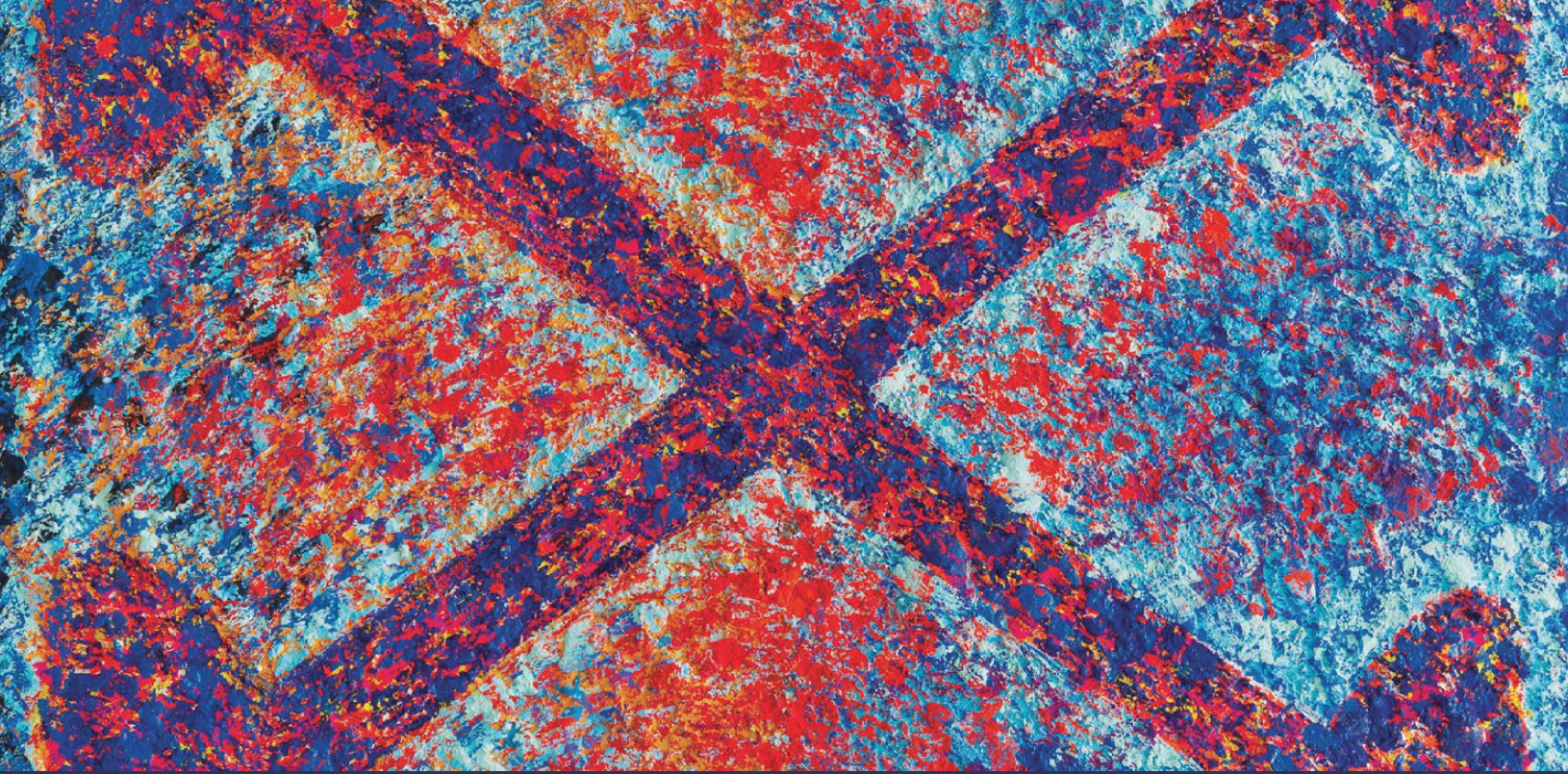


BEYOND BOUNDARIES MAY 8 – AUGUST 30, 2026

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

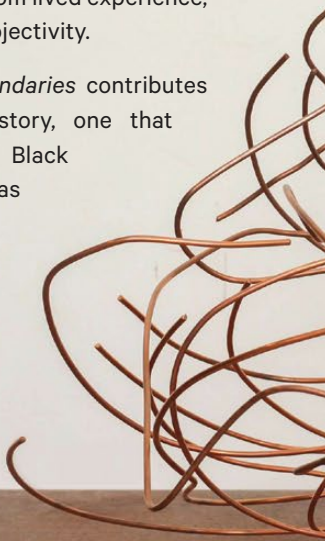
Black Abstraction in the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Art Collection

Beyond Boundaries foregrounds the centrality of Black abstraction within the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Art Collection. Over nearly three decades, the Perrys' collecting vision has evolved from an early emphasis on figuration to a sustained engagement with contemporary abstraction — reflecting a deeper recognition of abstraction as a critical language through which Black artists have articulated presence beyond representation.

Emerging in parallel with, and often in opposition to, dominant art historical narratives, Black abstraction has long served as a site of intellectual and formal experimentation. From mid-twentieth-century pioneers to a dynamic cohort of contemporary practitioners, the works assembled here trace a continuum in which material, color, and media become vehicles for encoding histories that exceed the limits of figuration.

Through richly tactile surfaces, layered pigments, and expansive compositional strategies, the artists in *Beyond Boundaries* mobilize abstraction as a mode of storytelling — one that resists fixed interpretation while remaining deeply rooted in cultural knowledge. In doing so, they challenge longstanding assumptions that abstraction is detached from lived experience, instead asserting it as a space for Black subjectivity.

By centering these practices, *Beyond Boundaries* contributes to an ongoing reexamination of art history, one that acknowledges the foundational role of Black artists in shaping non-representational art as a site of exploration.



ARTWORK CREDIT Gozié Ojini, *The Sound of a Thought*, 2021, Altered brass instrument and copper wire, Courtesy of the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Art Collection.

Artists in the Exhibition

Trevor Anderson-Evans

Radcliffe Bailey

Kevin Beasley

McArthur Binion

Frank Bowling

Kiah Celeste

Ed Clark

Bethany Collins

Beauford Delaney

Abigail DeVille

Torkwase Dyson

Jadé Fadojutimi

Theaster Gates

Savannah Harris

Leslie Hewitt

Daniel LaRue Johnson

Rashid Johnson

Jennie C. Jones

Samuel Levi Jones

Nnena Kalu

Hilda Kortei

Desmond Lewis

Norman Lewis

Glenn Ligon

Rick Lowe

Eric N. Mack

Richard Mayhew

Gabriel Mills

Nandipha Mntambo

Odili Donald Odita

Gozié Ojini

Jay Payton

Coumba Samba

Vaughn Spann

Reginald Sylvester II

Felandus Thames

Alma Thomas

Donel Williams

Stephanie J. Woods



About the Collectors

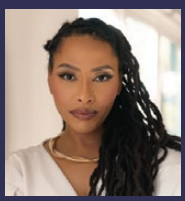
ELLIOT AND KIMBERLY PERRY



Elliot and Kimberly Perry are dedicated collectors whose holdings rank among the most significant collections of contemporary art by African American and African diasporic artists in the United States. For three decades, they have built a collection that reflects both discernment and commitment, while actively supporting artists and arts organizations that contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape in Memphis. Their collection has been widely recognized in publications and exhibitions, including presentations at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Flint Institute of Arts in 2014. In 2022, Elliot Perry was honored by the Museum of Modern Art and its Black Arts Council.

About the Curator

DR. ANITA BATEMAN



Dr. Anita Bateman is the Vice President of Creative Direction at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, where she guides the comprehensive creative vision for the Center's collections, exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and key internal and external partnerships.

Bateman holds a Ph.D. in Art History and Visual Culture, a Master's degree in Art History from Duke University, and a bachelor's degree in Art History from Williams College. She has held curatorial positions at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, the Williams College Museum of Art, and the Nasher Museum of Art. Her academic research has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council.



Through layered textures, dynamic color, and expansive forms, these works hold histories, emotions, and cultural knowledge that resist easy definition, inviting viewers to look closely and think deeply.

ARTWORK CREDIT Radcliffe Bailey, *Minor* (detail), 2005, Mixed media, piano keys, found objects, and black wax, Courtesy of the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Art Collection.



About the Gantt

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture is a multidisciplinary arts institution located in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1974, the Gantt's mission is to present, preserve, and celebrate excellence in the art, history, and culture of African-Americans and those of African descent through visual and literary arts, dance, music, film, educational programs, theatre productions, and community outreach. The Gantt features fine art exhibitions from around the world and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America, and is accessible online.

Named for Charlotte civic leader and former mayor Harvey Bernard Gantt, the Gantt is housed in an iconic, award-winning structure designed by architect Philip Freelon, co-designer of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

Harvey B. Gantt Center
for African-American Arts+Culture

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704.547.3700 • GANTTCENTER.ORG

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KNIGHT FOUNDATION

North Carolina Arts Council

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

COVER ARTWORK CREDIT Vaughn Spann, *Oracle*, 2020, Polymer paint, mixed media, and canvas on wood panels, Courtesy of the Artist and Almine Rech. © Vaughn Spann. Photograph by Dan Bradica.