

# Abstraction, Volume 2



Slow Ride, by Anne Raymond 40" x 40" Oil on canvas

Six American artists give a glimpse of their world in abstraction.

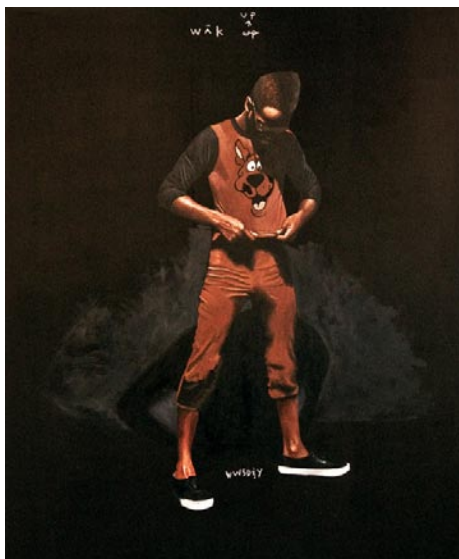
3 June - 29 June 2011

Javier Lopez Barbosa	Anne Raymond
David E. Peterson	Cheryl Johnson
Cheryl Chapman	Ralph Turturro

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## Harvey B. Gantt Center in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, Fahamu Pecou and Marcia Jones

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts & Culture in Charlotte, NC, will present two new exhibits in June including: *Anthology: The Photography of Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe*, on view from June 24 through Aug. 28, 2011, and *Live and In Stereo(type)*, featuring works by Fahamu Pecou and Marcia Jones, on view from June 24 through Aug. 28, 2011.



Work by Fahamu Pecou

An anthology is a collection of essays, poems, or the like compiled by one or more persons. It is a way of gathering a variety of voices speaking to one topic, idea, or theme. Here, we are able to view the creative life of Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe through several visual essays, incorporating Faces, Places, and Spaces. Through her lens, using both black & white and color photographs, Moutoussamy-Ashe connects images across time and

geography. This is an autobiographical journey - a visual self-portrait.



Work by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe

This exhibition, exclusive to the Harvey B. Gantt Center, offers viewers insight into the range of Moutoussamy-Ashe's interests and observations as an artist. We see imagery from the African, Asian, and North American continents, from the 1980s, and as recently as March 2011.

Moutoussamy-Ashe muses about herself and the people she has encountered. This is not a retrospective, yet it spans most of Moutoussamy-Ashe's artistic life. The range of subjects reflects the curious, active mind of the artist behind the lens,

*continued above on next column to the right*

We are fortunate to share the life's work of Moutoussamy-Ashe with the audiences of the Harvey B. Gantt Center as we explore the creative energies and output of amazing artists rooted in African-American life and culture.



Work by Marcia Jones

Fahamu Pecou and Marcia Jones were the first artists to be in residence in a new collaboration between the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture and McColl Center for Visual Art. The residency program, established in 2010, supports artists of color who are inspired by African-American culture; committed to artistic investigation; and are interested in community engagement. Pecou and Jones create works that are social critiques on black masculinity and imposed feminine ideals, respectively.

Pecou states that his work "can be viewed as meditations on contemporary

popular culture." He appears in his paintings as the primary and allegorical figure, rather than the autobiographical one. His character depicts both realities and fantasies connected to and imposed upon black men. Having matured during the peak of Hip Hop music, Pecou uses these familiar references to raise questions about the stereotypes that fuel fame, drive consumerism and perpetuate celebrity worship. He strikes a collective nerve in the viewer by referencing art history, current events, and cultural icons twisted with satire and peppered with humor. The result is a sobering revelation; one that exposes inequities motivated by racial ignorance.

The work exhibited by Marcia Jones is from the series *The Displaced Oshun Theory*. Oshun is a deity in the Yoruba religion who reigns over love, sex, beauty and wealth. Mother, Sister, and Lover, Oshun is often depicted heavily adorned in jewelry, peacock feathers and yellow garments. According to Jones, "the primary goal of *The Displaced Oshun Theory* is to examine the purposeful patriarchal division of The Divine Mother (Mary the Virgin) and The Sacred Whore (Mary Magdalene)."

From a contemporary standpoint, this division can be seen manifested in the various depictions of African-American women in the media - specifically music videos - which is still a male dominated industry. By fusing recognizable religious images and symbols with depictions of disembodied women, Jones exposes the repeated contradictions that contribute to the ongoing damage to the feminine psyche.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 704/547-3700 or visit ([www.ganttcenter.org](http://www.ganttcenter.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This would be June 24th for the July 2011 issue and July 24 for the Aug. 2011 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)) or mail to: Carolina Arts, P.O. Drawer 427, Bonneau, SC 29431