

Buffalo Arts Studio

Tri-Main Center
 2495 Main Street, Suite 500
 Buffalo, NY 14214
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www.buffaloartsstudio.org

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 11am-5pm



Stacey Robinson completed his Masters of Fine Art at the University at Buffalo and is currently a Nasier Jones Hip Hop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for Research in African American Culture at Harvard University. He is originally from Albany, NY, and graduated from Fayetteville State University with a Bachelor of Arts. He recently art directed *Unveiling Visions: the Alchemy of the Black Imagination* for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NY. He was a part of the exhibition *Invisible Ink: Black Independent Comix* at University of Tennessee, and the "Beyond the Frame: African American Comic Book Artists" presentation at the Flint Institute of Arts. Robinson's collected works reside at Modern Graphics in Berlin, Bucknell University, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



John Jennings and Stacey Robinson are the collaborative duo Black Kirby. Jennings is Professor of Media and Cultural Studies and a Cooperating Faculty Member in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. Jennings is co-editor of the Eisner Award-winning essay collection *The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in Comics and Sequential Art* and co-founder/organizer of The Schomburg Center's Black Comic Book Festival in Harlem. He is co-founder and organizer of the MLK NorCal's Black Comix Arts Festival in San Francisco and also SOL-CON: The Brown and Black Comix Expo at the Ohio State University.

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Buffalo Arts Studio



Stacey Robinson
Black Imaginings



Black Kirby
Night Boy

July 26 - September 7, 2019
 Opening Reception; Friday, July 26, 2019

Stacey Robinson, *Black Imaginings*

Robinson's exhibition *Black Imaginings* features large-scale digital images that explore representational justice informed by the work of W.E.D. Du Bois and his notion of "double consciousness." Robinson creates multimedia works as resistance to Black oppression, illustrating the global conflicts of integration, miseducation, unresolved slavery, unresolved emancipation, and colonialism's effect on Black people's collective ability to self-organize and self-govern. His graceful yet powerful digital illustrations stand as counter-assessments to Black stereotypes and misrepresentations of Black existence.

Robinson makes his intentions clear in *Radical Imagination*, the work that opens *Black Imaginings*. He calls viewers together, speaking to the collective "we" directly. "We must speculate, then actualize our future existence as a militarized revolutionary act." The hand of the artist reaches into the image, empowering both the regal figure and the viewer tasked with safeguarding our radical imagination.

As Robinson's work looks to a utopian future, it also challenges the Western canon of the past. *Black Zodiac* reimagines the astrological symbols within an Afrocentric context. Robinson adds Egyptian iconography, incorporating the scales of Osiris weighing one's heart against the feather of truth. The weight of truth is present in all of Robinson's work, challenging viewers "to be very conscious of our strategies for survival."

Cover image: Robinson, *Radical Imagination*, 2018, digital illustration



Robinson, *Black Zodiac*, 2018, digital collage

Black Kirby, *Night Boy*

Black Kirby's exhibition, *Night Boy*, is the latest collaboration of Stacey Robinson and John Jennings. *Night Boy* is a graphic novel that tells the story of a 15-year-old victim of police brutality. Jamal is pulled between days spent in Buffalo, NY with family and friends, and nights spent guarding the border between Buffalo and Olafub, a shadow city in a shadow world populated by the spirits of dreams deferred, potentials unmet, and lives un-lived. Night Boy finds himself a pawn in a supernatural power struggle, who overcomes many obstacles to become the guardian of the City of Light. Along with the story by Damian Duffy, the artwork will be pitched to potential publishers and will hopefully join Black Kirby's other publications including *I am Alfonso Jones*, *Prison Industrial Complex for Beginners*, and *Black Kirby Presents: In Search of... Motherboxx Connections* on bookshelves internationally.



Above: Black Kirby, *Buffalo Rising*, 2017, digital illustration

Cover image: Black Kirby, "enta da stage," 2017, digital illustration