

# JANE LOMBARD GALLERY

## Sydney G. James

b. 1979 in Detroit, MI

Lives and works in Detroit.

## Education

- 2010** MA Education, University of Phoenix (Carson, CA)
- 2001** BFA Illustration, College for Creative Studies (Detroit, MI)

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Girl Raised in Detroit*, Jane Lombard Gallery, NY, NY
- 2023** *Girl Raised in Detroit*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI
- 2021** *Watch Me Work*, M Contemporary Gallery, Ferndale, MI
- 2020** *Watch Me Work*, U of M Department of the Humanities Art Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2019** *Sit Down Somewhere*, Playground Detroit Gallery, Detroit, MI

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023** *Skilled Labor: Black Realism in Detroit*, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 2022** *Revelations*, M Contemporary Gallery, Ferndale, MI
- 2021** *Arts, Beats & Lyrics*, Traveling Exhibit, Intercontinental USA  
*Portrayal*, M Contemporary Gallery, Ferndale, MI  
*Overture*, Detroit Artist Market Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 2019** *Paint the Future Proud*, Essence Festival, New Orleans, LA  
*We Rise*, We Rise Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Arts, Beats & Lyrics*, Traveling Exhibit, Atlanta, GA  
*PerSIStence*, Collected Detroit Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 2018** *Symbiosis*, Detroit Artist Market Gallery, Detroit, MI  
*MLK:50 Beyond the Balcony*, Art Village Gallery, Memphis, TN  
*Arts, Beats & Lyrics*, Traveling Exhibit, Atlanta, GA  
*Outside In*, Janice Charach Gallery, West Bloomfield, MI  
*Motor City Icon, The Spirit of Detroit*, Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, University Center, MI
- 2017** *Analog Angels*, Fat Free Art Gallery, New York City, NY  
*Art@TheMax III*, Orchestra Hall, Detroit, MI  
*Bent But Unbroken*, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI  
*Now and Then: Artists Contemplate the Summer of 1967*, Detroit Artist Market Gallery, Detroit, MI  
*Detroit Grind*, Rush Arts Galleries, New York, NY

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- 2016** *The Droiter*, Heron Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*Trivium*, Cass Café, Detroit, MI  
*15 Steps: Perspectives in Drawing*, Redbull House of Art, Detroit, MI  
*Friends of Friends*, Redbull Houe of Art, Detroit, MI
- 2013** *Artists Residency Showcase*, Redbull House of Art, Detroit, MI  
*Five Hundred Below*, Art Rages Gallery, Detroit, MI  
*D-Fine Art*, Cass Café, Detroit, MI
- 2012** *Great American Artists*, Charles H. Wright Museum, Detroit, MI
- 2011** *Arts, Beats & Lyrics*, Traveling Exhibit, Intercontinental, USA
- 2010** *Great American Artists*, Virgil Carr Center Gallery, Detroit, MI

## Commissions/ Projects:

- 2023** BLKOUT Walls Mural Festival (Co-Founder), Mural festival  
Director/Curator/Artist, Detroit, MI  
Chroma Zone Mural Fest, Mural Commission, St. Paul, MN
- 2021** Mana Mural Festival (Art Basel), Mural Commission, Miami, FL  
Charmed 2018 Season 4, (Ghost) Artist, Vancouver, British  
BLKOUT Walls Mural Festival (Co-Founder), Mural festival  
production/Artist, Detroit, MI  
Ford Motor Co, Illustration Commission, Intercontinental USA  
Midwest Living Magazine, Portrait Commission, Des Moines, IA
- 2020** University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, Mural  
Commission, Ann Arbor, MI  
No7/ Walgreens, Mural Commission, Brooklyn, NY  
Crush Walls Mural festival, Mural commission, Denver, CO  
Pepsico, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Platform Development, Mural Commission, Detroit, MI  
Build Institute, Mural Commission, Detroit, MI  
Affixed Productions, Mural Commission & art workshop, Freetown,  
Sierra Leone, Africa  
NFL Safe Zone (Parkview Elementary School), Mural commission,  
Miami Gardens, FL
- 2019** Chase Bank (Howard University), Mural commission, Washington  
Below the Stacks Mural Festival, Mural commission, Lansing, MI  
Crush Walls Mural festival, Mural commission, Denver, CO  
Essence Festival (Ford Motor Comp.), Mural commission, New  
Orleans, LA  
Sherman Phoenix building, Mural commission, Milwaukee, WI  
STEAM Fest, Mural commission, Detroit MI

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- 2018** House of Vans Detroit, Live Painting Commission, Detroit, MI  
Heidelberg Project, Numbers House Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Mural Commission, Detroit, MI  
City Walls, (Curator) Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Murals in the Market, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Pow Wow Worcester, Mural, Worcester, MA  
Sidewalk Festival, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Pow Wow Long Beach, Mural, Long Beach, CA  
Live Cycle Delight Hot Yoga, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Spotify RapCaviar, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Bead Store, Mural project, Accra, Ghana  
Pow Wow Hawaii, Mural project, Honolulu, HI  
Studio Be, Mural, New Orleans, LA
- 2017** Under Armour Flagship Store, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Under Armour Flagship Store, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Murals in the Market, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Green Space Financial, Mural commission, Inkster, MI  
Detroit Movie, Mural/Billboard commission, Detroit, MI, Los Angeles, CA  
E&S Uniforms, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Live, Cycle, Delight, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Library Street Collective/Bed Rock, Mural commission, Detroit, MI
- 2016** Pershing High School, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
MTV, Mural Commission, New York City, NY  
Trumbull & Bagley Market, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Many Rivers to Cross music festival, Mural commission, Atlanta, GA  
Murals in the Market, Mural, Detroit, MI  
GM D-Ham Plant, Mural commission, Detroit, MI  
Fresh Empire, Mural Commission, Detroit, MI
- 2015** Murals in the Market, Mural, Detroit, MI  
Kiddie City, Mural Commission, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014** Grand River Creative Corridor, Mural Project, Detroit, MI
- 2012** Grand River Creative Corridor, (Curator/painter) Art Installation, Detroit, MI
- 2011** Conant Gardens Vacant Lot, (Curator/painter) Art Installation Revamp, Detroit, MI
- 2010** ABC "No Ordinary Family," Resident (Ghost)Artist, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009** ABC Family "Lincoln Heights," Resident (Ghost)Artist, Los Angeles, CA

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Conant Gardens Vacant Lot, (Curator/painter) Art Installation, Detroit, MI

2006-2008

ABC Family "Lincoln Heights," Resident (Ghost)Artist, Los Angeles, CA

## Awards/

## Residencies:

- 2022 International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP), Brooklyn, NY  
2020 Artists in Residence, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Best Direction short documentary, Hollywood Gold Awards, Los Angeles, CA  
Alain Locke Award, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
2018 Fellowship.Art, Visual Arts fellowship, Milwaukee, WI  
2017 Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellowship, Visual Arts, Detroit, MI  
2013 Red Bull House of Art Residency, Detroit, MI

## Publications

- 2023 "BLKOUT Walls Annual Mural Festival Returns to Detroit with Street Artists from Around the World," *ET Online*, September 5, 2023  
"You Have To Check Out This Detroit Festival Featuring Wall Murals Created By Black Artists," *Essence*, September 20, 2023  
"Sydney G. James: How We See Us," *PBS*, March 21, 2023  
"Sydney G. James beams with Detroit pride in MOCAD solo show, but her greatest masterpiece isn't a painting," *Detroit Metro Times*, April 12, 2023  
"Detroit North End festival produces 20 murals, a return engagement," *Detroit News*, October 30, 2023  
2022 "Ferndale exhibit 'Revelations' shows how tight-knit Detroit's art scene really is," *Metro Times*, January 13, 2022  
2021 "Vans Black History Month shoe collection features two Detroit artists," *Detroit News*, February 17, 2021  
"Week-long BLKOUT Walls mural festival will beautify New Center and celebrate POC artists," *Metro Times*, July 21, 2021  
"Artists Sydney G. James and Sharryl Cross Talk Their Recent Collaboration," *BLAC Detroit*, April 16, 2021  
"Detroit artists Sydney James and Lamar Landers partner up for 'Portrayal,'" *Metro Times*, December 22, 2021

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"The Scarab Club Introduces a Black History Month Art Exhibition," *BLAC Detroit*, February 15, 2021

"Vans Tapped 4 Artists to Design Shoes For Black History Month, and We Talked to Them All," *PopSugar* February 5, 2021

"Vans Tap Four Black Artist To Design Capsule Project," *Essence*, February 8, 2021

"Vans Spotlights Four Black Artists in Honor of BHM," *HypeBeast*, February 8 2021

"Murals to last beyond Miami Art Week," *Miami Times*, December 1, 2021

"At the Inaugural BLKOUT Walls Mural Festival in Detroit, Michigan with: Sydney G. James, IMAGINE, Max Sansing, Problak, JUST, Zoë Boston, MARKA27, Wolfe Pack & More," *Street Art NYC*, August 25, 2021

"Vans Celebrates Black History Month with Four Emerging Artists," *Harper's Bazaar*, February 8, 2021

"Detroit's BLKOUT Walls Mural Festival Invites Artists to Paint the City's Streets," *Fodors' Travel Guide*, September 22, 2021

"Vans Announces New Sneaker Collaboration For Black History Month," *Complex*, November 2021

"Meet the Artist: Sydney G. James," *Midwest Living*, June 9, 2021

"Sydney G. James works mural magic to stop the 'SHEcession,'" *Creative Boom*, January 28, 2021

**2020** The Girl with the D Earring' mural by artist Sydney G. James and crew," *Detroit News*, September 11, 2020

"Juggling Act: New Malice Green mural reminds us what's at stake amid protests," *Detroit News*, June 11, 2020

"Detroit artist to begin Malice Green mural after exceeding crowdfunding goal: 'He was a symbol of a piece of justice,'" *Metro Times*, June 2, 2020

"Sydney G. James Gifts Detroit with Another Gem," *BLAC Detroit*, August 28, 2020

"A Team of Artists Led by Sydney G. James Recreate the Malice Green Mural," *BLAC Detroit*, June 18, 2020

"Street Style: 'Sydney James Empowers Detroit,'" *Seen Magazine*, June 2, 2020

"Muralist Sydney James' on Her Latest Work, 'Girl with the D Earring,'" *Hour Detroit*, November 20, 2020

**2019** "Ain't I A Woman? Sisters Who are Doing it for Themselves," *BLAC Detroit*, March 8, 2019

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- "Detroit artist Sydney James is set to debut her first solo show," *Metro Times*, October 19, 2019
- 2018 "Painting with broad Strokes," *Good Grit Magazine*, November 2019
- "Artists Sydney James & Max Sansing Explore Street Art's Impact on Culture & Diversity," *HypeBeast*, December 5, 2018
- "Desire Vincent and DeAndre Levy Continue 'Our Issue' Campaign to Test Abandoned Rape Kits," *BLAC Detroit*, November 1, 2018
- "Artists Sydney James & Max Sansing Explore Street Art's Impact on Culture & Diversity," *HypeBeast*, December 5, 2018
- "30 Detroit Artists," *Essay'd Vol. 3*, October 2018
- 2017 "Meet the Makers: Sydney James," *Hour Detroit*, August 27, 2018
- "Sydney James is bringing color to Detroit's communities," *BLAC Detroit*, August 2, 2017
- "Kresge Arts in Detroit announces 18 award winners," *Detroit News*, June 22, 2017
- "Detroit artists bring '67 full circle through murals," *Detroit News*, July 26, 2017
- 2016 "Renaissance before Revival," *BLAC Detroit*, October 6, 2016
- 2014 "Detroit's First Blkout Mural Festival," *BLAC Detroit*, September 2014

## Radio/ Television:

- 2023 "Blkout Walls, 'THE FOUNDATION,'" *THEOREMATIC*, August 25, 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2JtgxhPGa4&t=1093s>
- "Sydney G. James: How We See Us | In the Making | American Masters," *PBS*, March 21, 2023  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm-1gogx1mU&t=63s>
- "AFROPUNK Black Genius-VANS BMH-Sydney G. James," *AFROPUNK*, February 26, 2023  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_XsMVNcT\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_XsMVNcT_s)
- 2021 "Detroit artists design custom Vans shoes for Black History Month," *Click On Detroit*, February 8, 2021  
<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2021/02/08/detroit-artists-design-custom-vans-shoes-for-black-history-month/>
- "Detroit artist Sydney James celebrates Black women, Detroit through her work," *WXYZ Detroit*, February 11, 2021  
<https://www.wxyz.com/news/black-history-month/detroit-artist-sydney-james-forget-trying-to-be-at-somebody-elses-table-make-your-own->

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- 2020** "Sydney G. James - Pepsi Full of Detroit Soul | Pepsi," *Woodward Original*, December 7, 2020  
<https://vimeo.com/488278743>  
"Well-known Detroit artist begins work on new mural honoring Detroit women," *Click On Detroit*, September 2, 2020  
<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/09/02/well-known-detroit-artist-begins-work-on-new-mural-honoring-detroit-women/>  
"Steadily Rising" by Sydney G. James," *gener8tor*, June 30, 2020  
<https://vimeo.com/434147028>  
"Detroit artists honor Black lives, victims of police brutality," *WXYZ Detroit*, June 17, 2020  
<https://www.wxyz.com/news/detroit-artists-honor-black-lives-victims-of-police-brutality>
- 2018** "Detroit Performs | Sydney G. James," *JAX PBS*, Season 8, Episode 4, December 18, 2018  
<https://jaxpbs.tv/video/sydney-g-james-o2gyi2/>
- 2017** "Sydney G. James: Detroit Brand House," *Under Armour*, April 11, 2017  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBy4Dd7tUoo>