio No. 7 Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2014** *Artswim Vol.4*, The W Atlanta Downtown, Atlanta, GA

Publications

- 2017** Published in Folio Arts & Culture
- 2022** Published in issue 48.1 of Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora

Live Painting

- 2019** City of Atlanta Mayor's Office Superbowl Sneakerball
XONecole Elevate Her Conference

2022 Dreamhack Gaming Conference Atlanta