

Murals of North Nashville Now

Conte Community Arts Gallery
August 10, 2019–January 5, 2020
Organized by the Frist Art Museum

What:

A vibrant street art scene has emerged throughout Nashville alongside its rapid expansion in recent years. Murals can be seen now on walls in The Nations, the Gulch, Nolensville Road, and many other places. Those found in North Nashville, a historically African American neighborhood, stand out because they are typically made by artists with strong ties to the area and because the imagery reflects its unique character and important social issues. They also demonstrate the multifaceted nature of the community, addressing both persistent problems such as displacement, gun violence, and incarceration, as well as positive elements like thriving black-owned businesses, a revitalized art scene, and valuable educational institutions.



Norf Art Collective. *Forever*, 2019. Acrylic spray paint, acrylic, and oil on panel, 96 x 144 in. Courtesy of the artists. © Norf Art Collective. Photo: LeXander Bryant

This exhibition seeks to shine a light on this culturally and historically rich yet often underserved part of the city. A young generation of artists—many following in the tradition of Tennessee State University professors Sam Dunson and Michael McBride, and mentors Michael “Ol Skool” Mucker, James Threackill, and Thaxton Waters—offer their perspectives on the present position of North Nashville through newly commissioned site-specific murals. The project also explores the role of the arts in urban redevelopment and in the expression of community identities, further testifying that art can be found all around us, not just inside museums and galleries.

Selected programs and events:

Art History Class Lifestyle Lounge
Thursday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.

PechaKucha Night, vol. 34: From Our Streets to the Sky
Thursday, October 24, 5:30 p.m.

Frist Friday: Murals + Mics
November 8, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Presenting Sponsor



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**Frist Art
Museum**

919 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
FristArtMuseum.org



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Standard connections and Frist resources:

Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts Education

By analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artworks, students fulfill the **respond** domain of the Tennessee Fine Art Standards. Synthesizing information and contextualizing the works applies to the **connect** domain.

Literacy Standards

Writing activities based on artworks and themes presented in this exhibition may connect to Tennessee writing standards. Possible writing prompts may include:

- Image that you are designing a mural for your neighborhood. How would it look? What message would your mural convey?
- Write about a social challenge affecting Nashville and propose a solution to the problem.

SL.CC.1 Cornerstone: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with varied partners, building on others' ideas and expressing one's own ideas clearly and persuasively.

W.TTP.2 Cornerstone: Write informative/explanatory texts to analyze, synthesize, and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection and organization of content.

W.TTP.3 Cornerstone: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

1st Grade Social Studies Standards

Government and Civics Overview: Students will continue to develop their citizenship skills by expanding their studies from a personal level to a local, state, and national level, including an understanding of the function of government and patriotic symbols.

5th Grade Social Studies Standards

Post-World War II and the Civil Rights Movement (1940s–1960s)

Overview: Students will examine the cultural and political developments in the U.S. after World War II and during the Civil Rights Movement.

5.24 Analyze the key people and events of the Civil Rights Movement, including (T.C.A. § 49-6-1028):

- Martin Luther King Jr. and non-violent protests
- Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks
- *Brown v. Board of Education* and Thurgood Marshall
- Freedom Riders and Diane Nash

Frist resources

Some of these may be available on-site, at FristArtMuseum.org, or the Frist App.

- Gallery guide
- Companion volume, featuring an essay by Tennessee State University professor Learotha Williams (available Fall 2019, on-site only)

Interested in a group tour? Sign up at FristArtMuseum.org/tours.