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Gee Horton Studios

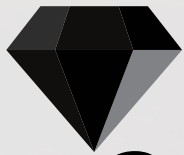
Gee Horton Biography

Gee Horton (b. 1983, Louisville, KY; lives and works in Cincinnati, OH) made his solo debut into the contemporary art world with his 2021 [award-winning gallery exhibit](#) "Coming of Age Chapter I – In Search of Self...Identity." Taking place at the prestigious Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery in downtown Cincinnati, the self-taught artist's hyper-realistic charcoal and graphite portraits invited visitors to explore the beauty and complexities of modern adolescence. The solo exhibit demonstrated Gee's immersive, multidimensional artwork that shone a light onto themes of personal identity, objectifications of the Black body, the cultural impact of contemporary media, his search for ancestral connection, and the preservation of innocence. Through the lens of social work, Gee's multidisciplinary art is a navigation of societal influences and psychosocial development as seen through his photography, large-scale installations, and a short film that fascinates the eye while provoking contemplation.

Gee's work is included in numerous private and public collections including The Mercantile Library and The Cincinnati Art Museum. The Emmy-award winning artist is nationally recognized for his featured artwork on the HBO TV series "Insecure" and Amazon Prime's "Harlem" as well as, the Cincinnati Music Hall, and The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. In 2021, he completed his [artist-in-residency at The Mercantile Library of Cincinnati](#) completing a six-foot portrait of Black abolitionist and writer Peter H. Clark. As a grant recipient for ArtsWave's Truth and Reconciliation project, he developed "[The Baobab Project](#)," a continual collaboration designed to hold space for Black men to explore their vulnerability as they remember their own coming of age. Gee was recognized as one of seven Black leaders and change-makers in Cincinnati and was the [2022 May cover story for the Cincinnati Enquirer](#) where his unexpected journey into the fine art world is documented in detail. Most recently, Gee is taking his talents to Senegal in the summer of 2022 for an artist-in-residency with the global organization [Diasporicsoul](#).



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Gallery plaque for Gee's debut gallery exhibit

COMING OF AGE CHAPTER I

IN SEARCH OF SELF... IDENTITY

"Those with the dominant voices will be the ones to create the narrative," says Gee Horton. "This work is for those who've been told they are voiceless."

It is equally the power of his pencil as it is the refinement of his intellect that has magnetized a global audience for the self-taught artist. Through visual storytelling, Horton cracks into his personal history as a Black man navigating American culture and the tensions and contradictions this entails.

For his inaugural show, "COMING OF AGE CHAPTER 1—In Search of Self...Identity," Horton introduces a series of hyper-realistic charcoal and graphite drawings depicting the human form juxtaposed against contemporary cultural symbols. Through this annotation of societal behaviors, he simultaneously fascinates the eye and brings his subjects to life. The intimate portraits of his own niece and nephew are his style of next-generation narration, ultimately becoming a channel for Gee to study his own adolescence.

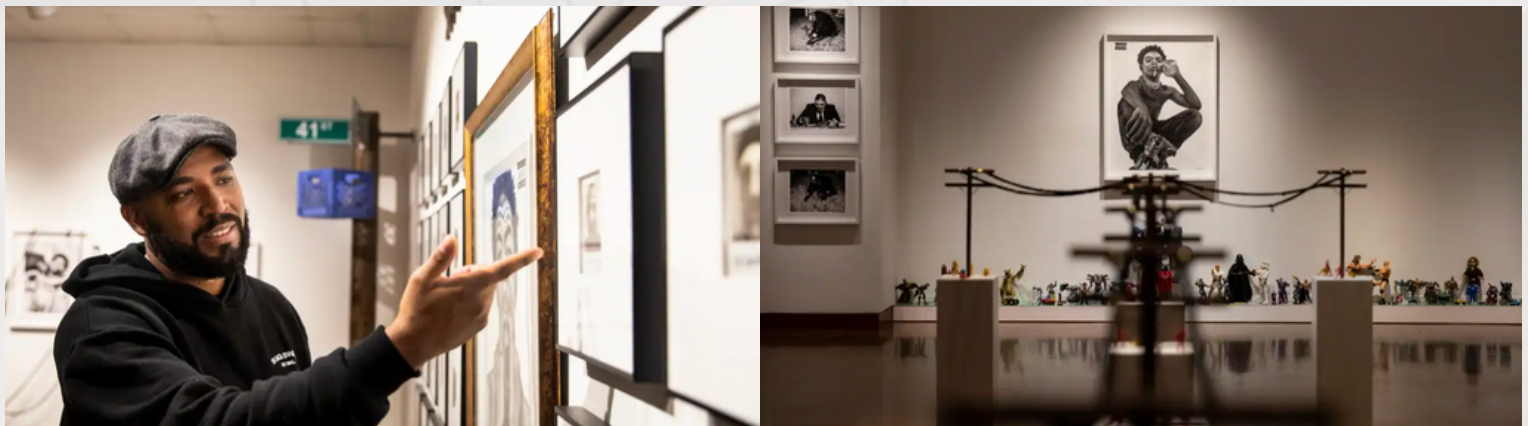
Considered a self-study, these artistic offerings look towards Horton's inner child who desperately wants to be seen as more than a statistic. It is this translation of darkness through the delicate and elegant edges of his illustrations that make this body of work an act of resistance. Thematically, he touches on the complexities of male adolescence, preservation of innocence, objectification of the Black body, personal identity, the influence of media, and the weight of one's choices. These meditations on the page have resulted in stories that give voice to the Black experience—the human experience—serving as a place to see and be seen. In Horton's exploratory exhibit, he moves us closer to his truths through the use of new mediums, incorporating sculpture, life-size installations, photography, and film.

In this creative sojourn to the self, he proudly reveals his own choices, choosing art over aggression. And because art is the medicine, Horton is the alchemist transforming trauma into tangible iconography.

"Every flower deserves the right to fully blossom."

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THANK

Lex Nycole; Co-Curator, Noah Beiting; Installation Director, Shay Nartker; Film Director, Jason Carter; Photographer, Phyllis Jeffers-Coly; Healer-Restorative Yoga Practitioner, Eric Blyth; Design Consultant, Chas Wiederhold; Architecture Consultant; Liv Hooson; Literary Consultant





Gallery plaque for Gee's Cincinnati Art Museum works

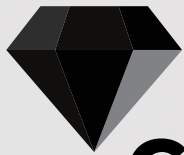


Gee Horton's "Coming of Age" series is a visual and thematic exploration of the complexities of African American adolescence. Through the iconography of hip-hop music and contemporary culture, he dignifies and celebrates the Black experience while addressing the vulnerability of youth. Using charcoal and graphite, the artist brings his portraits to life through hyperrealist drawings that demand to be seen.

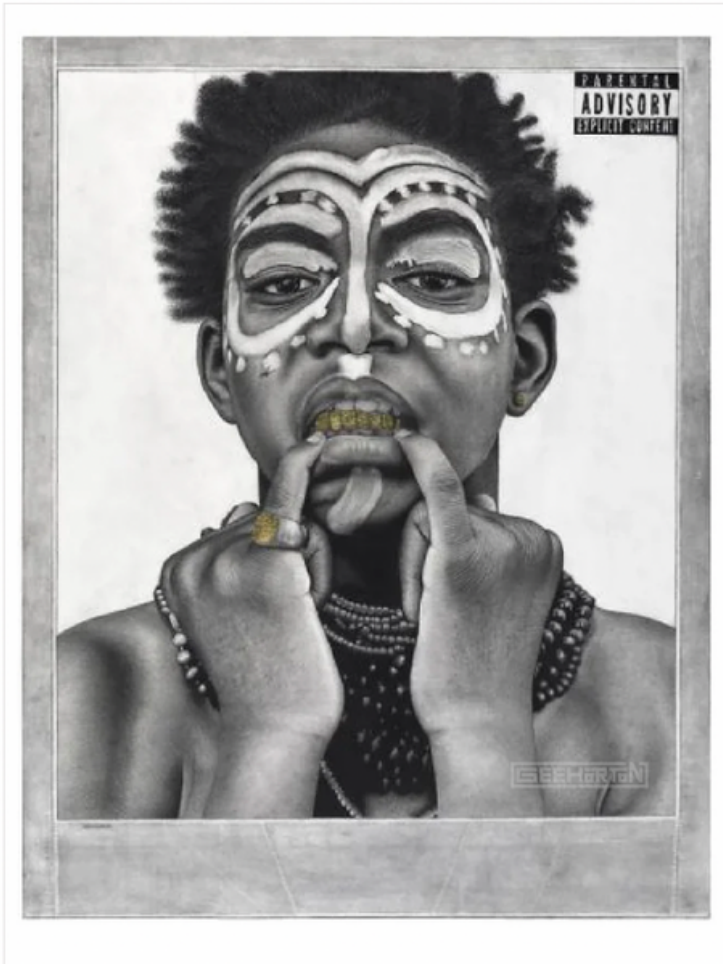
As a social work practitioner with his MSW (Master of Social Work), Gee thoughtfully applies psychologist Erik Erikson's stages of psychosocial development to explore the environmental and social impacts that shape adolescence, especially those living in marginalized, urban communities. *Black on Both Sides* and *Me Against the World* are two works that mark the onset of his artistic career and feature Gee's chosen subject, his fourteen-year-old nephew. At an age that reflects the most formative years of a young man's life, he depicts the influences, cultural expectations, and tense contradictions of what it means to be Black in America. These two portraits serve as a channel for Gee to reflect on his own youth, becoming a modality to heal his personal trauma and the collectives through the grace of his pen.

The Sweetest Thing, a drawing of his niece, "tenders childhood innocence for a little girl who is simply drawn to beauty. Here it is the beauty of sunflowers; the way they open to the sun, the way they follow the sun. Her hair is an extension of her entire being and a beautiful reflection from within, a beauty so bold that it touches everything. But innocence leaves her unaware of this power while her hair and flowers resemble joy and a sense of wonder," says Gee. "It is a reminder that every flower deserves the right to fully blossom."

Gee Horton is a self-taught multimedia artist residing in Cincinnati, engaging the practice of social work as a modality to teach, heal, and relate to the youngest members of the community to the oldest. Through film, photography, installations, live art shows, and creative community projects...Gee is just getting started.



Copywriting + layout for Gee's online art shop



If I Ruled the World is a part of Gee Horton's "Coming of Age" series conceptualized to explore, celebrate, and affirm the innate innocence and vulnerability of Black youthfulness. This work of art debuted at Gee's debut solo exhibition at the Alice F. & Harris K. Weston Art Gallery in Cincinnati, Ohio in November of 2021.

- This is the second limited edition of this print
- Original is charcoal & graphite pencil on archival paper
- Print Size: 22 x 28 (LIMITED RUN OF 200 PRINTS)
- Hand-signed, numbered, and titled by Gee Horton
- Stamped certificate of authenticity included

Printed on premium, fine art paper using archival inks that will never fade.

If I Ruled The World...

\$350.00

Size: 22 x 28



Quantity

1

Add to Cart

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

PROCESS: My independent business allows me to personally manage every step of this process, from printing your reproduction through the final stage of shipping to ensure quality and consistency with every order. Original artwork is captured with a high-resolution H6D camera to ensure quality color reproduction then scanned and printed on Epson P9000 and P2000 printers. To support small businesses in my community, I partner with local, fine art printing experts that use an Epson enhanced matte paper for a bright white point that yields highly saturated images while maintaining excellent highlight and shadow detail. **SHIPPING:** Each reproduction is made to order, so please allow 1-2 weeks for delivery. Orders are prepared myself with care and shipped in a secure tube. This item qualifies for free shipping when you spend over \$450. Prints are final sale and non-returnable and do not include frames. Thank you for being a part of my story that continues to be told—Gee.





Press release for Gee's debut gallery exhibit

For Immediate Release

Media inquiries, please contact:

geehortonart@gmail.com

[864.371.9715](tel:864.371.9715)

GEEHORTON



**Gee Horton's Highly-Anticipated Inaugural Exhibit at Cincinnati's
Alice F & Harris K. Weston Art Gallery**

“COMING OF AGE: Search for self...Identity”

Cincinnati, Ohio - November 19, 2021: Self-taught visual artist Gee Horton to host his debut gallery show at the Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery in downtown. The show will feature Horton's hyper-realist charcoal and graphite drawings in addition to never-before-seen multimedia installations, bringing his autobiographical work to life through visual stories of grief and into the reclamation of his identity.

The Kentucky native, who currently resides in Cincinnati, probes the idea of what it feels like to be voiceless, to be Black *and* American, and to be a child with the pressures of adulthood in this first chapter of “Coming of Age.” Told through his compelling and exquisitely detailed drawings, Horton unapologetically touches on a journey of self-acceptance, love, and purpose through a series of portraits of Black adolescents.

His subjects are poised with objects like fine-toothed combs, sunflowers, gold grills, and tribal face paint that reflects African traditions and hip-hop culture. The interactive installation pieces are a reflection of Horton's rapid evolution into the art scene and his experimentation with new mediums. The exhibit will feature a short film, photography, collages, and industrial objects displayed to scale.

[Gee Horton Studios](#) has engaged in projects ranging from the Black Lives Matter mural in downtown Cincinnati to being a featured artist at the Cincinnati Art Museum for his piece “If I Ruled the World.” He received a grant from ArtsWave for his continued work on “The Baobab Project,” was recognized as one of seven Black leaders and change-makers in Cincinnati, and was an Artist-in-Residence at the Mercantile Library. Most recently, Horton hosted a live drawing series in “The Studio Box,” created in collaboration with the Rhinegeist Brewery for a community-driven experience to watch his most recent art take form.

Gallery exhibit details.

Nov. 19 - Jan. 16, 2021

Located in the East Gallery at the [Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery](#)

For tickets + exhibition details, [visit the Cincinnati Arts Association website.](#)

Promotional flyer attached + high-res images available upon request.

