



Corey Barksdale's work is continually inspired by jazz. "It frees me to do what I feel when I'm painting," Barksdale says. While painting, he often listens to jazz greats like Charlie Parker, Miles Davis and John Coltrane. The result has been more than 30 paintings that celebrate the jazz experience.

"Coltrane is at the top of my list," says Barksdale. A Coltrane recording he particularly enjoys is Africa. "Coltrane is improvisational in the piece but he has structure in his sound. I like the freedom that he has when he's playing Africa. It's rhythmic and free."

Barksdale admires Miles Davis with equal measure for his rawness. "Davis was into experimenting and trying different things with his sound. He was a catalyst for other musicians and he was a pioneer in his time, all without commercialising the music."

So what is it about jazz that inspires Barksdale's creativity? "I love the improvisation of jazz musicians from the '50s and '60s. There was a lot of experimentation going on. In much the same way, I want to create something totally new with my paintings each time - to be different in the way I portray certain subjects." Barksdale clearly appreciates traditional jazz artists - the Jazz Crusaders and Sonny Rollins included - but he also gets a certain amount of inspiration from legendary contemporaries like Joe Sample and David Sanborn.

One of Barksdale's personal favourites is a painting he's entitled Jazz Reflections. "The painting is of six guys playing various horn instruments, a bass and piano. It's one of my favourites because it gives off the vibe of what it's like being in a jazz club," explains Barksdale, an Atlanta College of Art graduate. Many of Barksdale's oil paintings are an infusion of vivid colours tinged with earthtones. His choice colours, a sky blue and a rich orange, almost like Georgia clay with a hint of brown, are used with bold strokes throughout his collection.

"Ultimately, I want individuals to feel what I felt at the time I produced a piece. And whatever the scene happens to be in a painting, I want them to look beyond that and find other things in the painting they can relate to. It's my attempt to connect on a more personal level."

By Audrey Arthur, ADA Creative Communications

To learn more about Corey Barksdale visit www.coreybarksdale.com.



A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart
and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten
the words. Unknown



Friends are the siblings, God never gave us. Unknown



There is no better time than now. The time to live is now.
The time to dream is now. The time to imagine and forget the past is now. The time to shine is now. The time to bleed, sweat, and determine yourself for the things you want most is now. Unknown



Every morning you are handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world that you get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. What will you do with this priceless treasure? Remember, you must use it, as it is given only once. Once wasted you cannot get it back. Unknown



May your glass be ever full. May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead. Irish Proverb



Here's to me, and here's to you, And here's to love and
laughter-I'll be true as long as you, And not one
moment after.

Wu-men Proverb



We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. Japanese Proverb

TIME OF MY LIFE MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"



Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've
never been hurt. Dance like nobody is watching.

Mark Twain



There is no better time than now. The time to live is now.
The time to dream is now. The time to imagine and forget
the past is now. The time to shine is now. The time to
bleed, sweat, and determine yourself for the things you
want most is now. Unknown



You must understand the whole of life, not just one little part of it. That is why you must read, that is why you must look at the skies, that is why you must sing and dance, and write poems, and suffer, and understand, for all that is life.

J. Krishnamurti



If you can walk you can dance. If you can talk you
can sing. Zimbabwe Proverb



Music washes away from the soul the dust of every-day life. Berthold Auerbach

FEEL SO GOOD MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS **48" x 30"**



For healthy living and loving relationships, every woman needs such a soul-sister. And every man needs such a soul-brother.

Henri Nouwen



Music is your own experience, your own thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn. They teach you there's a boundary line to music. But, man, there's no boundary line to art. Charlie Parker



There are many good reasons for drinking, One has
just entered my head- If a man doesn't drink when he's
living, How the hell can he drink when he's dead?.

Irish



A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What one can be, one must be. Abraham Maslow



Never give advice in a crowd. Arabian Proverb



Music is love in search of a word.

Sidonie Gabrielle

JAZZ REFLECTIONS II MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 60" x 36"



Love cannot express the idea of music, while music may
give an idea of love. Louis-Hector Berlioz



Brothers and sisters are as close as hands and feet. Unknown

SOUL SISTERS MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"

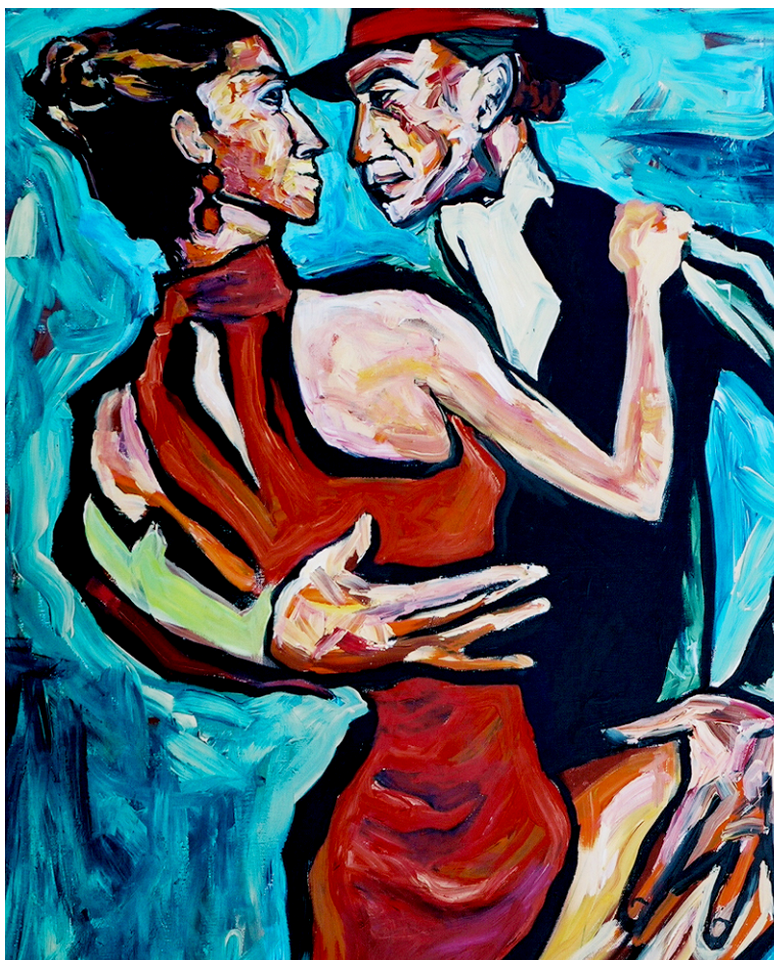


One belongs to New York instantly, one belongs to it as much in five minutes as in five years. Thomas Wolfe



Some of the greater things in life are unseen that's why
you close your eyes when you kiss, cry, or dream. Unknown

YOU SEND ME ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 30" x 48"



Within you I lose myself. Without you I find myself
wanting to become lost again. Unknown



To love someone who does not love you, is like shaking
a tree to make the dew drops fall. Congo Proverb

WARM EMBRACE ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 24" x 48"



I see my fated stars in your eyes. They melt me like the
sun does snow. Unknown

DANCE OF PASSION ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 24" x 48"



Every generation needs a new revolution. Thomas Jefferson

WE ARE HERE SOUL BROTHER ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"



Life is a shadow and a mist; it passes quickly by and is
no more. *Madagascar Proverb*



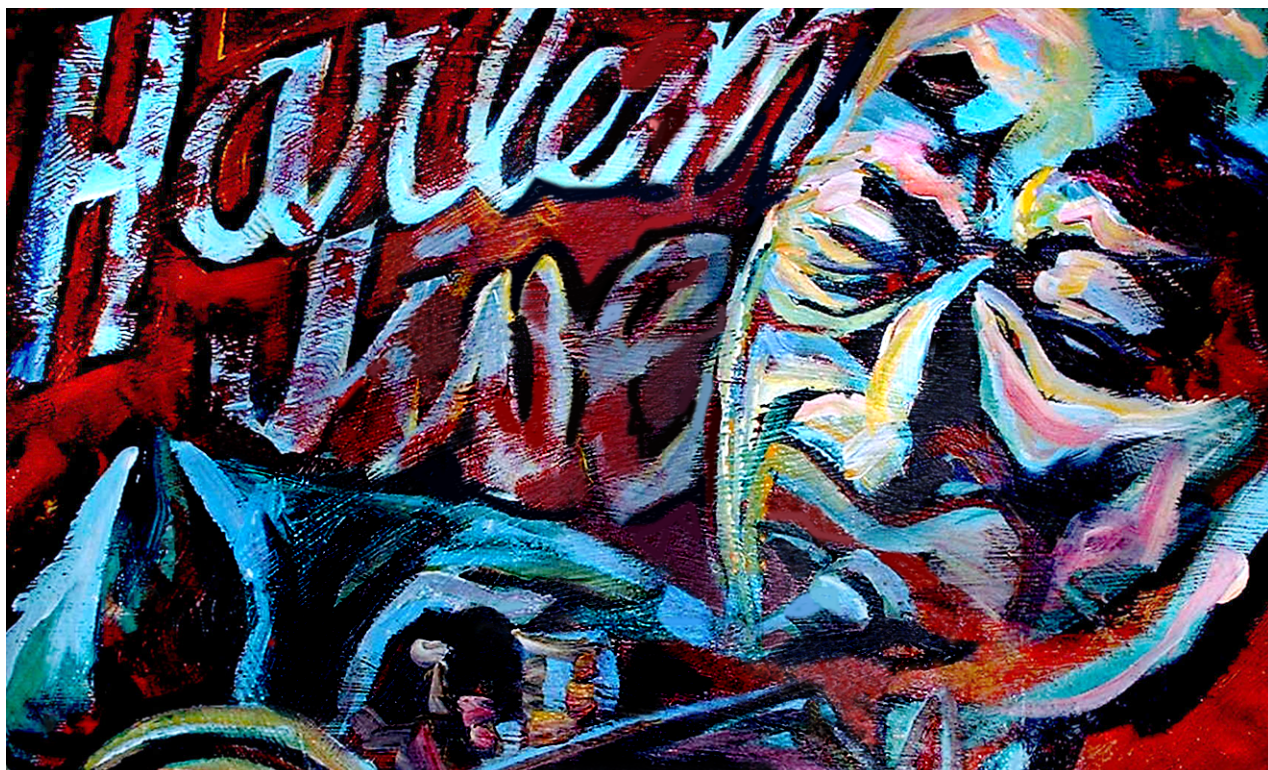
One man with courage makes a majority. Andrew Jackson

DELTA BLUES ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"



Warm summer sun, shine kindly here. Warm southern
wind, blow softly here. Green sod above, lie light, lie
light. Good night, dear Heart, Good night, good night.

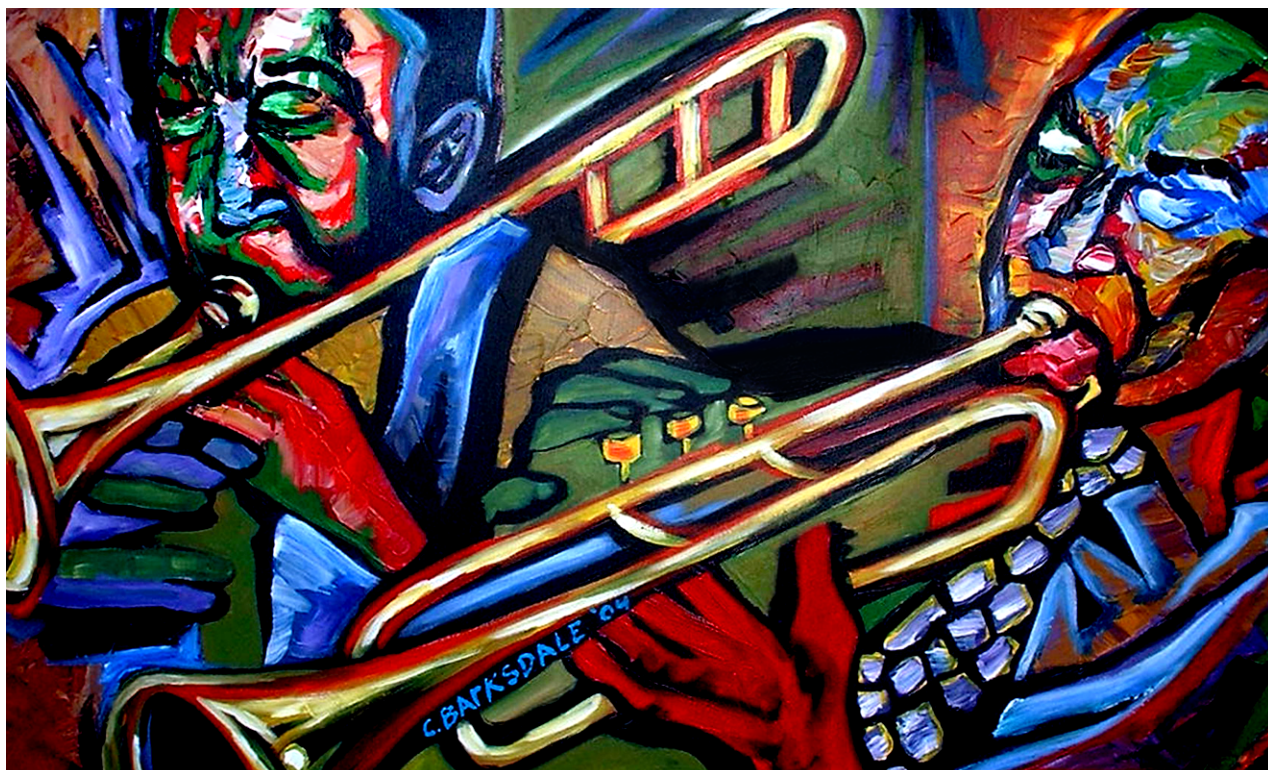
Mark Twain



It is essential to know that to be a happy person, a happy family, a happy society, it is very crucial to have a good heart, that is very crucial. World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just the absence of violence but the manifestation of human compassion.

Dalai Lama

HARLEM JIVE ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"



We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery.

H. G. Wells



Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

Unknown

SLEEPING BEAUTY ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 24" x 48"



Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy,
wealthy and wise. Unknown



Man is like palm-wine: when young, sweet but without strength; in old age, strong but harsh. Congo Proverb

SMOOTH JAZZ MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 24" x 30"



Hope is the dream of a soul awake. French Proverb

BASS MASTER ACRYLIC ON CANVAS **24" x 30"**



Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold — but so does a hard-boiled egg. Unknown



God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot
change, the courage to change the things I can, and the
wisdom to know the difference. Reinhold Niebuhr



The best relationship is the one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other. Unknown



A woman's tongue is her sword, and she does not let
it rust. French Proverbiu

THE CHILL OUT LOUNGE MIXED MEDIA/ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 40" x 30"



Life is the greatest bargain—we get it for nothing. Yiddish

COLTRANE ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 30" x 40"



Whatever good things we build end up building us. Jim Rohn



I've outdone anyone you can name — Mozart,
Beethoven, Bach, Strauss. Irving Berlin, he wrote 1,001
tunes. I wrote 5,500.

James Brown



Of all the music that reached farthest into heaven, it is
the beating of a loving heart. Henry Ward Beeche



The history of the world is none other than progress of
the consciousness of freedom. Unknown



The history of the world is none other than progress of
the consciousness of freedom. Unknown



Love is like a violin. The music may stop now and then,
but the strings remain forever. June Masters Bacher

JAZZ CRUSADER ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 24" x 48"

Corey Barksdale was born in Nashville, Tennessee on May 1972 into a family of Artists. He was exposed to color and form at an early age by his grandmother a quilt artist, and his mother who was gifted with an intuitive feeling for design and a fastidiousness for detail which she expressed in all aspects of her daily life. This rich beginning is the root of Barksdale's creative expression.

Barksdale earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at the prestigious Atlanta College of Art in 1994. During this period he was heavily influenced by the abstract expressionists and admired such mainstream artists as Jasper Johns, Clifford Still, William deKooning. The African-American masters Aaron Douglas, John Biggers, Romere Bearden, and William Tolliver instilled in him a appreciation of African/American artistic heritage.

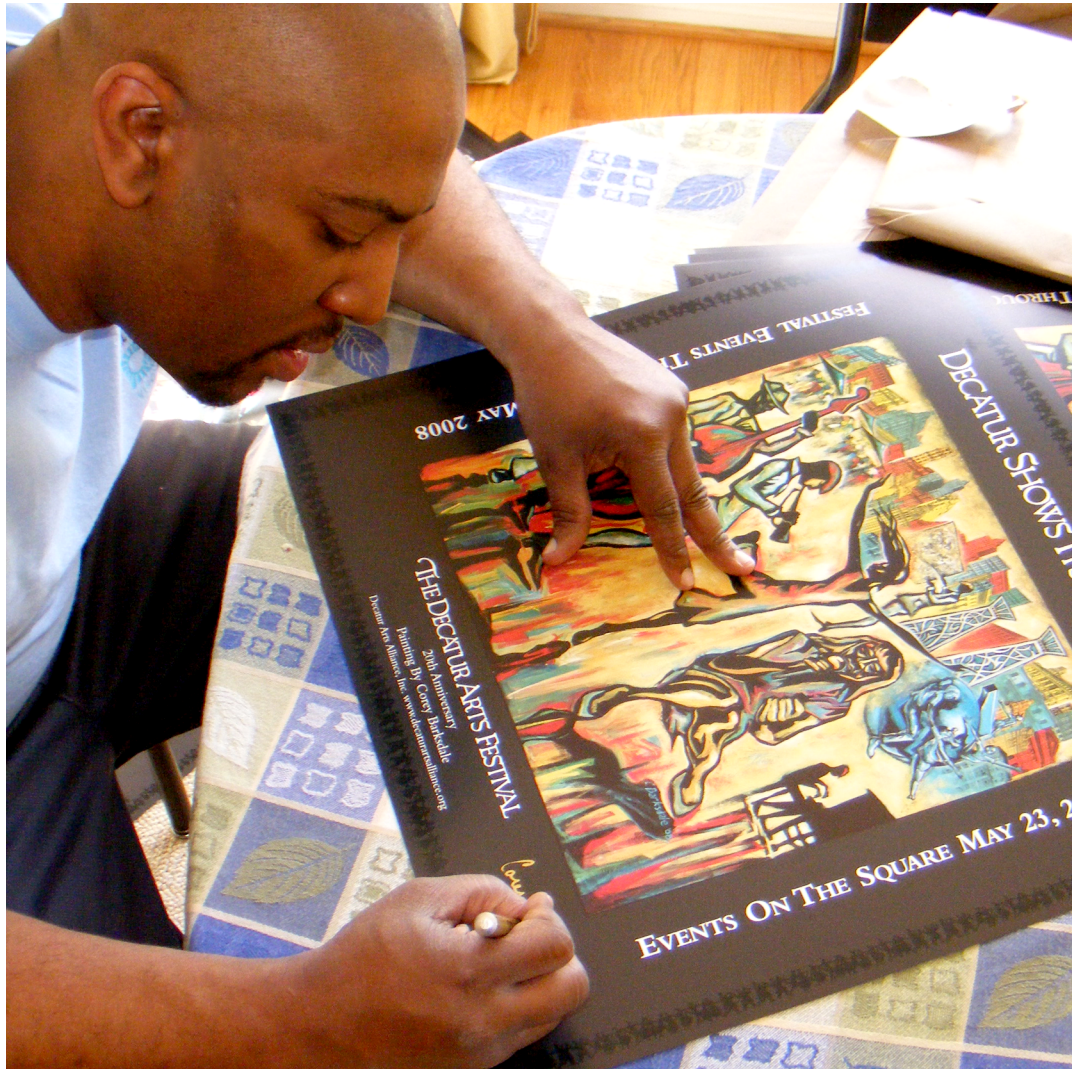
A prolific artist, his fine art subject matter ranges from human figures to non-objective abstracts. In recent years he has concentrated his talents on themes that portray the love and strength that exists within the African American community. His paintings grace the covers of books, magazines, CD covers, and posters. Among his convictions, is to give back to his community through art education.

Corey Barksdale, POB 50009, , Atlanta, GA 30302
www.coreybarksdale.com

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Thank you for your support and encouragement over the past 36 years. I really appreciate all that everyone has done for me. If I have left someone out please forgive me.



Faith has to do with things that are not seen, and hope with things that are not in hand. Saint Thomas Aquinas
