

# BLACK *Joy*

In Spite Of...



April 5–September 2, 2024

This exhibition offers a three-dimensional picture of the Black American experience by focusing on moments of joy despite a history of pain and struggle. Guest curator Brigette Janea Jones has selected photographs made throughout Tennessee that depict the enslaved and their descendants during various time periods, including enslavement, Reconstruction, the modern civil rights movement, the crack era, and more. The images capture scenes of family connection, friendship, pride, and resistance that highlight the humanity of each individual and counter the more common focus on trauma.

To connect the past with the present day, Jones and two local artists, TC and Joseph Patrick, selected work made by various Tennessee artists ranging from established figures to students and recent graduates that depict their own interpretations of Black people resisting harm and embarking on the eternal journey to Black joy. Seen together, the works in *Black Joy, in Spite of . . .* show Black Tennesseans having the audacity to be happy amid and in the aftermath of slavery, an institution that was designed to break them.

Organized by the Frist Art Museum with guest curator Brigette Janea Jones

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## Frist Art Museum

919 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203  
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