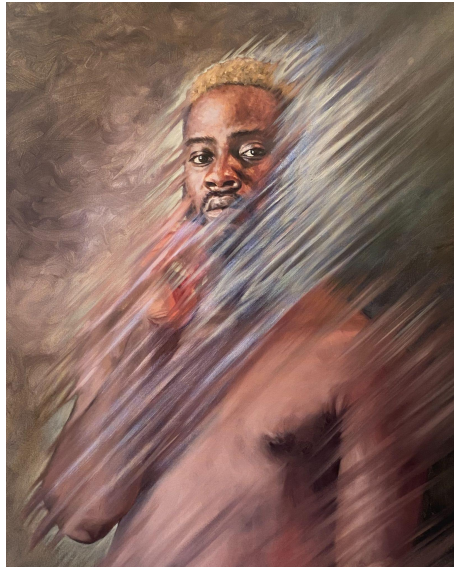




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Julia Bottoms; *Because We Should*
September 25-November 6, 2021
Opening Reception, Friday September 24, 2021, 5:00-8:00 pm
Part of M&T Fourth Friday @ Tri-Main Center



Julia Bottoms's solo exhibition *Because We Should* includes new work developed in response to the media's repetition of racially biased imagery. Bottoms rejects the hyper-sexual, violent, and sinister portrayal of people of color that saturates the media, countering the manufactured images of "Blackness" promoted in popular culture. Her paintings honor the individuality and character of the dynamic and creative young people whom she encounters in her daily life. As Bottoms notes, "people of color have been trapped in someone else's narrative for too long, and when we have tried to write our own, we have often been erased from the mainstream history books. I believe it is time for us to use the talents we possess to speak our truth. Our lives are worthy of dialogue."

Because We Should is the first exhibition in Buffalo Arts Studio's 2021/22 NEA funded project *Navigating Identity*. *Navigating Identity* focuses on the creation of new work that critically addresses contemporary issues surrounding representational justice and intersectionality. The exhibitions, workshops, and panel discussions in this series reflect the belief that artists, educators, and curators can effect change through collaborations that balance community need with artistic insight.

Julia Bottoms is an active visual artist based in Buffalo, NY, where she recently completed a six-week residence at the Albright-Knox Northland, participated in the University at Buffalo Arts Collaboratory Working Artist Lab with

Cecily Brown, and was an Albright Knox Participating Artist for the Works From Home Project. Her large-scale mural work includes *Mamie Smith Memorial Mural* in Cincinnati, OH, the East Delavan Library Mural and seven panels on *The Freedom Wall*, in Buffalo, NY, among others. Bottoms has been featured in solo and group shows across New York State and her work has been featured on the cover of *The Public*, in *Buffalo Spree*, *The Challenger*, in the HBO series *Insecure*, and online through *AfroPunk*. Bottoms holds a BA (2012) and a MA (2017) from Buffalo State College.

Buffalo Arts Studio is a not-for-profit arts organization whose mission is to provide affordable studio space and regular public exposure for regional, national, and international artists through exhibitions, and to enrich the community with art classes, mural programs, and public art. Buffalo Arts Studio is located at 2495 Main Street, Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14214. The gallery is open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10a.m.-2p.m.

Buffalo Arts Studio receives major support from:

Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Children's Foundation of Erie County, City of Buffalo, Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funding, Emerging Philanthropists of Color, Garman Family Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Josephine Goodyear Foundation, Simple Gifts Fund, M&T Bank, the National Endowment for the Arts, Open Buffalo, Rigidized Metals, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

High resolution images available upon request.

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