

XPLOREFREEDOM

BIO

Raised in Newark, New Jersey at the height of the Black Power Movement, and during the eighties, as graffiti became the newest form of self expression, XPLOREFREEDOM realized early on, the joining of these ideals would be the inspiration for his work.

The self-taught artist began experimenting with graffiti during the eighties and nineties. He began incorporating different mediums such as markers, watercolor, and even house paint—with spray paint always remaining a constant. Since that time, he has broadened his scope of work to now include materials such as, reclaimed wood, rich textiles, and many other unconventional items.

2009 was a pivotal year for the artist. At the urging of friends, fellow artists, and collectors, he began creating work for formal exhibition. Pieces created in the years prior were sold by word-of-mouth through a broadening circle that created an increasingly steady demand.

He currently lives and works in Newark—a limitless source of inspiration. His travels across Europe, The Caribbean, North and South America, have greatly impacted the way he sees the world around him, and with each discovery of a new locale, its traditions, and culture, it strengthens his belief that art truly has the power to invoke change in the world.

ARTIST STATEMENT

“While remaining true to my voice and mastering my craftsmanship, I challenge my audience to reflect into history. The rise and fall of historical leaders, the revolution of the Black Power movement and the growth of graffiti all have a direct lineage to my creative process. I now use urban media techniques to bridge the opening between street expression and historical education. Art speaks to everyone in different ways and I use different mediums to invoke conversations.”

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019

The BIG Exhibit, Philly Art Collective,
Philadelphia, PA

With Shackles We Fly, Akwaaba Gallery,
Newark, NJ

Still Nigga, Bishop Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2018

This Is Amerika, POP UP Newark, NJ

2017

STYLES, Pop 6IX Gallery, Newark, NJ

2016

The Number Ones, POP UP Newark, NJ

2015

The Art Of Getting Up,
City Without Walls Gallery Newark, NJ

2012

From Oppression To Expression,
ECC Gallery Newark, NJ

2011

Behind Enemy Lines, Russel Aldo Murray Gallery
Newark, NJ

One-Two Punch, Kresge Gallery Mahwah, NJ

The Blackface Experience POP UP
Open Doors Tour Newark, NJ

2010

F*CK CURATORS,
Index Art Gallery Newark, NJ

DUET EXHIBITIONS

2019

VERSES, w/ Jeff Henriquez,
Artfront Gallery, Newark, NJ

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018

UPRISE, Art Front Gallery w/ Newark Arts
Council Newark Arts Festival Newark, NJ

U.S. vs US

Index Art Gallery Newark, NJ

All the Scared Niggers are Dead,
Art Front Gallery Newark, NJ

2015

Pieces of Me, SEED Gallery Newark, NJ

2012

The American Dream, POP UP Exhibition
Montclair, NJ

2011

AEROSOUL, POP UP Exhibition Montclair, NJ

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2018

Hall Algernon. "Dream Talk Podcast." Create
Your Masterpiece with "XPLOREFREEDOM".
Episode 022, February, Audio blog post

"The Night Drive with Nobu De Lon 1" Newark
Radio Co-Op." xplorefreedom and Stacey Ange-
la February, Radio

2016

Backer, Kim Allison, Ebony October/ November,
Print

2010

Oprah Magazine, Volume 1, number 9,
September, Print

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