

# **Corey Barksdale Atlanta Illustrator • Fine Artist and Muralist**

## **Corey Barksdale: A Provocative Journey of Artistic Vision and Social Commentary**

In the bustling art scene of Atlanta, where creativity flourishes, and boundaries are pushed, one name stands out—Corey Barksdale. With a vibrant palette, powerful brushstrokes, and a fearless spirit, Barksdale emerges as a visual artist who masterfully intertwines beauty and provocation in his creations. Through his evocative artwork, he challenges societal norms, stimulates dialogue, and invites viewers to question their own perceptions. Let us delve into the mesmerizing world of Corey Barksdale, an artist unafraid to challenge, disrupt, and inspire.

### **Exploring Cultural Identity:**

Born and raised in Nashville, Barksdale draws deep inspiration from his African American heritage, infusing it into every brushstroke. His captivating compositions serve as a celebration of black culture, conveying stories of resilience, struggle, and triumph. Barksdale delves into the complexities of identity, shining a light on historical narratives, contemporary issues, and personal experiences, all while unapologetically reclaiming and affirming the beauty and power of blackness.

### **Bold Themes and Unflinching Social Commentary:**

Barksdale's art is not intended to merely adorn gallery walls; it serves as a conduit for societal critique and introspection. His provocative brush communicates the urgent need for change, challenging the viewer to confront uncomfortable truths. With unflinching social commentary,

Barksdale delves into topics such as racial inequality, systemic injustice, and the intricacies of human relationships. Each stroke speaks volumes, prompting conversations that demand attention and action.

### **Technique and Aesthetic Brilliance:**

Beyond the profound themes explored in his work, Barksdale's technical mastery leaves viewers in awe. His dynamic compositions burst with vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and rich textures. By seamlessly blending realism with elements of abstraction, Barksdale creates visual narratives that blur the lines between reality and imagination. This fusion of styles intensifies the emotional impact of his artwork, pulling the audience into a world that is both familiar and otherworldly.

### **Engaging the Community:**

Barksdale's art extends beyond the confines of canvas and gallery walls. With a passionate commitment to community engagement, he has spearheaded initiatives that make art accessible to all. Through public installations, workshops, and collaborations with local organizations, Barksdale empowers individuals and amplifies diverse voices. His art becomes a catalyst for connection, empathy, and positive change within Atlanta and beyond.

### **Conclusion:**

Corey Barksdale, the provocative visual artist from Atlanta, compels us to confront uncomfortable realities, embrace cultural diversity, and envision a more inclusive society. With his captivating imagery and fearless social commentary, Barksdale challenges conventional narratives, leaving an indelible mark on the art world and igniting conversations that refuse to be silenced. As we delve into the vibrant tapestry of his work, we are reminded of the transformative power of art and the enduring impact of an artist unafraid to provoke, disrupt, and inspire.

## **EDUCATION + INSPIRATIONS:**

Barksdale graduated with a B.F.A. from the Atlanta College of Art in 1994. There he was inspired by the abstract expressionists — William de Kooning, Jasper Johns and Clifford Still. His commitment to his heritage came from such African American masters as Romare Bearden, John Biggers, Aaron Douglas and William Tolliver. “A lot of my images,” he says, “are representative of the experiences that I have had and how I identify myself.”

## **Corey Barksdale Artist Resume from 2016-2019**

- ELEVATE - City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs mural painting
  - Hyundai Motor Company Atlanta Super Bowl event live painting at Centennial Olympic Park Super Bowl Event
  - Mars Wrigley Confectionery Atlanta Super Bowl event live large-scale painting at the Georgia Aquarium
  - CRE8IV - Mural commission from the city of Rockford, Illinois, inaugural CRE8IV: transformational art mural festival commission
  - Newnan, Georgia - Mural commission from the city of Newnan, Georgia, mural included in Newnan's downtown beautification project
- Newnan, Georgia - Mural commission Newnan YMCA mural art
- Dublin Downtown Development Authority - Mural commission from the city of Dublin, GA, Dublin Downtown Development Authority and Visit Dublin GA commission for the historical Martin Luther King Memorial 54'x20'
  - Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC art displayed in digital exhibition
  - Mellow Mushroom mural art commission at various locations, Atlanta, Athens, South Carolina, Virginia
  - Elevate, the city of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs' annual public art festival mural commission 2018

- Amazing Stories Steven Spielberg 2019 robot - large scale 15'x150' mural created for Atlanta based television episode
- Superfly Movie - Numerous large scale paintings created and exhibited in the movie featured art gallery scene
- Get Out Movie 5'x10' painting created for Jordan Peele's movie pre-promotion exhibited at the movie premiere screen and in promotional materials
- Baby Driver Movie jazz and music based paintings created for scene in movie • The Chi Television show - Art included in the American drama series episode • Georgia College One man show exhibition - Sallie Ellis Davis House
- Marietta Museum of Art Exhibition of large scale paintings













## CONTACT

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