

Burston with style

BY **FRAZIA LEE**

AUGUSTA, GA - While recalling memories of mimicking his father's sketches as a child, Atlanta-born artist Sam Burston sketches on his notepad another distinct figure he used to copy.

"[In years past, there used to be these] pictures of little girls, and they had these big saucer-shaped eyes," he says, producing quick strokes, "and... I used to try and draw them all the time, and I'd put in all the designs in the dresses."

These days, the Morris Brown College graduate likes to render those girls as grown women, which, along with music, are steady themes in his work. Through painting and printmaking, Burston seeks to illustrate vibrancy by utilizing primary colors and bold lines in the vein of some of his influences, such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence and Pablo Picasso, with whom he shares a birthday.

Burston also prefers painting with the quickness for a satisfying piece.

"I like to paint under pressure," he says. "I don't like a whole lot of time to do things. I don't like a whole lot of planning."

Whether quick and nimble, with paint or graphite, Burston evokes a combination of visual melodies that assemble and spread across taut cloth or paper with harmony and balance.

"I always liked the organ, [but] I couldn't play it, so I have to express myself — my musical talents through the canvas, through the paint, since I can't get those chords together."

Sam Burston

Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

Opening Reception: Sunday, Jan. 4

3-5 p.m.

\$5, adults; \$3, seniors/military; \$2, children

Exhibit runs through Feb. 28

sdburstonart.com

lucycraftlaneymuseum.com