CURRICULUM VITAE

Dion J. Pollard

DionJa'Y

VISUAL ARTIST ◆ PAINTER ◆ SCULPTURAL MIXED MEDIA ARTIST

The Art of DionJa'Y LLC · Maryland, United States · www.theartofdionjay.com

Dion J. Pollard, professionally known as DionJa'Y, is a contemporary American visual artist whose Afrocentric narrative figurative work explores African diasporic heritage, cultural identity, music, ancestry, spirituality, and memory. Working across painting, mixed media, relief, and sculpture, he combines figurative realism, expressive elongation, layered texture, symbolic abstraction, and African visual motifs. His work honors Black cultural experience while connecting ancestral memory with contemporary life.

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Arts'tination Gallery

RESIDENT ARTIST AND GALLERY REPRESENTATION

National Harbor, Maryland

Wellspring Manor and Spa Fine Art Collection

Upper Marlboro, Maryland

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

2026 — **Second Place, Preakness Equestrian Art Competition**
Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council, for *The Closer*

2026 — **Certificate of Recognition, Comptroller of Maryland**
For artwork presented in *And Still We Rise*, a Juneteenth exhibition at the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building; recognized works: *His Boots on the Ground*, *Her Boots on the Ground*, and *Strength of Knowledge*

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 — **100 Miles and Runnin'**
Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, Baltimore, Maryland

2026 — **Harriet Tubman Taste of Freedom**
Cayuga Museum of History and Art and Schweinfurth Art Center, Auburn, New York

2026 — **Beyond the Frame**
Dual art show, Virginia Art Factory, Manassas, Virginia, featuring *22 Violets*

2026 **KUUMBA V Sankofa The Art of Remembrance**
Black Art Today Foundation, Neiman Marcus at Tysons Galleria, Virginia

2026 **Accession A BIPOC Exhibition**
Harmony Hall Arts Center, Fort Washington, Maryland

2026 **And Still We Rise**
Office of the Comptroller of Maryland, Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building, Annapolis, Maryland

◆ **Creative Black Baltimore**
Baltimore Times

◆ **Harriet Tubman A Taste of Freedom**
Harriet Tubman Cultural Center

◆ **Celebrating Black Mermaids from Africa to America**
Sebrof Forbes Cultural Arts Center

◆ **Simply Blacktastic**
Sebrof Forbes Cultural Arts Center

◆ **Turning Tides Action Resilience and the Mental Landscapes of Black and Brown Voices**
Black Art Today

◆ **Free to Be Me**
Virginia Art Factory and Black Art Today

◆ **WonderBloom II Where Creativity Takes Root**
Atlantic Coast Mortgage Gallery, Children's National Hospital, and Black Art Today

SELECTED ART FAIRS, FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2026 **Harlem Fine Arts Show Summer Festival in the Hamptons**
Southampton, New York

◆ **Harlem Fine Arts Show**
The Glasshouse, New York, New York

◆ **Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival**
Annapolis, Maryland

◆ **Richmond Jazz and Music Festival**
Richmond, Virginia

◆ **Lake Arbor Jazz Festival**
Mitchellville, Maryland

◆ **Takoma Park Street Festival**
Takoma Park, Maryland

◆ **Bowie Arts Festival**
Bowie, Maryland

- Savor Bowie Spring Food Wine and Music Festival
  Bowie, Maryland
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority National Convention

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Gray Art Collection | Harlem Fine Arts Show Art Collection | Roland Martin and the Rev. Jacquie Hood Martin | Traci Braxton | J. R. Clark Art Collection | Pete Belasco

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- **Black Art Today Inc. and Black Art Today Foundation** — Exhibiting artist and cohort member
- **Harlem Fine Arts Show** — Exhibiting artist since 2024
- **Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council** — Participating artist through Arts'tination Gallery
- **Gallery B** — Exhibiting artist
- **Kulture Gallery** — Consigning and exhibiting artist

EDUCATION AND STUDIO PRACTICE

- **Academy of Art University** — Fine arts studies
- **Independent Fine Arts Study** — Painting, mixed media, and visual storytelling
- **Self Directed Studio Practice** — Painting, sculptural mixed media, relief, and sculpture

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is rooted in storytelling. Through painting and sculptural mixed media, I explore the cultural threads that connect the past, present, and future within the African diaspora. I draw from ancestral symbolism, music, spirituality, family, and everyday moments that carry deeper meaning within Black culture.

My works are visual narratives of resilience, celebration, reflection, and memory. African motifs, expressive color, layered surfaces, and dimensional materials allow me to build histories into the physical body of each piece. Each work invites a conversation between personal experience and collective memory while honoring cultural heritage and identity.

— Dion J. Pollard (DionJa'Y)