

“Artists have a unique opportunity to make a difference . . . to look and work toward the future. Most people, by the nature of their work, have to think about what’s happening now, to serve as kind of custodians of our culture; but artists have the opportunity and responsibility to be forward-looking. We have the job of creating new ideas and visions for the future, and I’m pleased to be a part of that.”

- Richard Hunt (1935-2024)

Inspired by the words of his friend and sculptor, Richard Hunt, artist/designer Robert Paige seeks to support the ideas and inventions of other artists. Over the years, Paige has amassed a group of makers, who he deeply admires and respects for their advice, commitment to craftsmanship and interest in a community aesthetic. Paige describes this circle of artists with whom he discusses ideas and materials as his “parapluie”, the French word for umbrella. It is also a symbol of creative community for him. This exhibition highlights functional and two dimensional artwork by artists selected by Paige.

The idea of the *Parapluie* is based on the Omega Workshops (London 1913-1919), an applied arts company that sold objects and fabrics by artists and designers, formed to erase boundaries between decorative art and fine art with a modernist aesthetic. In conjunction with the solo exhibition *The United Colors of Robert Earl Paige*, Paige invited these artists to present their work that relates to his enthusiasm for color, pattern, and purpose-driven design. There is no hierarchy between art, craft, design and function in this exhibition. Instead, the artists included in *Parapluie* uphold the idea that beauty should be accessible to everyone and is all around us.

# Parapluie

April 6 - October 27  
Gallery 2



Installation view of *Parapluie*.

## Participating Artists

**Lori Bartman**

**Matty DeVita**

**Espi Frazier**

**Malika Jackson**

**Terah Jené**

**Turtel Onli**

**Brian Parris**

**Tony Smith**

**Dorian Sylvain**

**Bernard Williams**

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

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Based in Chicago, **Lori Bartman** is a studio artist working in clay, fiber, and works on paper. Embracing random variation and imperfection is central to Bartman's creative process across mediums, lending evidence of the human touch in all her work. She received a BA in Studio Art from University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in Printmaking from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture. Bartman's work has been shown in exhibitions nationally since 1975, and is in numerous public and private collections. Her professional experience includes extensive arts administration and curatorial positions.



**Matty DeVita** (b. 1992, Coon Rapids, MN) lives and works in Chicago. DeVita is an interdisciplinary artist focusing on tattooing, quilting, ceramics, and drawing. Inspired by rhythm and movement in music and nature, his work emerges from the balancing point between pattern and improvisation. DeVita received a BA in Studio Art in 2014 from Lewis & Clark College.



Born in Chicago, Illinois, and a Baltimore resident since 1993, **Espi Frazier** is a visual artist, art instructor, and fiber artist. Frazier received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art under Professor Grace Hartigan. Frazier has been an instructor at Friends School of Baltimore since 1993.



**Malika Jackson** is an interdisciplinary artist. She has exhibited work at Chicago State University, Woman Made Gallery, South Side Community Art Center among many others. Jackson received awards from the Diaspora Rhythms Foundation and the City of Chicago. She has taught at Chicago Public Schools and curated the Cultural Connections Fine Art Festival for the past 20 years. Jackson holds a BFA and an MFA from SAIC. She is also a resident artist and long-time student of Painting and Ceramics at the Art Center and Center Program alumn.



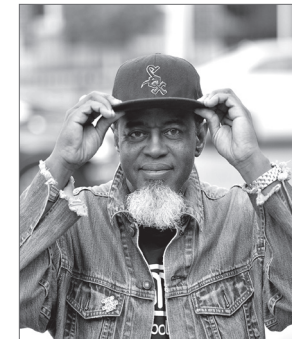
**Terah Jené** is a multidisciplinary artist, working in performing arts and mixed media on a larger scale, based in Chicago. Their current practice is interested in creating sculpture from many different materials but especially paper and clay. Jené's work is inspired largely by their own life experiences, with a comedic approach.



**Turtel Onli** (b. 1952, Chicago, IL) is an American artist, entrepreneur, author, art therapist, educator, and publisher. He has also distinguished himself in painting, drawing, illustration, publishing, and fashion. Onli earned a BFA and MAAT from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago which included studies at the Sorbonne and the Centre Pompidou. He is known for having coined the term Rhythmistic in the '70s to interpret his stylizations which fuse primitive and futuristic concepts. His works are in extensive collections including at the Chicago Children's Museum, Dusable Museum, Johnson Publishing Company.



**Brian Parris** is a Bajan-American ceramic artist and the Ceramics Department Head at the art center. He is known for his functional pottery with a modern aesthetic via his water-relief/hydro-abrasion technique and sprayed engobe on wheel-thrown porcelain clay. Brian's unique surface decoration is an abstraction of the world around him that serves to decorate and reinterpret functional porcelain forms. Inspired by his birthplace of New York City and his upbringing in the Pacific North-West, his pieces reference nature and his urban surroundings embedded in organic and geometric shapes.



**Tony Andre' Smith** is an award-winning multimedia artist, instructor, documentary filmmaker, and musician. He photographed African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond by Daniel Parker, and published Oscar Brown Jr.'s book of poetry What It Is. He attended Morehouse College and graduate school at SAIC. He was the Executive Director of XYZ Gallery, and for over 3 decades in Chicago, he exhibited his photography and films highlighting Black art and culture at the art center, DCASE, the DuSable Museum, the South Side Community Arts Center, Mariano's, the Logan Center and throughout Chicago.



**Dorian Sylvain** is a painter whose color and texture explore ornamentation, pattern, and design as identifiers of cultural and historical foundations. She is a studio painter, muralist, art educator, curator, and community planner. Her public work addresses issues of beautification inspired by color palettes and patterns found throughout the African diaspora, particularly architecture. Building the next generation of cultural keepers to elevate neighborhood aesthetics and foster shared understanding has been core to her practice. Sylvain has partnered with the art center and many more.



**Bernard Williams** is an established artist working in painting, sculpture, installation, and public art, based in Chicago. He holds a BFA from the UIC at Urbana-Champaign and an MFA from Northwestern University. Among many accolades, he has exhibited his works nationally, been represented by the N'Namdi Gallery, received grants from the Illinois Arts Council, and was artist-in-residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He began painting murals in the early '90s with the Chicago Public Art Group, and in recent years, has created several outdoor steel sculptures in the city and nationally.