

# Shining a Light on Black Artists from Virginia

Danny Talbert, staff writer

For a small city, Charlottesville has many different places for art and music to be shared, from local to international artists. Some staples are The Jefferson Theater, IX Art Park, and the McGuffey Art Center, to name a few. The center, which is located just north of the downtown mall, has been in operation since 1975, making it one of the oldest artist-run art cooperatives.

The current art exhibit is titled “Water: The Agony and Ecstasy of the Black Experience,” and is being shown until March 28, 2021. The purpose of the exhibit is to “take viewers through a journey, using water as a metaphor of the Black experience. Water serves as a never-ending stream connecting all Black lives together,” the McGuffey Art Center states. It showcases 25 Black artists from Virginia and includes paintings, illustrations, poems, and other art pieces. All of the work is for sale ranging from \$20-\$5000 with the art center only taking 10%

commission and the rest going to the artist.

One of my favorite pieces was done by Tronja Anglero, a beautiful and striking acrylic painting titled, “I am the honored and the scorned,” that stood out to me as soon as I saw it. Vivid detail and colors used caused me to admire the artwork for a considerable amount of time. Anglero’s work has been showcased in many exhibitions throughout New York, Virginia, and the D.C. area, and is showing two pieces in this exhibit.

If you cannot go in person, you can still check out the full exhibit at <https://www.mcguffeyartcenter.com>. The website offers high-quality pictures of the art. Users also have the ability to support the artists by purchasing whichever pieces you like. The hours for the McGuffey Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. and the entry fee is free. Due to COVID-19 protocol, the center requires masks, socially distanced observation, and a maximum of only 10 visitors in the building at a time.

## Paul McCartney Innovates in *McCartney III*

Max Walpole, assistant editor

If I’m being entirely honest, when I first queued up *McCartney III*, I did not know what to expect. I knew that in his heyday with The Beatles, McCartney did some spectacular work. And I knew that in recent years McCartney had released a series of solo albums, although I had not listened to them. I found myself wondering if, after all these years, could McCartney still produce good content? I had my doubts. In this case, I’m very happy to be proven wrong.

Of course, any album made by a former member of The Beatles is inevitably going to be compared to the extensive Beatles discography. Songs like “Find My Way” and “Pretty Boys” contain guitar rhythms and vocal melodies that will sound familiar to many Beatles fans, but these more conventional tracks are a minority on *McCartney III*.

In lieu of revisiting the established sound of The Beatles, McCartney proves his musical versatility by updating his sound with slick, polished production and drawing on a variety of

sources to create something wholly unique. The steady drum beat on the track “Deep Deep Feeling” is almost Phil Collins-esque. The dynamic and energetic track “Slidin’” is reminiscent of the English post-punk revival band Arctic Monkeys. The mellow, acoustic guitar driven song “The Kiss Of Venus” is evocative of the solo work of fellow Beatles members John Lennon and George Harrison.

What is most striking about this album is its tone. Amidst the chaos of 2020, *McCartney III* has a uniquely light and optimistic mood. It harkens back to the optimistic teen rock atmosphere of the 1960’s that groups like The Beach Boys and The Beatles thrived in, but in more mature, refined ways. In that sense, while *McCartney III* is undeniably a fun slice of escapism, it still has enough substance and depth to feel like you’re hearing something new.

*McCartney III* is available for listening on Spotify, Apple Music, and other music streaming services. CD, vinyl and cassette editions are available to purchase on Amazon, other digital retailers, and retail stores.