

Prairie View Artists Shine in Prestigious Art Collection

Prairie View artists Ann Johnson and Lauren Kelley have works in the prestigious Elliot Perry art collection. Elliot Perry is a top collector of African American contemporary art. His collection is traveling the country in an exhibition titled: *Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliot and Kimberly Perry Collection*. The exhibit boasts 50 works by 36 African American artists including three Houston artists: Lauren Kelley-Oliver, Ann Johnson, and Robert Pruitt. The exhibition features several of the biggest names in contemporary African American art including Chakaia Booker, Michael Ray Charles, Carrie Mae-Weems, Rashid Johnson, Kehinde Wiley, and Kara Walker. The artists in this collection work on the cutting edge with a variety of media—including painting, photography, collage, sculpture, prints, and video, placing an emphasis on today's issues. The exhibition is currently on view at the Charles Wright Museum in Flint Michigan.





Images: (opposite page) **"Egyptian Collar"**, Mixed Media, 2001, Ann 'Sole Sister' Johnson

(above) **"Pickin"**, Digital C Print, 1999, Lauren Kelley-Oliver



Lauren Kelley-Oliver serves on staff at Prairie View A&M University overseeing the university's art gallery. She has been a resident of the Skowhegan School, the MFAH, and Glassell School's Core Program as well as the Studio Museum in Harlem. Her work has been exhibited at the New Museum, New York, NY; Spellman College Museum of Fine Arts, Atlanta, GA; Sikkema Jenkins & Co. New York, NY, LACE, Los Angeles, CA, and Project Row Houses, Houston, TX. Reviews on her work have appeared in The New Yorker, Art:21 Blog, Art in America, ArtLies, Houston Chronicle, and Houston Press.



Ann 'Sole Sister' Johnson is an artist who paints portraits with her feet. Yes her feet!!!! Born in London, England and raised in Cheyenne, WY, Ann is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University, and an instructor in the department of Art. She has also received an MA in Humanities from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, as well as an MFA from The Academy of Art University, in San Francisco. In 2011 she received the distinguished Presidents Faculty of the year award from Prairie View A&M. She has had residencies at Tougaloo Art Colony, in Mississippi, Texas Children's Hospital, and Project Row Houses, in Houston, TX. She has exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Longview Museum of Fine Art, The California African American Art Museum and is represented by Hooks Epstien Gallery in Houston, TX.