

GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER

Contact: Frankie Crescioni-Santoni / Patrick Terborg
295 Lafayette Street, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10012
Tel: 212.998.7400
Email: wagner.gallery@nyu.edu



You black m.f. U (36 x 36 in; oil pigment on canvas; 2012)

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GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER / WINTER-SPRING 2013

New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, in partnership with the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, is pleased to announce the opening of *working on it*, our Winter/Spring-2013 exhibition at the Gallery Space at Wagner. Staged in commemoration of Black History Month, *working on it* features oil paintings by celebrated artist and New York University alumnus **Danny Simmons**. The exhibit is cosponsored by the NYU Wagner Black Student Alliance (BSA) and curated by NYU Steinhardt faculty Ann Chwatsky and NYU Wagner's Frankie Crescioni-Santoni. An opening reception featuring live music by the NYU African Percussion Ensemble will be held on **Wednesday, February 20th, 6:00-8:00pm**, and is open to the public via RSVP at wagner.nyu.edu/events.

With *working on it*, Danny Simmons has assembled a striking and powerful collection of abstract expressionist paintings referencing both urban and traditional African motifs. Vivid color treatments, expansive brush strokes, and intricate circular linework grant the series dynamic compositional movement and an almost allegorical allure. Complex and vibrant, these neo-African canvases are at once a celebration of cultural heritage and an intimate glimpse into the artist's spiritual quest for connectivity through the art-making process.



Daniel "Danny" Simmons, Jr. is a painter, author, philanthropist, and art scene visionary. He earned a degree in social work from New York University and was the recipient of a master's in public finance and a honorary PhD in fine arts from Long Island University. Older brother of hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons and rapper Joseph Simmons ("Reverend Run" of Run DMC), he is founder and president of the Rush Arts Gallery in Chelsea and the Corridor Gallery in Brooklyn. He also founded and serves as vice-president of the non-profit Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, and until recently was a chairman for the New York State Council on the Arts. Along with his brother Russell, he established Def Poetry Jam, which has enjoyed long-running success on HBO. In 2004, he published *Three Days As The Crow Flies*, a fictional account of the 1980s New York art scene. He has also written a book of artwork and poetry called *I Dreamed My People Were Calling But I Couldn't Find My Way Home*. Simmons' artwork has been widely exhibited both nationally and internationally and in several world-renowned collections, including those of the United Nations, Chase Manhattan Bank, Deutsche Bank, and the Schomburg Center for Black Culture. Further samples of his work may be viewed at dannysimmons.net.

working on it runs February 20 through April 10, 2013. The Gallery Space at Wagner is located on the 2nd floor of the Puck Building, at 295 Lafayette Street, corner of Houston Street (B/D/F/M trains to Broadway-Lafayette, 6 train to Bleecker, or N/R/Q trains to Prince Street). Viewing hours are Monday–Thursday 9:00am-9:00pm, Fridays 9:00am-7:00pm, and Saturdays 9:30am-6:00pm (closed on Sundays). For more information, including adjusted holiday hours, please contact Frankie Crescioni-Santoni at 212.998.7400.

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Complications and dissertations (48 x 60 in; oil pigment on canvas; 2012)

For information on purchasing artwork, please contact Danny Simmons at:
ddsimmonsjr@gmail.com

NYUWagner

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