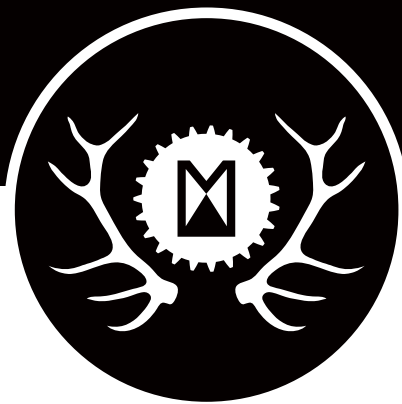


MISSISSIPPI MODERN



MISSISSIPPI MODERN is dedicated to empowering and facilitating the art, artists, and cultural dialogue rooted in Mississippi. We strive to work collectively, networking and collaborating with individuals and art communities, locally and internationally, to provide structure and opportunity for growth in the plans and actions of creative participants who push, sustain, and support the arts. Mississippi Modern fulfills its mission by fostering a dynamic online community, issuing art-related publications, providing artists with accessible resources and access to the general public, and facilitating cultural events and projects.



**This publication exists because of
the only art-centered cyclocross team in the world,
Team Mississippi Modern.**

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WE RACE. ARTISTS WIN.

Modern & Contemporary

In this edition of *Mississippi Modern Free Press*, we present a visual conversation that spans decades.

When Modern was Contemporary: Selections from the Roy R. Neuberger Collection features the work of many celebrated modern masters, including Helen Frankenthaler, Jacob Lawrence, Mark Rothko, and Jackson Pollock. Mississippi Modern has taken this opportunity to explore the lasting impact of modernity on contemporary art through the lens of artists connected to Mississippi. To this end, we have placed works by these Mississippi-connected artists adjacent to works from *When Modern was Contemporary*. These pairings facilitate conceptual and visual conversations that reveal the form and content inherent to the art coming from these MS-connected artists. Far from simply being a list of surface-level similarities, our pairings highlight the presence of powerful innovation technically, visually, and conceptually.

Mississippi Modern sought out artists currently or previously residing in Mississippi and invited them to participate in this visual conversation. The contemporary artists included in this visual conversation were selected and moderated by Greg Gandy and Nathan Mullins.

***When Modern was Contemporary* will be on view from April 9 to October 30, 2016 at the Mississippi Museum of Art.**

Visit msmuseumart.org to learn more about the exhibition and to add your voice to the Museum's *Mapping a Modern Mississippi Initiative*, which tells the stories of the people and places that "dare to differ" in the state.

Like seeing world-class art so close to home? Support the people that make it happen. Mississippi Museum of Art memberships start at \$45 a year. **Get one.**

About the Moderators:

Greg Gandy, born 1990 in Jackson, MS, is the President and Co-Founder of Mississippi Modern, Inc. With a focus on cultural cross-fertilization, Gandy has traveled the southeast connecting artists and communities through lectures, publications, festivals, art shows, and film. Gandy is one of five grassroots organizational leaders in the nation selected to be a member of Common Field: Rural Chapter. Common Field: Rural Chapter supports arts collaboration in the rural setting by sharing ideas and developing resources, best practices, and networks for artists operating in a rural context. Southern Living Magazine recently recognized Gandy as one of 50 Innovators Changing the South alongside Aziz Ansari, Dolly Parton, and Reese Witherspoon.

Nathan Mullins, born 1989 in Clarksdale, MS, is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Mississippi Modern, Inc. He teaches art classes at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA. Mullins earned his MFA in Studio Art at American University in Washington, DC and his BFA from The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. His group exhibitions include Berlin and Back Again at the Goethe-Institut in Washington, DC in 2016; Carte Blanche at Adah Rose Gallery in Kensington, MD in 2015; Blueprint at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, DC in 2015; Recent Paintings at the New York Studio School in New York, NY in 2013; and Mostra at Palazzo Vagnotti in Cortona, Italy in 2011. He lives with a cat named Pilar in a converted garage.

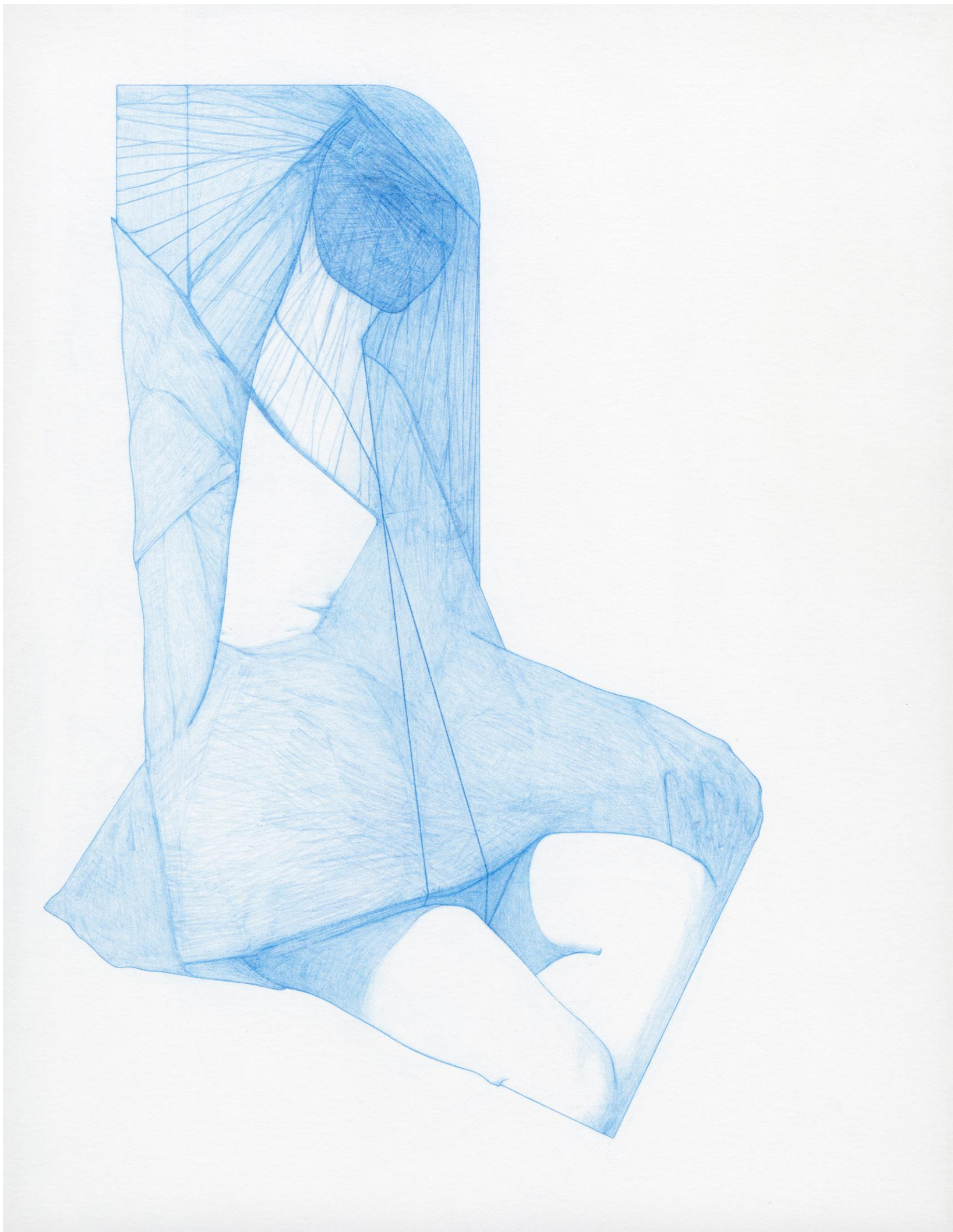












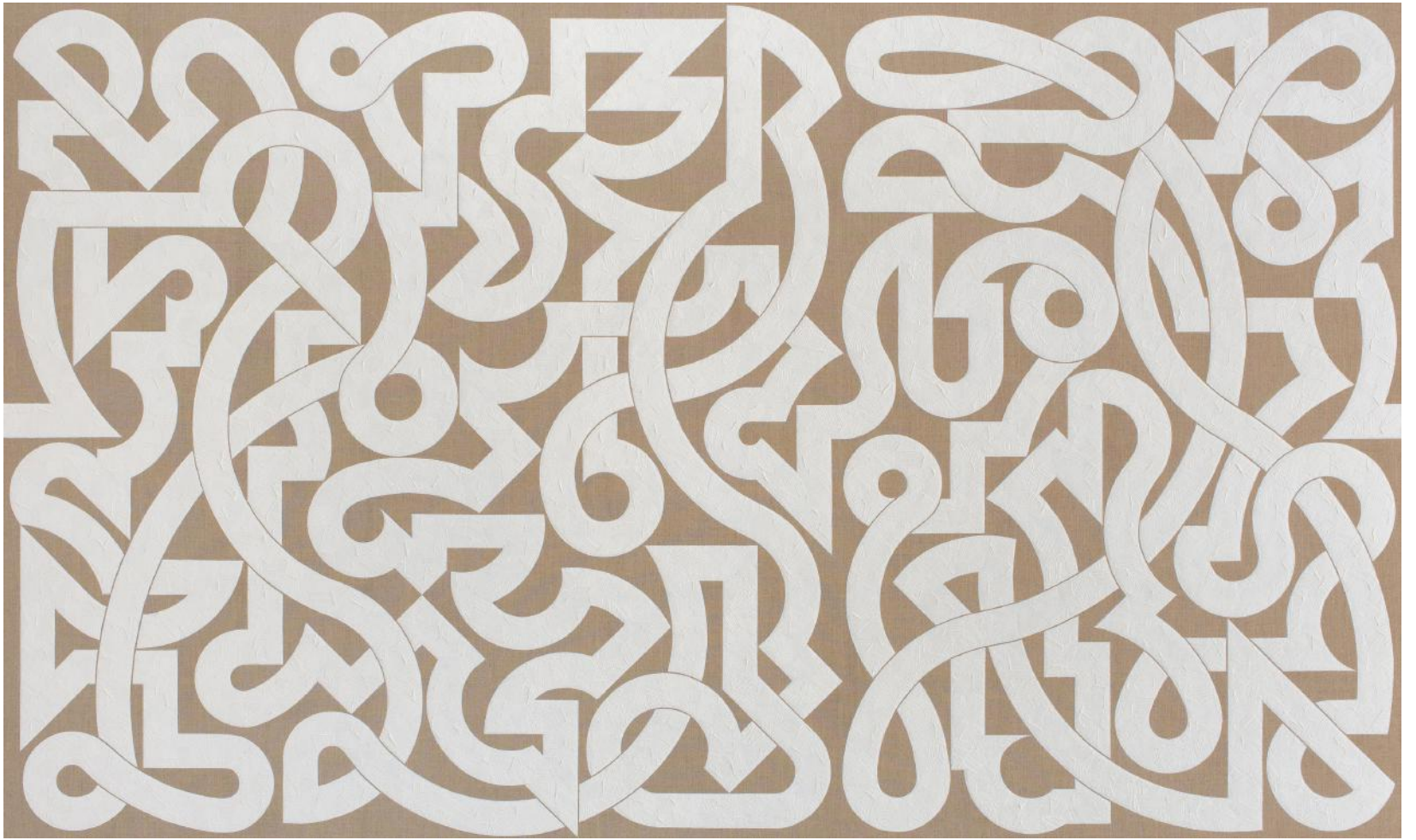




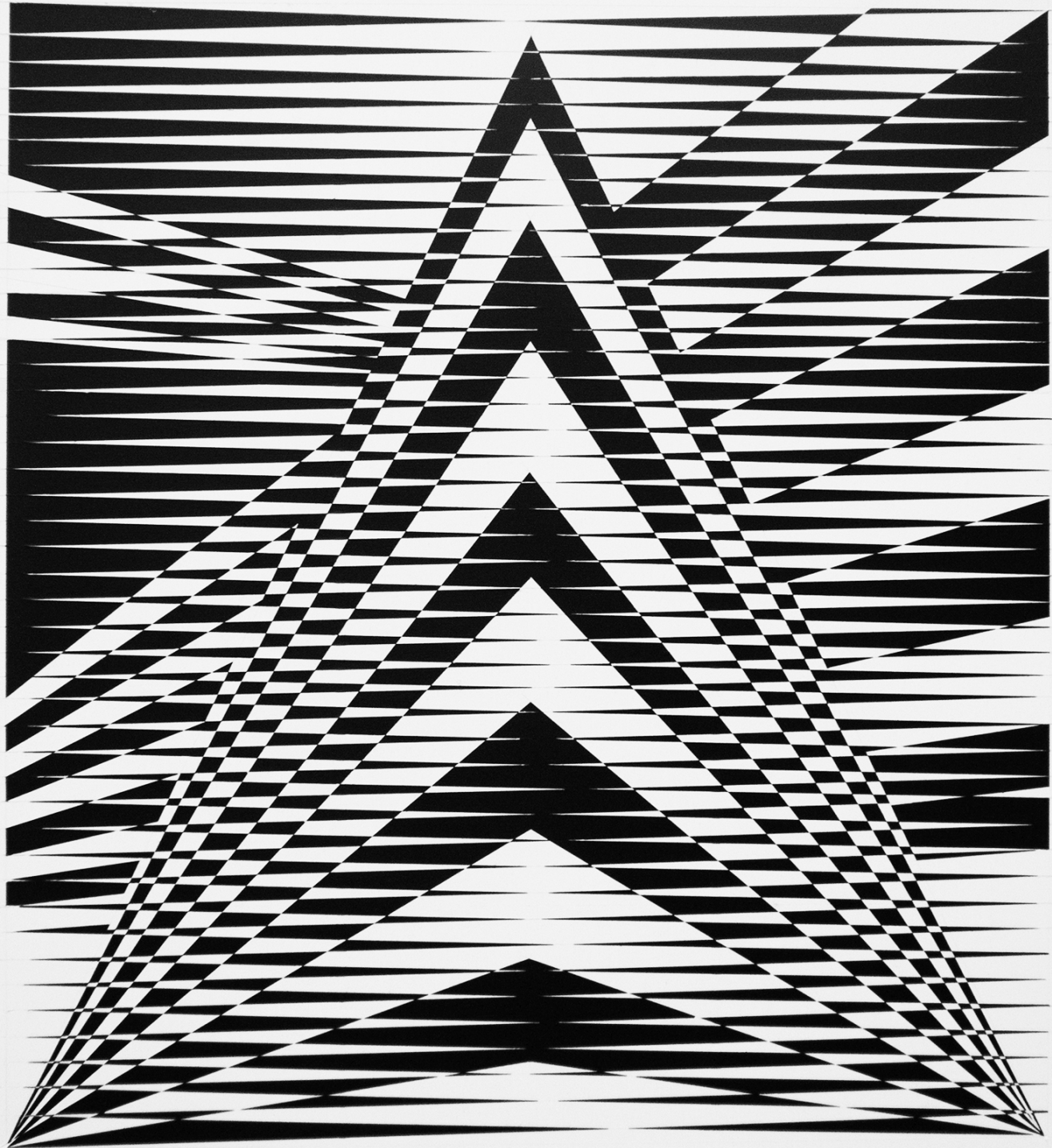










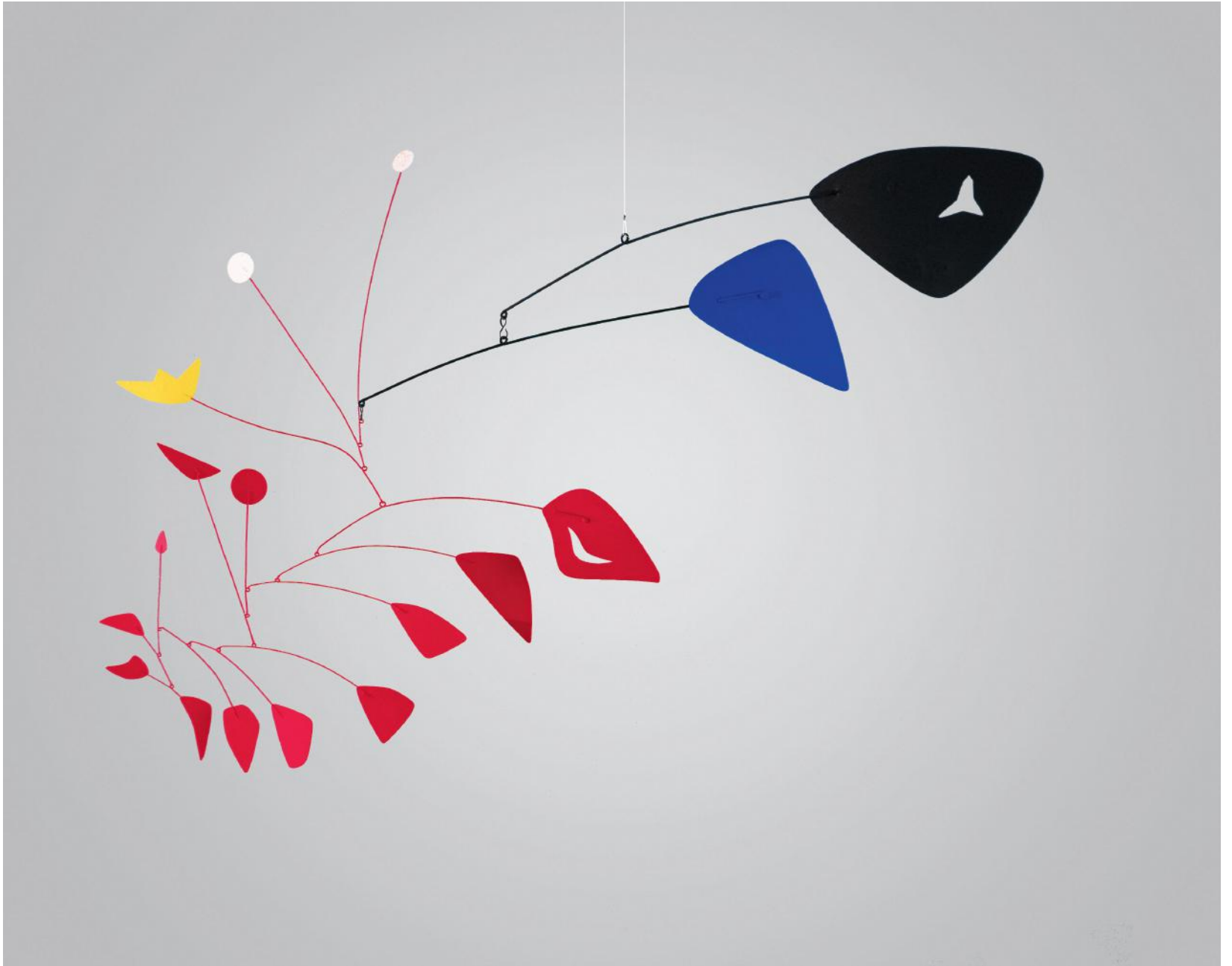






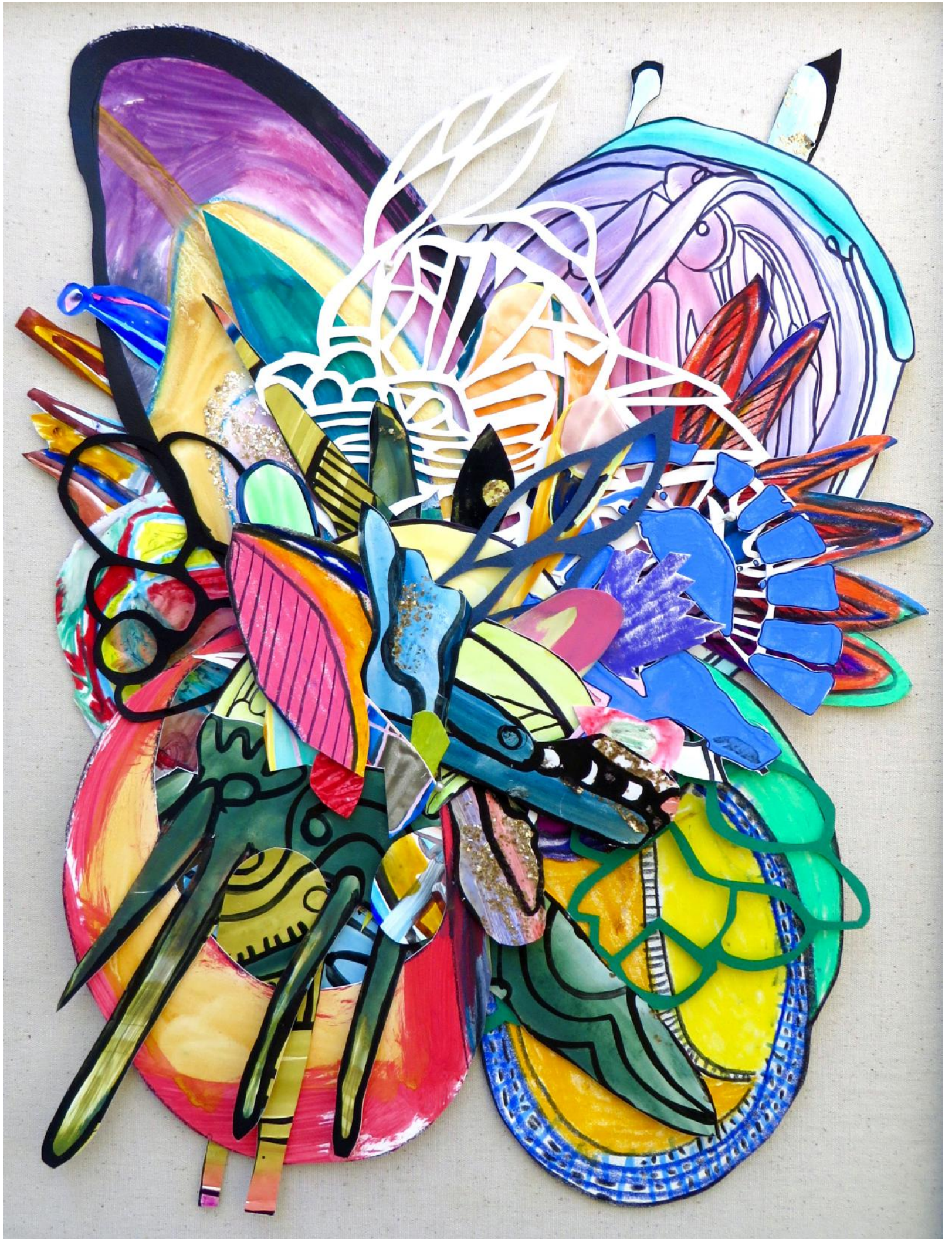




















(Social Media)ting the Generation Gap: Art Works in the City of Jackson

“You’re always on your phone! Why are you on your phone all the time?” These words are spoken by a young woman to four other young people, all gathered around a table. This high school senior is repeating phrases often spoken to her, as she spends much time on her smart phone. The students respond to the question, explaining that while, yes, they do spend time on Tumblr and Snapchat, they also use their phones to communicate with fellow student government members about upcoming events, to read books, and to study. This recorded interchange is posted on YouTube, and the interlocutors have been assembled for a project spear-headed by **daniel johnson** to address problems facing the City of Jackson. And the solution, these youth believe, is to be found through art.

Jackson-based socially-engaged artist **daniel johnson** seeks to foster empowerment through his art practice. Employing elements of theater, game theory, and collaborative narrative building, Johnson creates art works that bring together groups of people for two purposes: to identify the intersections of shared goals and to move these goals forward in practical ways through creative practice. *Art of Governance* is an example of one of **johnson’s** art works.

Art of Governance is a partnership with the City of Jackson Mayor’s Youth Initiative that hires six juniors or seniors in the Jackson Public School system; this team of students is charged with addressing, through the use of art, a challenge facing the city. With input from school counselors and teachers, six students were ultimately selected to represent the different wards in Jackson. Applications were received from students from six of the seven wards. The following students were hired to work as the *Art of Governance* team: **Zehari Nickelson** (Ward 1), **Danielle Bailey** (Ward 2), **Tiffany Thomas** (Ward 3), **David Clanton** (Ward 4), **Rahzizi Ishakarah** (Ward 5), and **Nytaya Babbitt** (Ward 6). The interests and specialties of these students are diverse. For example, these students are involved in extracurricular activities such as JROTC, debate, journalism, and the visual arts; they also have achieved high levels of academic excellence.

Although these students are leaders in their community spaces, it is difficult for them to have any meaningful impact in their community beyond the walls of their homes, schools, and churches. With the support of the Jackson Mayor’s office, the Mississippi Museum of Art, and Alternate Roots (an artist organization of the

Southeast United States committed to relieving oppression in all its forms, *alternateroots.org*), this project empowers these high-achieving youth by providing pathways to tackle issues at a greater level.

Over the past five months, the *Art of Governance* team has progressed through a series of discussions in which they have accomplished several goals: They have identified six challenges facing Jackson, worked through the considerations underlying each one of these challenges, and presented their findings to City Councilmembers, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Youth Council. The six challenges that they identified for the capital city are the following: a lack of local businesses, healthcare access, the confederate flag in our state flag, deteriorating roads, low graduation rates, and the generation gap. In the last phase of discussions, the team of youth chose one issue toward which they would focus their energy in the form of a targeted, creative action intended to raise awareness and inspire others to action.

After gathering feedback from their peers and city leaders, and considering where their efforts might realize the greatest change, the *Art of Governance* team decided to address the generation gap through film. They have created a YouTube channel, “The Art of Governance – The Generation Gap,” and will begin uploading individual videos addressing this challenge. These videos will be varied in style, including personal musings, interviews (between friends, parents, and grandparents), and perhaps created personalities or situations contemplating the issue. The goal is for this YouTube channel, through the posted videos, to become a public space for exploring the causes of the generation gap as it is experienced in Jackson.

Please join the effort by subscribing to the YouTube channel “The Art of Governance – Generation Gap” not only to play a role in bridging the divide through media(ted) dialogue but also to support youth leaders in our community as they choose art as the means to effect positive change both in their lives and in the lives of their community members.

**MISSISSIPPI
MODERN**

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With Contributions By:
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Mississippi Museum of Art made this publication possible.

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