

# Bid to Fight COVID

Virtual Art Auction

May 29, 2020

7-10 pm, est

via Instagram Live



# Bid to Fight COVID

The unprecedented number of closures, layoffs, and furloughs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has left communities worldwide overwhelmed by the lack of resources to support some of their most primary needs. Food supplies and living arrangements are threatened by mass stagnation, as people struggle to find employment, let alone assistance to afford essential goods.

Full-time artists and artists working part-time gigs to support their practices, as well, find themselves in similar positions, with museums, galleries, and studios shuttering to mitigate the viral spread. Compounded by the sad reality that grants, commissioned projects, and funding initiatives have slowed or halted altogether, creatives are looking for enablement to support their vocation, their wellbeing, and their loved ones.

“Before the pandemic, I worked three different jobs to be able to afford equipment and materials I required for my art,” says Aida Ebrahimi, a multidisciplinary artist participating in Bid to Fight COVID. “I used the little free time and energy left in me to create, however, the pandemic has reversed this cycle; I don't have the financial security, yet I have a lot of free time. Finding a new balance and routine has put a pause on my creativity. The urgency to survive our collective trauma has shifted the focus and energy of many artists to surviving rather than creating, yet there are those who continuously remind us to support each other and provide the compassion we always needed.”

Historically, art has played a pivotal role in improving the public welfare during adverse periods. The Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project employed hundreds of painters and muralists to enrich civic buildings through the doldrums of the Great Depression. And in the throes of World War II, facing calls to reduce Great Britain's arts budget, then Prime Minister Winston Churchill defended such funding, asking rhetorically, “Then what are we fighting for?” Artistic endeavors are noble pursuits. Artists capture the beauty, satire, hardship, and trauma of life in ways that allow observers to appreciate its fragility and cope with its obstacles.

In 2020, when quotidian life has been turned upside down, we need restorative power, and we must remain optimistic. The COVID-19 relief virtual art auction will aid artists in need of assistance and help subsidize the broader D.C. community. Patronage of visual artists will not only buoy practices during the tumult, but a portion of these proceeds will also be donated to Martha's Table. For 40 years, this Washington, D.C.-based non-profit has been an access point for healthy food, quality education, and family resources in the same communities that have cultivated the city's strong arts heritage. Their commitment to protecting the health and safety of District residents has never been more critical, doubling down on programming efforts during this crisis. We elect them as trusted recipients.

Thank you for embracing and uplifting the arts amid strenuous times. This program would not be possible without the support of Absurdly Well, a street art crusader, who is relentless in his approach to wheatpasting and spreading the gospel of “Chocolate City.” The same gratitude for Lafayette Barnes, founder of The Washington Informer Bridge. Bid to Fight COVID underscores the special relationship artists have with the District of Columbia. Together we can empower our cultural ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Maxwell Young  
Committee Member, Bid to Fight COVID



Brought to you by...

IN  
THE  
ROUGH

*Absurdly Well*

T H E W A S H I N G T O N I N F O R M E R

**BRIDGE**

Non-Profit Beneficiary





# About the Auction

Broadcast from 7 to 10 pm, est on Friday, May 29th, the program will replicate the auction house format, albeit virtually via Instagram Live (@bid2fightcovid) or Zoom call. Our auctioneer for the evening, performance artist Maps Glover, will channel the charisma of art dealers-past a-la Christie's and Sotheby's.

Prospective bidders will tender for artworks through one of two ways, only after registering on the Eventbrite portal (please visit the URL at the bottom of this page).

- 1) Instagram Live (@bid2fightcovid): Bidders will use the comment feature on the broadcast to input auction prices, which will be relayed to the auctioneer.
- 2) Zoom Audio Call: Using the meeting URL or one of the two telephone numbers below, along with the meeting ID, bidders will be able to listen to the auction. A committee member will be monitoring the call to listen for bids over the phone and/or relay bids sent through the chat feature for participants tuning in from their computer or mobile application.

Meeting ID: 836 5734 1750 #

Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83657341750>

Zoom Hotline: 646-558-8656 OR 301-715-8592

It is imperative that you RSVP should be interested in bidding (please visit the URL at the bottom of this page).

Payment: We ask that you honor winning bids through Venmo/Cashapp/PayPal (i.e., @bid2fightcovid, \$bid2fightcovid, or bid2fightcovid@gmail.com, respectively). Alternatively, winners can opt to pay through our Square terminal in which the Bid to Fight COVID committee will reach out following the auction to secure credit card/debit card information. Payment is expected no later than Saturday, May 30th at 11:59 pm, est.

In addition to the auction, we have also integrated two charity raffles through the Eventbrite portal (please visit the URL at the bottom of this page). A selection of artist buttons and a commemorative Bid to Fight COVID t-shirt (sizes S-XL) could be yours with a \$5 raffle ticket. 100% of these proceeds will benefit Martha's Table. Raffle winners will be announced the night of the auction. Following the auction, this merchandise, along with any unsold artworks, will be released on InTheRough, made available for purchase until June 12th.

Bid to Fight COVID will ship artworks complimentary to the winning bidders, or they may pick up works from The Washington Informer Bridge Studio (3117 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C., 20032) by appointment, no later than June 12, 2020.

If you have any questions please email [bid2fightcovid@gmail.com](mailto:bid2fightcovid@gmail.com).





# Lot 1



Taryn Harris  
'Dancer'  
2017  
Acrylic paint on wood panel  
36" x 36"

Starting Bid: \$500  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I am fundamentally a painter. I believe abstract art is valuable because it deals with the precognitive aspects of perception. It reminds us of our subjectivity. All of my work is abstract, but abstraction occurs in many forms and my process involves a host of media, thought processes, and a range of materials. These works are mostly unplanned and develop out of improvisation and my own reactions to color, composition, the physicality of the paint, and the surrounding environment. I'm fascinated by the psychologically driven exploits of abstraction which manifests in my practice as a tendency towards lyrical abstraction and a fascination with color field. The point of my work is to find something new and unformed--to investigate the forming thought & the fluidity of understanding.





## Lot 2



Adam Chamy

'Distant Sky'

April 5, 2020

Ink, watercolor, marker, acrylic & salt on birch board

8" x 10"

Starting Bid: \$125

Bidding Increment: \$50

### ARTIST STATEMENT

I craft expressive, often otherworldly works that layer hidden imagery, colors, and lines to visually channel impressions of events and inner experiences. 'Distant Sky' is part of ongoing artwork created during the corona crisis. Each work comes with an impression or meditative thought about the collective experiences we are facing. Some works are more quiet - meant for meditative relief. Others are explosively emotive and explore reflections of this tragedy. 'Distant Sky' is more on the meditative spectrum. Distant not joyless. Alone but connected. We have never been able to touch the spring sky. Yet, even far away it can bring us to life. While we may be socially isolated or alone, we can look to the sky to be comforted by the cloud-filled roof we all share.



# Lot 3



Charlie Visconage  
‘TAKE IT EZ BABY’  
May 3, 2020  
Acrylic, house paint & gouache on canvas  
16" x 16" x 2.5"  
  
Starting Bid: \$125  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My name is Charlie Visconage and I make goofy, funny, bright, dumb, and fun portraits of people and animals. I get up to paint at 5 am most days to paint the silly things I want to see become real. In my world, guns are golden, animals have attitude problems, and my subjects have probably had a few drug experiences they wouldn't tell Mom about. I was trying to make a portrait that captured the sexy Instagram model style aesthetic here.





# Lot 4



Maps Glover  
'Black Power Jungle'

2020

Acrylic on canvas

12" x 12"

Starting Bid: \$200

Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

The origin of 'Black Power Jungle' comes from the current shift in our world since COVID-19 shut down our communities and businesses. The people affected most have been the essential workers, those most necessary to keep the country running. These people are often people of color--my mother, my father, aunts, and uncles--putting their lives on the line. This painting is an illustration of this black powered system, working through a germ-filled world face-first and always on.



# Lot 5



Try Unique Cheatham

'Bird House'

April 2020

Mixed media

30" x 30"

Starting Bid: \$175

Bidding Increment: \$50

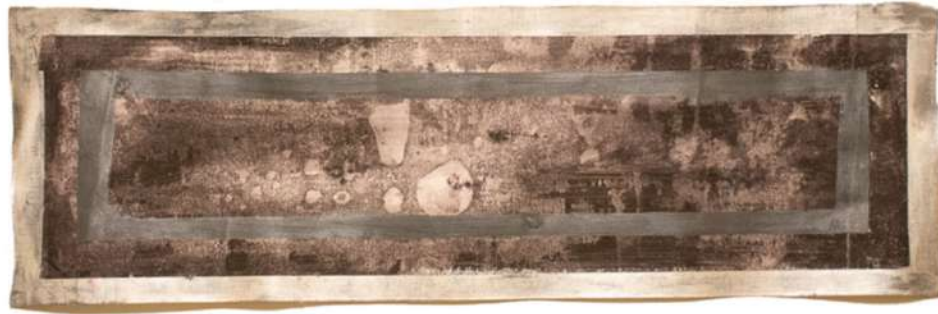
## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is process oriented, often a subjective impressionist style on the concept of catharsis. Utilizing Clement Greenberg's ideas of rejecting plasticity of the 2D plane and stressing the importance of the 3D plane to relay our existence, I convey levels of personal anxiety and growth experiences as a female POC by the use of reoccurring symbols.





# Lot 6



Hannibal Hopson  
'Platinum Club'  
2019  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
5" x 21"

Starting Bid: \$175  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

quickly the layers of life unfold in instant messages from the moon or sun / or wherever they come from arrive / and then / vanish / leaving only the / folds, or tears, or trails of trash behind / similarly the scars of beauty we carry / for infinite moments / or / never again / if the mood changes





# Lot 7



Aida Ebrahimi  
'Woman in Calligraphy'  
2019  
Watercolor on paper  
12" x 18"  
Edition 1/10

Starting Bid: \$50  
Bidding Increment: \$25

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Poetry and calligraphy are few of the classical forms of art in Iranian culture. This work is a study of the human body using calligraphy and Persian letters. Though the drawing doesn't spell out specific words or phrases, it does tell a visual story. Inspired by my mother, I created this piece as an ode to all the strong women in my life. 'Woman in Calligraphy' shows gratitude to all the sacrifices my mothers have made for me and expresses an appreciation of my mothers' wisdom, strength, and beauty (both physical and spiritual).



# Lot 8



Absurdly Well  
'Liberty & Justice'  
2018  
Acrylic, spray paint & oil stick on canvas  
40" x 25"

Starting Bid: \$350  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

As a street artist in Washington, D.C., my work merges culture and politics, and speaks to the heartbeat and tensions of the nation's capital. The pulse of the District has always been its Black community, or "Chocolate City," those who built the capital and yet find themselves amid forces that marginalize their cultural heritage. My vibrant and impassioned art speaks to the juxtaposition of hope and hopelessness that defines the culture of the District and nation at-large.





# Lot 9



Clarence AKA "Pavement" James  
'84 Theory'

2020

Acrylic & spray paint on canvas

24" x 30"

Starting Bid: \$500

Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I create abstract, figurative and ideographic modern art aimed at the higher faculties of the human psyche, and focused on stimulating subliminal factors that contribute to our mental activity and well being. "Pavement" is intended to mentally awaken the viewer and stimulate contemplation. I have always been influenced by the consumption of brands and media and how that relates to our experience in society. The world is under control, information is crucial, and secrets are power. I seek to delve into the fabric of society and uncover the true inner-workings of this machine we call life.





# Lot 10



Diego AKA "Dieglo" Montoya  
'Quien Es Cual'  
2020  
Acrylic & water color  
18" x 24"

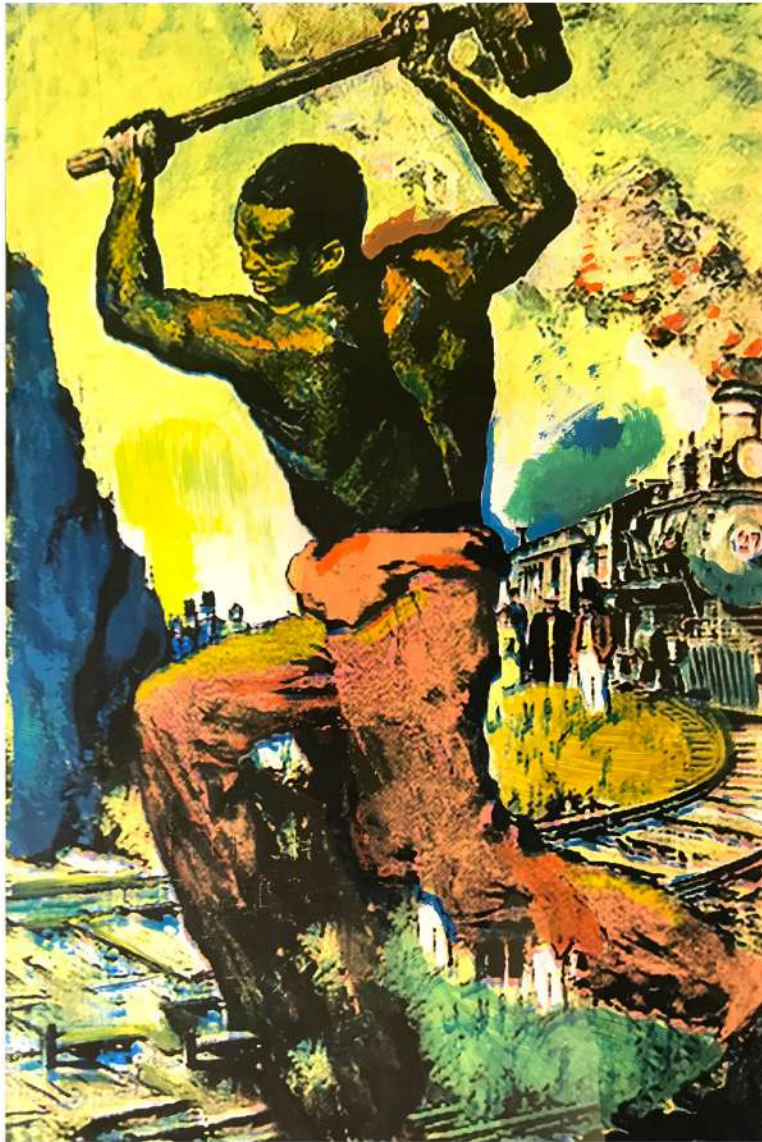
Starting Bid: \$175  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

"Quien Es Cual" translates to "Who Is Which" in Spanish. I'm basically asking myself if I am the holy blue hand or the devilish yellow serpent. Am I good or am I bad?



## Lot II



Quaishawn Whitlock  
'John Henry'  
2018  
CMYK screenprint on paper  
22" x 30"

Starting Bid: \$400  
Bidding Increment: \$50

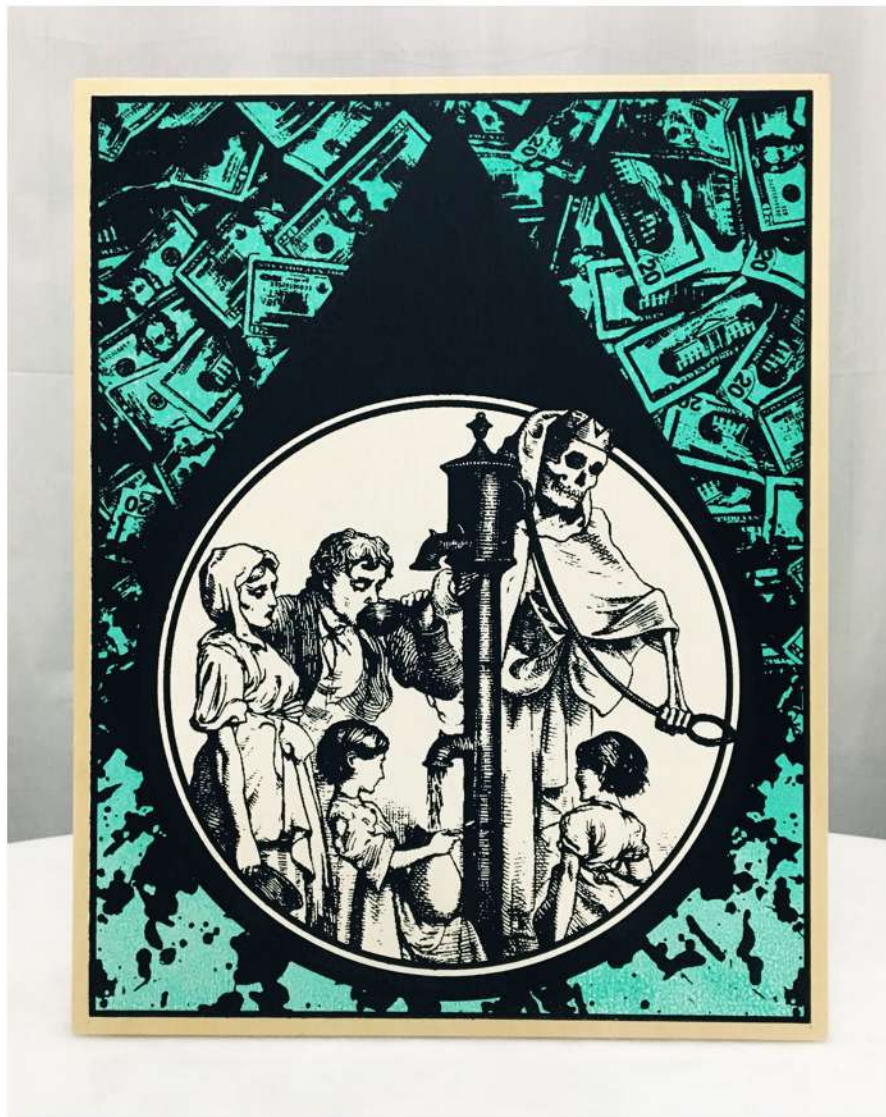
### ARTIST STATEMENT

I am an interdisciplinary artist. My work is about discovery, identity, representation, and struggle of Blackness. Blackness meaning the physical, mental, and emotional identity of the black body. The main practice of my work deals within the realm of printmaking; screen printing, relief, linocut, and language for journey/discovery. The practice is so rich with process that it lends itself perfectly to experimentation, but even more so into the accessibility of the experience. Both in the sense of the personal takeaway of the work and also in terms of what is happening to reach the outcome idealized on the gallery wall.





# Lot 12



Divorce Culture  
'Their Greed Is Killing Us'  
2018  
Screenprint on birchwood panel  
11" x 14"

Starting Bid: \$175  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I have been based in Washington, D.C. since 2008. My primary focus is providing free public art, using screen printing, wheatpasting, murals, and site specific installations as my main mediums. I aim to use creativity and visual language to uplift and broadcast messages from at risk and underserved communities, while also giving a personalized narrative to issues and situations taking place in our world. This piece is a personal reflection of how I feel capitalism and corporations serve this country.





# Lot 13



Alexis Gomez  
'If I Crash'  
2020  
Archival inkjet print  
11" x 13"  
Edition 2/2

Starting Bid: \$50  
Bidding Increment: \$25

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work investigates the internal and external spaces we inhabit as human beings. Using illusionistic patterns and figural forms to represent both literal and metaphorical space, I create settings that bridge the physical and virtual realms. Alternating between 3D modeling software and figural sculpture, my work fluxes between the tangible and artificial. How do we engage with literal space and formless space? Can we separate body from mind? These are the curiosities that I strives to address in a dialogue between three-dimensional and digital forms. This print is an extension of 'Simulation 2,' a life-size figural sculpture integrated with an augmented reality activation. The figure depicted exists in two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and virtual planes.



# Lot 14



indicut  
'intentionally conscious :: unnatural naturalness'  
May 9, 2019  
Pastel on digital print on cardboard  
17" x 22"

Starting Bid: \$100  
Bidding Increment: \$25

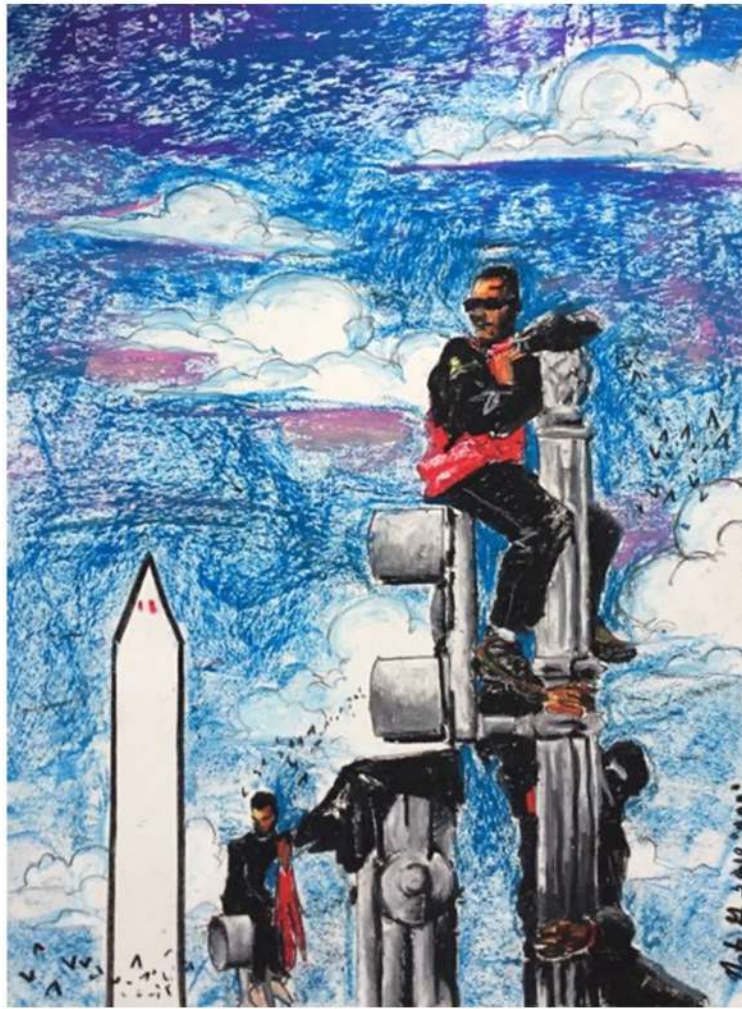
## ARTIST STATEMENT

"indicut" is where the pain lies. We must go within and heal our wounds to find our truth for the better of the all; promote love and light. This piece is a commentary on taming chaotic/destructive energy, flowing with the all, and giving praise to the spirits of and above me.





# Lot 15



Nate G.  
'Million Man March'  
March 13, 2020  
Oil pastel  
11" x 15"

Starting Bid: \$125  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is highly influenced by pop culture. It is defined by my attempts to duplicate the joy I first found in art through media & hip hop. I am hyper critical in my rendering of the human body, which is the one consistent subject in my pieces, though expressed in different mediums & styles. This is a piece I did of a photograph my father had of the first Million Man March. There were people sitting on top of the street lights and in the trees to get a better view of the speakers that day.



# Lot 16



Christine Vineyard  
'202'  
May 9, 2020  
Bristol board, pen & marker  
17" x 14"

Starting Bid: \$125  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm inspired by my surroundings, my travels, and most recently, my community. I always strive to create meaningful art that people can relate to, but now, even more so, I want my art to have a purpose. I work with a wide array of mediums (digital, printmaking, watercolor, pen and ink, etc.), but the common thread between all my pieces is a reflection on my environment.





# Lot 17



Tadael Tadael  
'God Hates Us'  
2018  
Digital print  
11" x 14"

Starting Bid: \$100  
Bidding Increment: \$25

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Washington, D.C. is often touted as one of the most powerful cities in the world, even with this dark underbelly of local politics, crime statistics, and one of the highest homelessness rates in the nation. Nevertheless, these issues are often placed aside. I started this series, 'God Hates Us,' to shine the light on the forgotten – a call to action to finally address our local problems. Even when the city might glitter gold, and it may be sunny, the universe truly does not care for the grief of men. It is up to us to challenge the system and mold it to the benefit of ALL.



# Lot 18



Luke Piotrowski  
'July Heat'  
Washington, D.C., 2019  
Digital print of 35mm black & white film  
11" x 14"

Starting Bid: \$100  
Bidding Increment: \$25

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Made not in the studio, but in real moments unfolding in front of me, my work shows humanity at its most important, inspiring, and even darkest of times. Documenting Washington, D.C. over the past three years, my work tells a story of life in the nation's capital — of protestors fighting to be heard, quiet moments on the sidewalk, political insiders and political outsiders. My body of work aims to blur the line between photojournalism and fine art, and serve as a document for future generations to better understand this moment in our history.





# Lot 19



Vanessa dos Santos

Untitled

2019

Digital print of medium format film

16" x 20"

Starting Bid: \$100

Bidding Increment: \$25

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Portrait shot on the Mamiya 645 camera using medium format film. My favorite subjects to photograph are people. One theme I like to explore in my work is vulnerability and softness, particularly in black people. Through these photographs, I wanted to show the softness of black women, of my friends. Black women are rarely afforded the space to be open--off guard--and I wanted to give space for them to breathe.



# Lot 20



Miriam Julianna  
'Searching for Eon (333)'  
March 13, 2020  
Reclaimed paper, strings & reclaimed brushes  
13'

Starting Bid: \$175  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a community organizer and artist. The physical body of work made from the 'Searching for Eon' series is the byproduct of my storytelling practice, where I invoke the memory of artist/organizer Ian Harris Schroeder. The garland of cranes included in Bid to Fight Covid were strung on Friday, March 13th after the community center where I work closed to the public in response to Covid-19.





# Lot 21



Estéban Whiteside  
'Hero'  
2020  
Acrylic on birchwood  
6 1/2" x 11" x 1/2"

Starting Bid: \$250  
Bidding Increment: \$50

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work employs playful mediums, gestures, and socio-political iconography to directly highlight the contemporary oppression of minorities in America. I seek to empower the oppressed, and shame the oppressors. This piece is dedicated to the doctors and nurses in this crisis. Our piece of shit government has caused so much stress, sickness, and even death to the healthcare workers with their incompetence. So I wanted to dedicate a piece to them.



# Charity Raffle 1



## The Artists' Button Pack

Manufactured by Miriam Julianna

An assortment of buttons featuring illustrative designs by (left to right, top to bottom) Miriam Julianna, Estéban Whiteside, Christine Vineyard Divorce Culture, Marc Pekala, Decoy & Bid to Fight COVID

\$5 raffle ticket (limit 20 tickets)

Enter raffle: [intheroughstyle.com/bid-to-fight-covid](http://intheroughstyle.com/bid-to-fight-covid)

\*Buttons will also be available for purchase following the auction until June 12th





## Charity Raffle 2



Bid to Fight COVID Commemorative T-shirt (Sizes S-XL)  
Printed by Quaishawn Whitlock & Maxwell Young  
Two color (red & blue) screen print on short sleeve shirt

\$5 raffle ticket (limit 20 tickets)

Enter raffle: [intheroughstyle.com/bid-to-fight-covid](https://intheroughstyle.com/bid-to-fight-covid)

\*T-shirts will also be available for purchase following the auction until June 12th

# Participating Artists



Adam Chamy  
Try Cheatham  
Divorce Culture  
Decoy  
Aida Ebrahimi  
Nate G.  
Maps Glover  
Alexis Gomez  
Taryn Harris  
Hannibal Hopson  
Indicut  
Clarence AKA "Pavement" James  
Miriam Julianna  
Diego AKA "Dieglo" Montoya  
Marc Pekala  
Luke Piotrowski  
Vanessa dos Santos  
Tadael Tadael  
Christine Vineyard  
Charlie Visconage  
Absurdly Well  
Estéban Whiteside  
Quaishawn Whitlock  
Maxwell Young