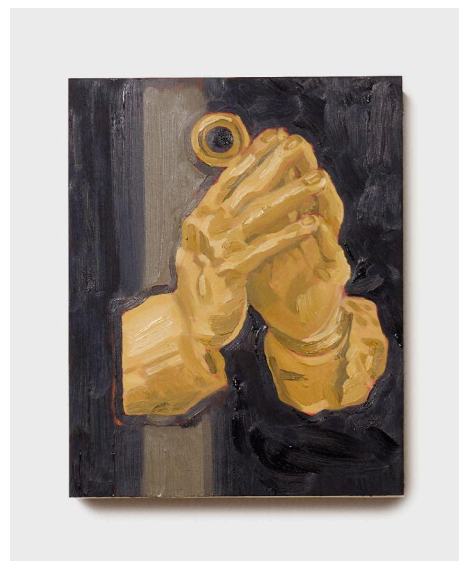


# The Irony of Capacity: *A Dark, Black Comedy*

## New works by Kyrae Dawaun

On view December 16, 2023, through January 27, 2024

Opening reception: Saturday, December 16, 5–7pm  
1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Kyrae Dawaun, *pitched hands*, 2022

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present Kyrae Dawaun's solo exhibition, *The Irony of Capacity: a Dark, Black Comedy*. His play on the realist tradition, Dawaun's latest body of work offers an array of quotidian abstractions in sculpture, and trials of look-alike jokes via portraiture.

In Dawaun's paintings, celebrities and pop culture icons are rendered through a lens of the mundane. Sculptural prompts and domestic fixtures set the stage for the familiar figures. From residues of spring cherries to reliquaries of grapeseed reduction, Dawaun's series of organic seasonal sculptures demonstrate black as rich in color and complex in form.

### Artist exhibition statement

Vignettes, or scenic abbreviations, bolstering paint material, organic and mineral, casted or coating, are sculptural abstractions for an unveiling, and homie odes for encouragement sake. An orchestrated stage of characters lie within my sculptural prompts, architectural fixtures, and mediocre figurative paintings. My prowess in paint chemistries appreciates material resource and decentralizes the necessity of epitome in a single painting. I interrogate the coveted position of dominion and supremacy, typically denying dignified participation by thou neighbor.

The inevitable stranger, the dark one, the black American, oh the beauty of who that could be. Look alike jokes are imperfect, simplifying, celebratory, and in most cases an attempt to draw upon belonging. Yet, black is beautiful, a naturally colloquial maxim of my upbringing. Romantically likewise, may imply the naming of its capacity as intangible, and undeniable. This paradox is not in vain, rather for convening the expanse of a black condition beyond a personhood, or despair, toward a trans-geological being.

This exhibition serves as a spatially engaged play on language; the stage contemplates black as it is used in a great expanse of meaning. Through the seasons, black cultures have been the root of US popular culture. Black is exhaust, reduction, concentration, energy, opacity, depth, emptiness, absence, and grievance, as my words cannot hold. The fallen man is depicted, the concentration of carbon is captured, the projection of stillness plastered. —Kyrae Dawaun

**A virtual artist talk will be held on Thursday, January 4, 6–7pm. [Link to register here](#). An artist-led exhibition walkthrough will be held on Saturday, January 27.** In addition, the exhibition will be activated by a series of curated libation tastings and live music performances. Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kyrae Dawaun, born in Queens, NY, transplanted onto Baltimore, MD, then Washington, DC. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Corcoran College of Art + Design in 2013, later a Master of Fine Art at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020. He manages his studio practice between Baltimore and D.C. Dawaun has been invited to work, reside, and exhibit in Los Angeles, Italy, Toronto, and Berlin. In 2016, Pyramid Atlantic hosted him as a Denbo Fellow, awarded an Arts and Humanities Fellowship with DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (2017). Recent exhibitions include, *New Waves* at Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in Hampton Roads (2020), *In-Practice* at Sculpture Center in Long Island City (2021,) *Cursing the Very God* at MOCA Arlington (2022), *Doing the Work* at the Kreeger Museum (2023), and *"A Red Fare"* part of the Sondheim Prize Finalist Exhibition (2023). Kyrae Dawaun is a 2021–2023 Hamiltonian Artists Fellow.



### ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to build a dynamic community of innovative artists and effective visual art leaders by providing professional development opportunities to early-career artists and by advancing their entrepreneurial success. In 2007, Paul So, an avid painter and a physics professor at George Mason University, founded Hamiltonian Artists and Hamiltonian Gallery with the vision of creating an innovative career incubator program for emerging visual artists. In 2019, the Board of Directors of Hamiltonian Artists chose to merge the two organizations into a single 501c3 nonprofit to better serve the mission.

Today, Hamiltonian Artists is a dynamic catalyst for DC's creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in Washington, DC. Through its unique investment into the next generation of cutting-edge artists, Hamiltonian helps artists to develop important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career. Through a two-year artist fellowship, artist talks, public events and its membership program, the organization contributes to the vitality of DC's burgeoning arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.



### **VISIT**

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [ha-dc.org](http://ha-dc.org).

### **CONTACT**

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, fellowship manager:

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Images available [here](#).