

Andrea Limauro

Artwork Information:

Title: *Some Lives Matter*

Medium: Acrylic paint, painted polytab collage,
mixed media

Year: 2024

Price: \$2,800



Artwork Statement: "Some Lives Matter" represents the sad reality that just over a decade since the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement, some lives, and their violent ending, are still of secondary importance to the greater public. This dual approach to the value of human lives and, as a result, the meaning of "universal" human rights and democracy, is no more apparent within American public sentiments and the American government's policies towards the Palestinian people, their mass killing, their existence within an apartheid system, and their unique status as undeserving of self-determination. "Some Lives Matter" is a reminder that democracy without equality and equity, as a tool to organize people and the distribution of power, can become the most pernicious form of fascism as the dominant people/powers/classes/race/s can disguise an oligarchy under the saintly cloak of a "democratic" electoral exercise and some freedoms for some select members of the society making it harder to attack it than if it were an overtly dictatorial regime. Examples of inequitable and oligarchic democratic regimes include the American colonies pre-abolition of slavery and before the extension of suffrage to women, apartheid South Africa and the State of Israel. When these states commit war crimes or human rights violations, the first line of defense against criticism is to point out that at least "they are a democracy" – a statement which itself serves to undermine the value of democracy worldwide and our ability to "market" it as a just and superior system of government for others to embrace.

Artist Bio: ANDREA LIMAURO (b. Rome, Italy - lives in Silver Spring, MD) is a political artist, muralist and city planner whose work critically examines nationalistic and religious narratives, colonialism, gun violence, and climate

change. His current projects include The Climate of Future Past: a year-long mural and written opinions commission about climate change by the Washington Post. Limauro's work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad including the Art Museum of the Americas and the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, D.C., the Painting Center in New York City, New York and the US Ambassador's Residence in Vienna, Austria through a US State Department's Art in Embassies Program loan. His paintings have been included in New American Paintings N.148 and Studio Visit Magazine Vol. 50 and have been reviewed by the Washington Post and the Washington City Paper on several occasions. Limauro has been a speaker at institutions like the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Building Museum in Washington, DC and the American Planning Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Limauro served as a Board Member of the Washington Project for the Arts for seven years, currently serves on the Advisory Art Committee at International Arts & Artists at Hillyer and the board of the NoMa Business Improvement District. He holds a BA in Politics and Sociology from Essex University, UK, a Graduate Diploma in International Development from the University of Padua, Italy and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Social media handle: @andrealimauro

Website handle: www.andrealimauro.com

Birdsong

Artwork Information:

Title: *We The People*

Medium: Print on wood panel

Year: 2024

Price: \$500



Artwork Statement: "We The People" highlights Black and Brown government workers employed in museums in Washington D.C. Black residents, historically subjected to systemic racism and exploitation, continue to face challenges in the labor market here in DC. Serving as a government-employed Fine Art handler here in the nation's capital, Birdsong has experienced these disparities first hand. While being one of the first African American art handlers in the museum's history, Birdsong, has noticed through the years the specific or "random" placement of race throughout the levels of museum staffing. Being one of the "few" in an institution with such rich history but a history that sadly follows the same pattern of American history is confusing, sad, and at times disheartening.

Artist Bio: Davion Birdsong, aka Birdsong, a native of Kenbridge, Virginia, is a visual artist whose journey began at a young age and took root during his studies at James Madison University, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a focus on painting and drawing following graduation in 2015. Over the past several years, he has dedicated himself to exploring the realms of abstraction, the human form, and pop art, infusing these styles with contemporary issues and emotions that resonate with him and his audience.

By day, Davion works as an art handler at the National Gallery of Art, where he gains inspiration and insight from the masterpieces that surround him. In his own practice, he aspires to use his art as a platform for self-expression and social commentary, shedding light on the challenges and triumphs he faces as a black man striving to make his mark in the art world.

Through his work, Davion seeks to spark meaningful conversations and evoke a range of emotions, from introspection to joy. With a commitment to

continual growth and exploration, he looks forward to further developing his craft and making a lasting impact with his art.

Social media handle: @biiirrrdsong

Dieglo

Artwork Information:

Name: *Drown Me In Flowers*

Medium: Acrylic, aerosol and oil markers on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$500



Artwork Statement: "Drown Me In Flowers" reflects my deep appreciation for the connections we share with others. Flowers, often given to express love and gratitude, resonate with me as symbols of beauty and affection. As an artist, I seek recognition and respect for my craft, much like how flowers convey warmth and appreciation. After all, who doesn't find joy in the presence of flowers? They bring a sense of happiness that I wholeheartedly embrace.

Artist Bio: At 26 years old, this artist hails from Rockville, Maryland, and brings a rich multicultural heritage to his work, with a Chilean mother and a Peruvian father, both of whom are immigrants. His art serves as a profound reflection of his life experiences, inner thoughts, memories, and emotional journey. While articulating these complexities with words can be a challenge, he finds solace in expressing them through vibrant colors and imagery. Growing up in a creatively stimulating environment has further influenced his artistic development.

Social media handle: @6ieglo

Death by Narwhals

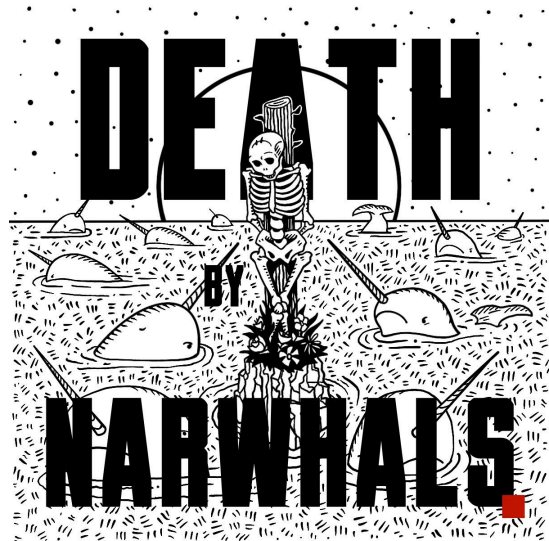
Artwork Information:

Title: *Hold Up*

Medium: Wheat paste, oil, acrylic on wood panel

Year: 2024

Price: **SOLD** (50% of proceeds will be donated to Doctors Without Borders)



Artwork Statement: Democracy is a precarious thing. Art can be a conversation amongst artists and viewers alike about our shared experience, our worries, our fears, and our hopes and dreams. *Hold Up* is a contemporary homage to Banksy's *Girl with Balloon* with satellite and aerial imagery recently taken from Gaza (bottom right), Sudan (bottom left), and Ukraine (top left). In a time when human history seems to be at the precipice of repeating its darkest hours, we grapple with navigating delicate conversations about complicity, comfort, and suffering. The moment we stop speaking and truly listening to one another, is the moment we fall.

Artist Bio: "Death by Narwhals" is a DC born and based Korean American artist. His career began working briefly in a variety of commercial art and animation gigs in NYC before returning to DC in 2008. He has completed murals, music videos, and art for local bands and establishments. He is a grantee of the 2024 Awesome Foundation, DC Art Bank, and DC Arts and Humanities Fellowship, and his work has shown across the District at Hole in the Sky, 52 O Street, Umbrella, SQFT, Secret Walls, Transformer, and Strathmore Mansion, with solo shows at Lost Origins gallery and Rhizome DC.

Social media handle: @deathbynarwhals

Website: www.deathbynarwhals.com

Emon Surakitkoston

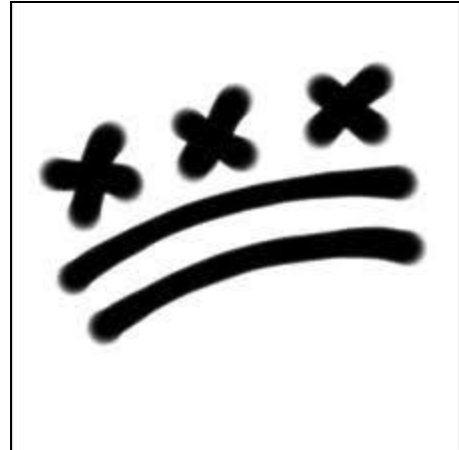
Artwork Information:

Title: *Still Waters*

Medium: Acrylic on wood

Year: 2024

Price: \$2400



Artwork Statement: Though Emon Surakitkoston is small in stature, she likens the process of creating the shaped wooden substrate for her painted work to a figurative testament of her strength and perseverance. Masterfully using heavy power tools, she puts all her physical might behind them. She states that her success in guiding these tools metaphorically reflects her experience of coming to the United States from Thailand and successfully embracing, as well as being embraced by, a new culture. While her work may also draw connections to early 20th-century Western design movements, her primary influences are her own heritage and early memories. She values the natural freeness of spirit in others and, ultimately, in herself.

Artist Bio: Emon Surakitkoston (b. 1985) is a Thai-born artist who lives and works in the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore area. Surakitkoston emigrated to the United States when she was nineteen years old; in the years since, she has developed a highly idiosyncratic artistic voice characterized by bold graphic lines and a restricted color palette. Raised in a culture where traditional social customs were strictly defined, in her art career these restrictions can be welcome guideposts from which to navigate. Emon's limited color palette allows her to explore the nuance of gesture, pattern and texture without overwhelming the viewer, while handmade brushes help her achieve unique brushstrokes. Her practice is characterized by a sheer joy for creation and experimentation, making the most of available resources to produce work that is instantly recognizable and endlessly iterative.

Social media handle: @emonsurakitkoston

Website handle: www.emonsurakitkoston.com

Kelly Towles

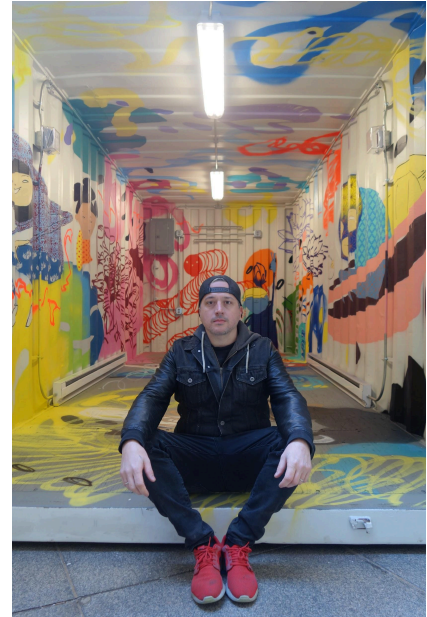
Artwork Information:

Title: *Freedom Apples*

Medium: Hand-dyed engraved tile with paint and spray

Year: 2024

Price: \$950



Artwork Statement: This body of work, titled *Tile Works*, started as an experiment to see if I could recreate the feeling of a dive bar bathroom or a vandalized subway station. Engraved and hand-dyed tile patterns and icons give the look of the porcelain art. Memories and experiences are woven into the work.

Artist Bio: Kelly Towles is a Washington DC based artist.

Kelly was born in the US in Ohio, then moved to Australia to grow up in the middle of the desert in Alice Springs. Kelly had kangaroos as pets and grew up watching BBC 1. This started the love affair with anime viewing shows such as Astro Boy, Danger Mouse and Space Battleship Yamato. He returned to the US after middle school.

Kelly Graduated from UMD where he met his amazing wife Virginia. They currently have 1 son and a saucy Siberian husky.

Kelly Towles has painted murals in Tokyo, Taipei, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and Austin, to name a few. Studio work is always pushing forward with engraved tile as a canvas.

Currently based in Washington DC, Kelly Towles is the Director and Curator of DC WALLS MURAL FESTIVAL.

Social media handle: @kellytowles

Website handle: <https://www.kellytowles.com/>

Louis-Antoine Gilbert

Artwork Information:

Title: *Fugue Moderne*
Medium: Acrylic on wood panel
Year: 2024
Price: \$800



Artwork Statement: This painting explores the intersection of architecture and art, reflecting how street art transforms the city into a shared canvas and how the city itself, in turn, inspires the art. Influenced by the clean lines and geometric precision of Art Deco and 1920s modern architecture, the work incorporates surreal elements that echo the haunting emptiness found in Giorgio de Chirico's compositions. Bright greens and pinks, typically associated with nature, are introduced into an urban setting, challenging traditional perceptions of the city as a purely functional space. Architectural forms from various cultures—such as flat-roof designs influenced by Arabic architecture and slitted windows drawn from brutalism— are integrated into the composition. Inspired by Robert Mallet-Stevens' designs, the painting highlights the balance between form and function in modernist and Art Deco architecture, creating inspiring public spaces. Through this synthesis, the painting opens a conversation between structure and expression, suggesting that urban environments are not only built for utility but can also be reimagined as living works of art.

Artist Bio: Louis Antoine Gilbert is a French-American painter. He grew up in Paris, where he began painting as a street artist. His work focuses on geometric architectural abstraction, influenced by cubism, modernist architecture, and the playful aesthetic of street art. He uses a sharp and precise style to produce vibrant and surreal cityscapes. Louis-Antoine has worked, participated in group shows, and sold paintings in Paris, Brussels, and Washington D.C.—where has been residing for the last five years. Louis' art is an exploration of the interplay between tradition and contemporary expression.

Social media handle: @antoine_paints

Michael Crossett

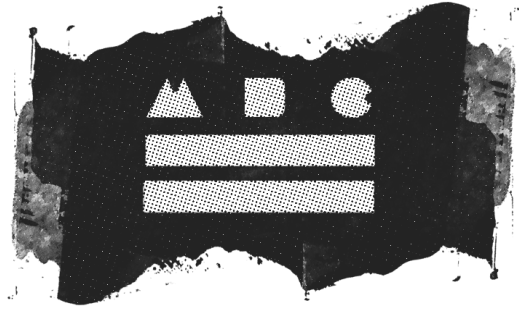
Artwork Information:

Title: *Cha Cha Cha II*

Medium: Original photography, 65 layers of screen printing & resin

Year: 2024

Price: \$1950



Artwork Statement: As a kid, we moved around a lot because my dad was in the Air Force. Nothing ever lasted very long. So I'm always looking for anchors. The things that will last. The things that have lasted. When I go up to Provincetown, I'm always taking pictures of old buoys and other weathered relics. Harpoons. Shudders with the paint peeling off. Piles of old ropes. Those are the things that are real for me because they've lasted. Endured. For me, that's beauty.

This work focuses on the neighborhoods of DC. As DC continues to transform, I am drawn to the contrast of historic and contemporary architecture and design, commercialism, and the energy that surrounds me. In a way, I am my own architect by creating new structures which juxtapose photography and found images with relevant and most often commercial symbols and icons. They shouldn't always go together but do—one of the reasons I love graffiti. If it wasn't illegal, I'd be doing it all the time."

Artist Bio: Michael Crossett is a mixed media artist and designer living in Washington, DC. He received a BS in Advertising and Marketing at George Mason University in 1997 and from 2007 - 2010 he studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC focusing on printmaking, bookmaking and graphic design.

Michael creates vibrant, layered compositions using digital photography and screen printing. He is now beginning to experiment with 3D elements incorporating laser cut objects, concrete and metal into his work.

Social media handle: @michael_crossett

Website handle: <https://districtcreative.com/>

Nicole Bourgea

Artwork Information:

Title: *Who Paid the Price*

Medium: Mixed media on panel and canvas

Year: 2024

Price: NFS



Artwork Statement: Here's a secret: The world that we see is only part of what is real. It's a quick glance, through a grimy window at breathtaking wonder. My life work as an artist is to study and share that wonder. I believe in opening up and taking a closer look, until my breath catches and my heart quickens at the beauty of some small thing or idea. I believe in being surprised and delighted by the unexpected magic of the ordinary. And then, I believe in magnifying the color, energy and scale of that reality to share its joy with as many people as possible. I paint because Painting is the medium that best keeps pace with my exploration. I paint murals because they are large, and bright, and difficult not to notice. I believe in the power of beauty to uplift the human spirit. Murals are a form of public art that help people lift their hearts and hope. Seeing the world transformed day by day with color and the energy of a dynamic image—especially when the world looks quite bleak—reminds us of the current of life pulsing under a seemingly dreary reality.

This is the reason I make art, and murals in particular, to help people pause for a second, notice the beauty in the midst of the difficult, and smile.

Artist Bio: Nicole Bourgea is a DC-area native artist and muralist. Nicole believes strongly in the power of public art to inspire, advocate justice and inclusion and to foster community. A portrait artist at heart, Nicole believes in being curious and present to the existence of everyone we meet. She believes in living with a sense of wonder, giving the gift of notice, and acknowledging interconnection. She believes that— really — love is all we need.

Social media handle: @nicolebourgea

TJ Buttner

Artwork Information:

Title: *Neckbone Spike*

Medium: Acrylic, enamel, pumice, black mica

Year: 2024

Price: \$800



Artwork Statement: I like to create art that makes people see things and ask questions. “What is that? What were they thinking? Is that a squid?” I make sure every piece starts with a freestyle in my sketchbook letting my subconscious do the work. For this piece I wanted to transform the wood panel into a textural backdrop inspired by the graffiti-covered bricks of the city.

Artist Bio: TJ Buttner is an artist whose work is inspired by graffiti, cartoons, abstract art, and surrealism. Originally hailing from New Jersey, he attended SVA in NYC and stayed for another few years co-founding Sticker Social Club and showing in various exhibitions across the city. Fast forward a decade later, he is still honing his craft in the DC area where he now resides.

Social media handle: @tjbuttner