

ARTISTS TO WATCH

Freeze Frames

The work of these inspiring up-and-coming talents captures personal perspectives on unique moments in time

Jerrell Gibbs

“The mundane is valuable because these are our stories,” says Baltimore artist Jerrell Gibbs, whose figurative paintings are rooted in his upbringing, family, and community—narratives that are often overlooked by mainstream media. Gibbs was in the MFA program at the Maryland Institute College of Art a couple of years ago when his work was discovered by dealer Mariane Ibrahim, who is mounting his first solo exhibition at her Chicago gallery this September.

into his past, gently revealing parts of his life. “When I look at the pictures in photo albums or think about conversations that I’ve had with family and friends, I’m thinking about the stories that are left out,” says Gibbs.

In his newest series, “Sounds of Color,” which will be exhibited this fall, Gibbs considers the role music has in his life and the voices of the people his art represents. With each piece titled after a specific musical note, he plays with the contrast of dark skin tones against pastel backgrounds. From *C Sharp* to *B Sharp*, the paintings’ titles ascend in pitch with correlating color schemes. As the pitch goes higher, the palette shifts from warm to cool.

Ultimately, Gibbs hopes that viewers’ eyes will be opened by his art, which has been acquired by Beijing’s X Museum, the Columbus Museum of Art in Ohio, and most recently the Baltimore Museum of Art. “My paintings act as a voice for the stories that haven’t been told,” the artist says. “My goal is to have people see and hear what I see and hear—our truths.” marianeibrahim.com

—KENDRA WALKER

Jerrell Gibbs in Mariane Ibrahim’s studio space in Chicago, preparing for his September exhibition. **Below:** The artist with recent works.

