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](http://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 an 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](http://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 Broaday-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.
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

Established in 1938, the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service is a top ranked leadership school of public service, with a faculty of thought leaders who reframe the way people understand and act on issues of public importance, and graduates who are bold, well-prepared change makers who expertly navigate real-world complexity and produce results that matter. We offer advanced programs leading to the professional degrees of Master of Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Management, Master of Public Administration in Health Policy and Management, Master of Urban Planning, Executive Master of Public Administration, Executive Master of Public Administration (Concentration for Nurse Leaders), and Doctor of Philosophy. Learn more at wagner.nyu.edu.