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INDIANAPOLIS– Gallery 924 will present a group show featuring Indianapolis-based artists Mason Archie, Jay Parnell, and Lobyn Hamilton October 4 - 25. The three Creative Renewal Arts Fellows have been meeting informally for years discussing art, politics, identity, life, and culture. The show, entitled, Circles: The Renaissance, The Rebirth, The Remix, offers a visual representation of these conversations. The artists’ collective goal for the exhibition is to come together as an artistic brotherhood with black culture and the black experience as the foundation of the work presented.

The show will touch on many aspects of the black experience, both universally known and deeply personal. Mason Archie shares a few pieces from a current exploration of sites found along the Underground Railroad, Jay Parnell continues to explore his hauntingly beautiful portraits, and Lobyn Hamilton explores found objects in a very powerful and personal journey.

Circles: the Renaissance, the Rebirth, the Remix also represents the current state of each artist’s career. Each of them have a rich history of making high-level figurative artwork in Indianapolis and beyond, but are at different periods in their career and artistic growth. Their mentor-like relationship over the past many years has been a powerful catalyst for new work and has resulted in this exhibition.
“This show is truly a curator’s dream come true. The throughlines that connect the artists and the work are powerful, meaningful, and timely. The three artists represent some of the most well respected, thoughtful, and challenging figurative work by Indianapolis-based artists right now. Our hope is that the show will prove to be an amazing opportunity for collectors to experience the dynamic confluence of these artists coming together and reflecting off of their shared and individual experiences. The opportunity to see these three artists together, each of a different generation and with their own unique style, is incredibly exciting for our community,” said Shannon M Linker, Director of Gallery 924.

A special collector’s night and artist talk is being planned for Thursday, October 24 from 5-8pm.

**Mason Archie**  
**2007 - 2008 Creative Renewal Arts Fellow**

Archie was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, but has lived in Indianapolis, Indiana for many years. His early art experience came while working as Art Director and pictorial artist for Lamar Outdoor Advertising. He turned his sights to full-time art making in 2005 and almost instantly reached success pursuing traditional realism, using quality materials and techniques he learned through the intensive study of its masters. Archie’s work has been exhibited at the Schuster Art Center, Indiana State Museum, Charles H. Wright Museum, The National African American Museum and Cultural Center, The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. He has also been featured in The International Review of African American Art, American Art Collector, and The American Art Review.

His works are in the collections of the Indiana State Museum, The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American Art, Nationwide Corporation, Wells Fargo, Elanco, Division of Eli Lilly, Eskenazi Health, Community South Hospital, and a host of private collections around the country.

Mason Archie is presently traveling the country painting the historic sites of the Underground Railroad. The resulting paintings are scheduled for exhibition in New York in 2020.

Learn more about Mason at masonarchie.com

**Jay Parnell**  
**2007- 2008 Creative Renewal Arts Fellow**

Parnell is an Indianapolis painter specializing in narrative based figurative work. Originally
working as a professional photographer and illustrator, Parnell transitioned to fine art, incorporating his love of story-telling with his passion for painting.

Parnell has focused on many aspects of family relationships and black identity. His current body of work focuses on spiritual awakenings using characters as the story. He draws inspiration from history painters, Christian iconographers, and fashion photographers.

Some noteworthy achievements: Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, solo exhibitions at J Martin Gallery, Schilders Week artist residency in the Netherlands, selected for the High Art Billboard Project (a program of Reagan Outdoor Advertising and the Arts Council of Indianapolis) and has work in national and international collections. Parnell is currently represented by E&S Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky.

Learn more about Parnell at jayparnell.com

Walter Lobyn Hamilton
2015 -2016 Creative Renewal Arts Fellow
Hamilton (b. 1985, Indianapolis, IN) is a self-taught visual artist who creates representational collages with vinyl records and album covers. He is known for his renderings of political and social figures, social movements, as well as cultural and musical icons. Hamilton found his first artistic influences in the poster art his father hung in his room and through the early Saturday morning visits to the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Many of the icons and musical artists who covered his walls would later become the muse of many works created through his vinyl art expression. As far as his appreciation for music and vinyl, Hamilton first began collecting records after he received his first turntable set for Christmas at age 15. Since that time he has amassed a record collection of over 30,000 LPs. His love for vinyl and the artists recorded on them is undeniable and unwavering.

Most recently, Hamilton’s focus infuses original content that allows for more engaging narratives which evokes introspective dialogue. Unrecognizable figures within the new framework places more emphasis on nostalgia, the recording on the album, the vinyl as a medium, social observations and imagery.

Hamilton’s work has been in publications including the New Yorker, Complex Magazine, The Chicago Tribune, and the IRAAAA. His is in many notable collections as well as seen on the set of all three seasons of Fox’s hit show Empire.
Learn more about Hamilton at vinylrecordartist.com

*Circles: The Renaissance, The Rebirth, The Remix*, will open Friday, October 4 with an opening reception from 6 - 9 pm.

About the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship Program
The Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship Program awards forty $10,000 fellowships every other-year to qualified professional artists and arts administrators. Since its launch in 1999, more than 400 grants have been awarded, infusing more than $3.7 million into the Indianapolis community. The Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship Program is made possible thanks to generous funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc.

About Gallery 924 at the Arts Council of Indianapolis
Gallery 924 at the Arts Council of Indianapolis is a non-profit gallery space that provides a mixture of programming that highlights central Indiana contemporary artists in curated solo and group shows.

Connect with Gallery 924 on Facebook/gallery924, Twitter and Instagram @artscouncilindy, and online at indyarts.org/gallery924.

About the Arts Council of Indianapolis
The Arts Council of Indianapolis is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to fostering meaningful and equitable engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations thrive. The Arts Council administers the City of Indianapolis Annual Grants Program providing funding to arts and cultural organizations through a competitive public panel review; offers artist fellowship opportunities including the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Robert D. Beckmann, Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship, and the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award; provides programs, services, and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations; manages the Public Art for Neighborhoods initiative; supports arts education and arts integration in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools; and owns/operates the Indianapolis Artsgarden, Gallery 924, and IndyArtsGuide.org.

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