

Blackbird, Fly Exhibition

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Blackbird, Fly is an exhibition by local artist, Antoinette Cauley. During the beginning of the pandemic, Cauley accepted a position as an artist-in-residence in Berlin and moved there. However, she found the move to be particularly challenging.

One day while riding the train, she heard the song "Blackbird" by the Beatles. As a bi-racial Black woman, the lyrics really spoke to her and she set out and created 14 paintings that reflected what she was feeling: abandonment, as well as racism and the challenges of being a bi-racial Black woman.

Those paintings are now part of her first travelling exhibition. She returned to Phoenix in May to kick off the exhibition. Cauley's best known for her nine-stories tall mural on a downtown Phoenix building of author and activist James Baldwin.

Biography of Antoinette Cauley

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Cauley is an international artist. She draws inspiration for her work from the grittiness and beauty within the place she was born.

Cauley and her work is heavily influenced by rap music and Black American hood culture. It comes with a feminist tone and an overall focus of feminine empowerment. Visually, she combines the dynamism of rap music with powerful punches of vibrant color and deep, emotionally driven messages.

While attending Mesa Community College, she studied fine art with an emphasis in painting. During her time at the school, she was part of a two year apprenticeship with nationally renowned American oil painter Chris Saper.

A Look Into The Artist

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Cauley is a biracial Black American woman from Phoenix. Her work looks to directly confront and question the normative racial narratives that have been historically presented within art establishments and institutions.

“By emphasizing the beauty in the many complexities of Black American Hood culture and Black hood feminism, I look to portray the depth and resilience of a demographic whose complete essence is consistently robbed for profit while their own bodies and stories are carelessly cast aside,” Cauley has stated in an article on the Gateway Community College website.

If you want to check out Antoinette Cauley and more of her work, [click here](#). You can also check out her Instagram page containing more of her art if you [click here](#).

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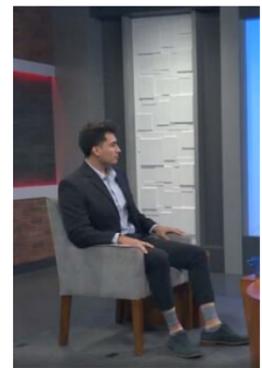
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