



Featured Artist Ernest Carl Fackler



Arvell Jones and Bill Morrison at DAMICON.



Vagner Whitehead performance piece at *Mighty Real/Queer Detroit* exhibition.



Magnificent 7 Art Auction

Dear Friends,

This past year marked DAM’s 90th anniversary (1932-2022), and so we celebrated that milestone with special exhibitions, one-of-a-kind events, and our seventh annual art auction gala. DAM’s efforts to support artists in their early stages of development can be traced back to founder Mildred H. Lee Simpson. “When the Depression came, I saw all those boys and girls graduating from art school without the prospect of getting jobs. Something had to be done,” said Simpson. To honor this history, we kicked the season off with “Call for the Wall,” a search for new emerging artists to display small solo shows on DAM’s Featured Artist Wall. The project resulted in successful showings from first-time DAM artists Ernest Carl Fackler (woodblock prints), Lawrence Hamilton (photography), Pamela Day (ceramics), Robert Cass (ceramics), and David McGuffie (ink drawings). We welcome these new artists to the DAM family, and you will certainly be seeing more of their work here in the gallery.

In short order, DAM produced three uniquely-themed exhibitions that attracted a wonderfully diverse group of visitors. *Mighty Real/Queer Detroit*, organized and curated by Patrick Burton, was a month-long exhibition of LGBTQ+ artwork that featured established and emerging Detroit artists, as well as artists whose careers were shortened by HIV/AIDS. The exhibition spanned 17 area galleries, included more than 170 artists, and showcased 700+ works of art, making it the largest known exhibition of LGBTQ+ artwork to date. Each participating gallery featured a show organized around a unique theme, and certain venues hosted panel discussions, performance pieces, and other related activities. As a partner in this historic event, the Detroit Artists Market hosted *Poets, Mystics, and Gods*, which highlighted artwork from an impressive list of local, national, and international artists, including: Austè, Austin Ackles, Brian Buczak, Patrick Burton, Brian Carpenter, Carl Demeulenaere, Julio Dominguez, Bakpak Durden, Brett Evans, Carl George, Brenda Goodman, Michael Gute, John Gutoskey, Ray Johnson, Kira Keck, Maureen Petrucci, Leslie Ann Pilling, Gregory Sobieraj, Peter Sparling, Jon Strand, Jarrad Tacon-Heaslip, Vagner Whitehead, and S. Kay Young. *MRQD* enjoyed strong attendance, and visitors from the LGBTQ+ community felt supported by DAM and by the art community at large. Following *MRQD*, DAM presented *Inspired by Detroit’s Comic Book Artists*, a show that was organized by former board chair and current exhibition committee member, Tracy Irwin. Featuring artwork from comic book legends—Dave Chow, Cassandra Heller, Chris Houghton, Arvell Jones, and Bill Morrison—alongside works from 26 of DAM’s uber-talented artist members, the show really spoke to an untapped audience. To enhance the experience, we created DAMICON, a celebration of Detroit’s comic book culture that featured a lively panel discussion with the legends, free drawings by Dave Chow, and some great merchandise from the nice folks at Green Brain Comics. Next up was *Detroit Expat Artists Homecoming*, curated by Stephanie James and Elizabeth Youngblood. *Expats* showcased a multigenerational group of artists working in a variety of media and genres over the last fifty years, including Matthew Bandsuch, Christopher Batten, McArthur Binion, Melvin Clark, Brenda Goodman, Garry Grant, Artis Lane, Al Loving, Joshua Newth, Yolanda Sharpe, Eric Smith, Nick Sousanis, and Michael Kelly Williams. In conjunction with *Expats*, DAM partnered with Detroit Homecoming—the annual celebration of the city by its former residents—to create a special Detroit art tour that included stops at Gyro Creative (corporate art collection), the Detroit Artists Market (behind-the-scenes *Expats* exhibition tour) and the N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art (legendary gallerist and art dealer). The tour gave DAM a rare opportunity for exposure to an influential audience of art lovers that included a movie producer, an architect, two investment bankers, a venture capitalist, and a social media influencer. DAM’s *Expats* exhibition was made possible by generous sponsorships from the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation, Detroit Homecoming, and Kate Baker & Geoff Blumenthal.

Finally, on a nearly perfect Saturday evening in June, DAM hosted the *Magnificent 7 Art Auction* at the Midtown showroom of artists Israel and Erik Nordin. As in years past, the gala featured an amazing group of makers, including Shirley Woodson, Judy Bowman, Walter Bailey, Cailyn Dawson, Laurel Dugan, Ian Matchett, and Miroslawa Sztuczka. The *Magnificent 7* event was one of those rare occasions where everything unfolded as planned, everyone enjoyed themselves, all works of art sold, and every artist was paid.

Moving forward, I’d like to ask again for your help. Please make a charitable contribution to the Detroit Artists Market Annual Fund by choosing from the options below. Charitable donations help us bring you great programs like those mentioned above. On behalf of the staff and the board, I thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the gallery.

Regards,

Matt Fry, Director

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DAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and your gift is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to **Detroit Artists Market**, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201. For more information, please call 313.832.8540.