

All Children Draw asks us to reflect on what is necessary to stimulate and sustain a life rooted in art. Dorian's commitment to her practice has led to a life of creative expression for her three sons. This determination to make art, regardless of her role as a mother, meant that her sons grew up in an environment surrounded by inspiration and imagination.

It is the verve and excitement of creative expression that permeates the exhibition and binds together the work of four quite different artists. Where Katon has focused his creative energy on the sustenance of a community Skateboarding school, NattyBwoy Chicago, Kahari has developed a bright and playful collage language that traverses the figures, ideas, sounds and movements of Chicago. At the same time, Kari opens up his head to us and allows us to witness the development of a character, PedalHead, that he started to dream into existence at 7 years old. Using photos, collage and illustration these three young men describe what what is possible when you are given the tools and space to think, dream and draw!

It is no surprise then that Dorian's work pushes and pulses with color, passion and form. In many ways everything that her sons have gone on to do can be seen in the vibrant and thoughtful way in which she approaches her artwork. In All Children Draw, Dorian turns from the often sought after mural work she is known for, and opens herself up to a series of paintings that are for her. This is her moment to explore without having to consider her sons or a wider, and important, South Side community. Instead, she gives herself the time to reconnect with what she so effortlessly gave her sons on their journey to adulthood - the time and the space to explore.

The exhibition reflects on the fact that we are all inclined to create and imagine as children but are not always given the tools and support to continue nurturing our imaginations.



Blanc's bold mission is to engage African Americans and all Chicagoans through the arts and to ignite a dialogue on issues of spiritual, political and social significance.

Featuring the work of south side visual artist family Dorian Sylvain and her sons - Kahari, Kari and Katon Blackburn

Opening at Blanc Gallery August 19th 2023
4445 S Dr Martin Luther King Jr Dr

ALL CHILDREN DRAW

The exhibition is an expression of the artistic dialogue between brothers Kahari, Kari and Katon Blackburn and their mother Dorian Sylvain, a stalwart of arts education and participatory mural making on the South Side.

"All Children Draw" explores the continuum of Sylvain's decades- long practice nurtured by leaders of the Black Arts Movement, and how that informed her sons' childhood expressions and the foundation of their artistic practices today.

Across their respective mediums, Dorian, Kahari, Kari and Katon (each respective artist) demonstrate the breadth of their engagement with the arts, not just as a means of artistic expression, but also as a way to engage with and think through the importance of community. Their art practices traverse history and make shape out of the dialogue that have come before them while simultaneously engaging directly with their contemporary environment.

cont.

Dorian Sylvain

"Feminism, Fertility and the 1970's" 2023
Latex on Wood - 4 feet



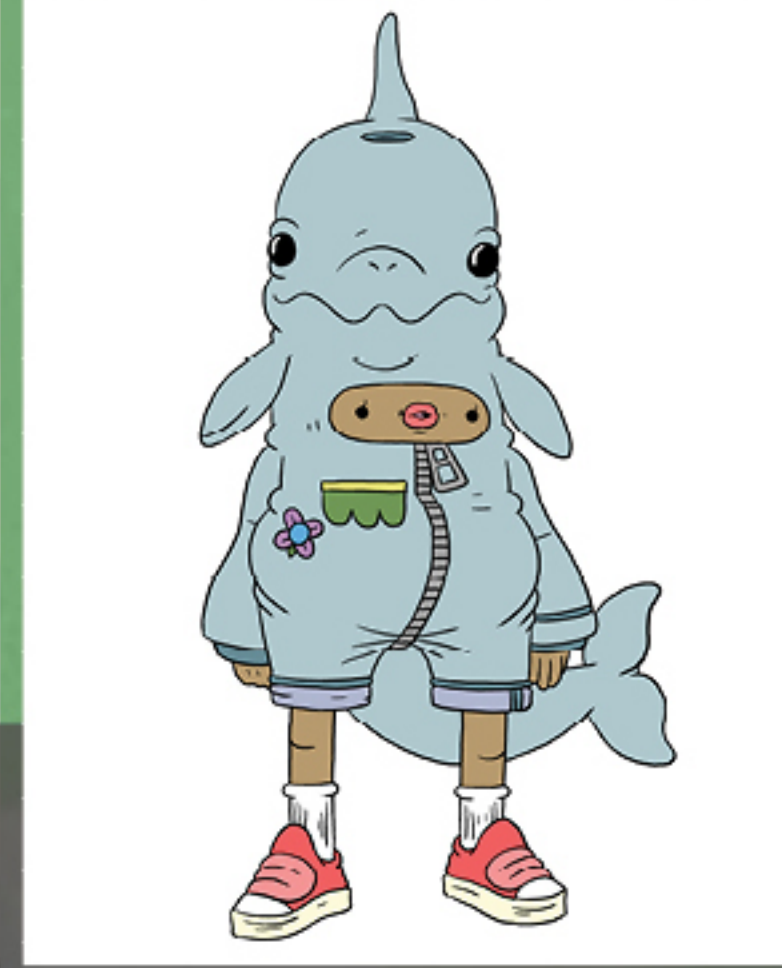
Dorian Sylvain is a painter whose color and texture explore ornamentation, pattern, and design as identifiers of cultural and historical foundations. She is a studio painter and muralist, as well as an art educator, curator, and cultural organizer. Much of her public work addresses issues of beautification inspired by color palettes and patterns found throughout the African diaspora, particularly in architecture. Core to her practice is collaborating with young people and community to elevate neighborhood aesthetics and foster shared understanding. Follow her @doriansylvain



Katon Blackburn is a die hard skate rat who is passionate about photography and film making. Over the past few years, his love for community building and documentation has kept him busy working on a project called Natty Bwoy Chicago, a free weekly youth skateboard lesson in Kenwood Park. Follow him @katonblack21

Katon Blackburn

Photograph



"Sea levels" 2023
Acrylic on canvas
36x48in

Kari Blackburn

Kari Blackburn is an illustrator whose studio practice includes graphic design, children's books, and public murals. Much of his work addresses today's socio-political climate, the black ethereal, afro-futurism, and color theory. As a core member and lead designer of Mural Moves (artist Co-op), Kari is focused on amplifying the voices of a new generation here in Chicago. Follow him @kariblak.us



Kahari Blackburn is a Chicago born and based visual artist and educator who loves both analog and digital visual mediums. He works with paper collage and simple flat round children's book style illustration. He is part of the Mural Moves Paint crew, which has designed and installed many large scale murals all over Chicago, and an active part of Natty Bwoy Bikes & Boards, a free weekly youth program that leads and teaches skateboarding and basic bicycle mechanics to kids on the South Side. Follow him @kaharirastafari

Kahari Blackburn

"Guitar Man"
Digital render

