



STICKS and STONES

By Veronica Dorsett
& Christina Wong

Opening Reception:
Thurs 2nd Oct 2025
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

THE
D'Aquilar
ART
FOUNDATION



ABOUT THE SHOW

Sticks and Stones takes its name from the rhyme many of us learned as children: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” It was meant to make us resilient, but the truth is that words can cut far deeper than any weapon, leaving wounds that shape how we see ourselves. For many Black children, some of the earliest painful words came casually, wrapped in comments about acceptability: how our hair should be worn, what textures were “good,” and what was considered “too much.” These words clung to us longer than playground teasing and often became quiet weights carried into adulthood. In this duo exhibition, Christina Wong and Veronica Dorsett reconstruct these fragments of memory, peeling back the layers of beauty culture and generational expectation to create space for tenderness and honesty.

Wong’s series, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, is titled after a biblical phrase that speaks of the sacred and complex beauty of The Divine’s greatest creation, humanity. Each work transforms the hurtful words many of us heard growing up into affirmations of truth and pride. Rather than carrying the scars of comments like “your hair is too nappy” or “you’d look better with it straightened,” the titles uplift: “I love my nappy hair,” “My coils carry strength.” These declarations celebrate beauty as it is, without apology. Wong grew up with a mother who practiced cosmetology; salons were filled with the smell of chemicals, hot irons, and perfumes. They were places of community, laughter, and transformation, yet also spaces where certain ideals of beauty standards were reinforced, carrying pride and pressure.

Dorsett's works look inward to childhood in The Bahamas, where hair stores and perm boxes became markers of cultural aspiration and longing. Her figures radiate confidence and joy while interacting with nostalgic products, yet they also carry a quiet critique. Words like "soft & beautiful" are lifted from relaxer packaging and paired with natural hair, reversing the narrative that "softness" requires alteration and challenging the narrative that our natural hair is hard or unmanageable. She remembers being mesmerized by the girls on those boxes: smooth, shiny, tamed, only to later embrace an afro that defies gravity, knowing now that softness, beauty, and power were always there.

Together, their works honor the community that taught them how to survive in a world that rarely saw their beauty, while challenging the beliefs we once held as truth. We are beautiful. With each curl and kink, relaxed or natural, we are all made unique. The tones of our complexions, the various curves and dimples make us "reverently and exquisitely fashioned." In claiming that truth, while having hard conversations, we not only honor ourselves, but we also free the next generation to carry their crowns with pride, unburdened by the words that once weighed us down. The intention of this exhibition is to embolden us, to live honestly, to love ourselves deeply, and to walk proudly in our unique beauty.



VERONICA DORSETT

Veronica Dorsett is a visual artist whose practice encompasses a wide range of materials that focus a critical lens on Black hair politics and adolescence. Her current research explores nostalgia and muscle memory through the lens of childhood innocence and interests.

Born and raised in Freeport, Bahamas, Dorsett began her art studies at The College of The Bahamas where she graduated with an Associates of Art in 2013. In May 2017, she graduated from Emily Carr University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Critical & Cultural Practice and a minor in Curatorial Practice.

Dorsett has exhibited widely with several galleries throughout The Bahamas including The Current: ECCHO at BahaMar, The Rand Nature Centre Gallery, The Central Bank of The Bahamas, The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Popopstudios ICVA, and The D'Aguilar Art Gallery. Her work has also been shown at Ateliers'89 in Aruba, United Contemporary in Toronto, ON and ArtSpeak Gallery in Vancouver, BC.

She currently lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



www.veronicadorsett.com

CHRISTINA WONG

Christina Wong (b. 1995, Nassau, The Bahamas) is a painter, mixed-media artist and cultural worker, intrigued with psychology. In 2012, she received the 'E. clement Bethel National Arts Festival' award for a special recipient of arts & crafts in the country. Wong then graduated in 2016 from The College of The Bahamas with an Associate's in Art, and from Lee University in 2018 with a BFA in painting. She exhibited a collaborative installation for the 2016 National Exhibition 8 (NE8) curated by Holly Bynoe at The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas. Wong received Honorable Mention for the Central Bank Competition in 2019 for her piece inspired by Hurricane Dorian, "Everybody and Dey Grammy #hurricanedorian." From 2015 to 2020, she curated exhibitions for The Chan Pratt Foundation and Transforming Spaces in 2015 and 2016 for the formerly known College of The Bahamas. Her most recent accomplishment is her first solo exhibition at Hillside House called 'EMBRACE' which opened in 2024.



Wong is passionate about continual personal improvement and development as an artist. As a Black woman with a diverse ancestral background, she feels most connected to her Bahamian heritage, drawing inspiration from the cultural richness of Afro-Caribbean traditions. Guided by her empathetic nature, she uses her practice to advocate for issues of mental wellness in African diasporic communities, creating space for awareness and dialogue. Through her art, she reflects on her own experiences and those of her community, fostering connection, reflection, and a sense of pride. She also highlights the rhythms of everyday life, capturing moments that feel both personal and universal. Some of her works are a part of the Dawn Davies Collection and can be found in The Love & Responsibility 2 edition.

www.christinamwong.com/

CATALOG OF WORKS



First, Second or Third 01,
2025

Decorative paper collage
20" x 10"

\$1,075



First, Second or Third 02,
2025

Decorative paper collage
20" x 10"

\$1,075

CATALOG OF WORKS



First, Second or Third 03,
2025

Decorative paper collage
20" x 10"

\$1,075



She's Magic, 2025

Decorative paper collage
32" x 15"

\$1,775

CATALOG OF WORKS



She's Royal, 2025

Decorative paper collage
32" x 15"

\$1,775



She's Slick, 2025

Decorative paper collage
32" x 15"

\$1,775

CATALOG OF WORKS



Just For Me 01, 2025

Decorative paper collage
28" x 28"

\$3,650



Just For Me 02, 2025

Decorative paper collage
20" x 20"

\$2,850

CATALOG OF WORKS



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: Still I Rise, 2025

Mixed media on canvas
(Framed)
8" x 8"

\$950



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: Baby! You're
Beautiful, 2025

Mixed media on canvas
(Framed)
8" x 8"

\$950

CATALOG OF WORKS



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: Long Locs, Don't
Care, 2025

Mixed media on canvas
(Framed)
8" x 8"

\$950



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: My Coils Carry
Strength, 2025

Mixed media on canvas
(Framed)
8" x 8"

\$950

CATALOG OF WORKS



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: I Love My Nappy
Hair, 2025

Mixed media on wood
panel (Framed)
16" x 18"

\$1,200



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made: I Am Loved, 2025

Mixed media on wood
panel (Framed)
16" x 16"

\$1,200

CATALOG OF WORKS



Fearfully & Wonderfully
Made, 2025

Oil on canvas
48" x 36"

\$3,000

CATALOG OF WORKS



Fearfully &
Wonderfully Made II,
2025

Oil on canvas
24" x 36"

\$2,400



OPENING HOURS

Tuesdays: 10 AM - 4 PM

Wednesdays: 10 AM - 4 PM

Thursdays: By Appointment Only

CONTACT US

Phone: +1 (242) 605-2009

Email: daf_art_events@yahoo.com

8A Virginia St., Nassau,
The Bahamas

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Facebook & Instagram:

@daguiarartfoundation

Website:

daguiarartfoundation.com