

HARTFORD 21

Proudly presents



The works of



Joe Sam.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I was born and raised in Harlem, New York City. I vividly remember looking at colors and textures. I spent a lot of time looking at hues of peeling paint. It was that old lead-based paint that peeled periodically, especially when the ceiling leaked. We always had these incredible designs on our walls.

I am a mixed media artist. Whenever possible I use materials in the state in which they were found. Whatever the media, the surface of my work is textured or shaped. My work reflects the fact that I'm a Black artist. My colors, patterns, and designs are multi-faceted and combine many parallel elements in a single piece of work analogous to the way African derived music combines parallel rhythmic and melodic elements. The content of my work reflects issues and ideas concerning people of color.

Joe Sam.



ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

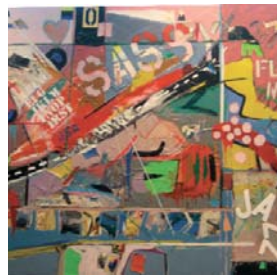
Floor 1



Connecticut Pond Life
Mixed Media on canvas
15 x 5'



Blues
Music Series
Mixed Media on canvas
48 x 62"



Sassy
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 6'

Floor 2



Chocolate Eyes
Chocolate Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



Chocolate Smile
Chocolate Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



Chocolate Boat
Chocolate Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



Chocolate Woman
Chocolate Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Floor 3



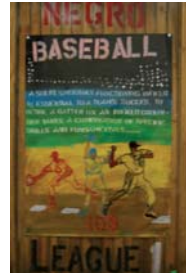
Untitled (Quilt 1)
Afro-Asian Quilt Series
Mixed Media on canvas
82 x 64"



Untitled (Yellow Frame)
Afro-Asian Quilt Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 5'



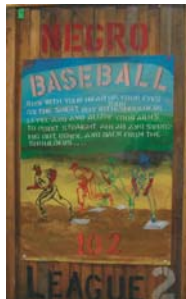
Duke
Jazz Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 6.5'



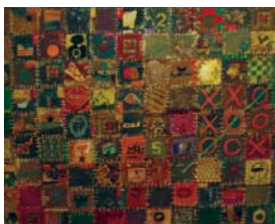
Throwing
Baseball Series
Mixed Media on canvas
27 x 44"



Tiananmen Square
Mixed Media on canvas
8 x 4' (Triptic)



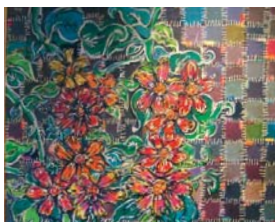
Running the Bases
Baseball Series
Mixed Media on canvas
27 x 44"



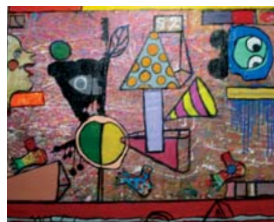
Crazy Quilt
Afro-Asian Quilt Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 4.5'



Hitting
Baseball Series
Mixed Media on canvas
27 x 44"



Flower
Afro-Asian Quilt Series
Mixed Media on canvas
7 x 6'



In the Child's Room
Children's Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 5'

ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Floor 3



Untitled
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
4 x 4'



Itaparica
Brazil Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 5'



Fish
Ecology Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 8'



Brazil
Brazil Series
Mixed Media on canvas
6 x 5'



We Love Rainforest Colors
Diptic
Ecology Series
Mixed Media on canvas
9' x 35" (top), 9 x 5' (bottom)



ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Floor 8



Hurricane
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



Hail Storm
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'

Floor 23



Untitled
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'



Absolut Vodka
Absolut Vodka Series
Mixed Media on canvas
36 x 40"



Rainbow
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 4'

Floor 35



Bobby McFerlin
Medicine Man Album
Mixed Media on canvas
8 x 6'



ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Atrium



California Coast
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 7' (Triptic)



Untitled
Heaven & Earth Series
Mixed Media on canvas
5 x 6'



BIOGRAPHY

JoeSam. is a mixed media painter and sculptor. The content of his work is often social and political commentary. His style is characterized by the juxtaposition of diverse, independent, often quite simple elements and his use of bright colors, reflective of his African American heritage.

Joe was born in Harlem during an important time in its history after the Harlem renaissance and before WW II. He holds degrees from Howard, Columbia and UMass Amherst. He went to San Francisco in the late 70's, and began his art career full-time in the early 1980's with the Black Cowboy series and an NEA grant.

Since then, *JoeSam.* has achieved national and international recognition. Among his accomplishments, he has illustrated several children's books, won awards in the bilingual markets for *The Invisible Hunters* and his public art sculptures have been installed all over the country with many important works located in California. JoeSam.'s limited edition *Art-Pins*, all replicas of his public sculptures, were issued for each commissioned work and sold in museum stores nationwide. His work is sought by collectors all over the world as African American art is highly valued internationally.

His decision to move to Connecticut comes from having friends and family throughout the Northeast. The Hartford area was central with a nice quality of life, yet it was the deep cultural roots and diversity in an accessible city that ultimately drew him to build a studio here. Most interesting is how well this area suits the internationally recognized African American artist and how embracing the people of Hartford have been. Joe loves the things that Hartford is doing.....revolutionary really welcoming him here, and all he brings with him.

It's so great the vision to host this retrospective of a major artist in a venue here in Hartford where we (those of us who live here) are proud of our diversity and our renaissance.

JoeSam.





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