

THE BRONX MUSEUM

The Bronx Museum 2025 Gala & Art Auction to honor pioneering artist FUTURA 2000, MacArthur “Genius” Ebony G. Patterson, and lifelong creative Abbott Stillman on April 7



Left to Right: Portrait of FUTURA 2000 in his studio, Photo by 13thWitness. Portrait of Ebony G. Patterson in her studio, Photo Courtesy John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Portrait of Abbott Stillman in his studio.

(March 13, 2025 – The Bronx, NY) — On Monday, April 7, 2025, The Bronx Museum of the Arts will celebrate its annual **Gala & Art Auction at Tribeca Rooftop** (2 Desbrosses St, New York) from 6:00 – 11:00 PM. This event is the Museum’s most important annual fundraiser, making it possible for the organization to continue presenting free contemporary art exhibitions that champion artists whose identities have been historically marginalized as well as actively engage communities in The Bronx and beyond with free arts education and programming. This year, the Museum will honor pioneering visual artist **FUTURA 2000** with the Trailblazer Award, presented by artist **Zephyr**; MacArthur “Genius” Grant-winning artist **Ebony G. Patterson** with the Visionary Award, presented by **Miranda Lash**, Chief Curator, MCA Denver; lifelong creative and Bronx native **Abbott Stillman** with The Bronx Creative Vanguard Award, presented by gallerist **Brigitte Mulholland**.

The Bronx Museum’s Interim Co-Directors, Deputy Director Shirley Solomon and Chief Advancement Officer Yvonne Garcia, enthuse: “We are excited to highlight the monumental contributions that FUTURA 2000, Ebony, and Abbott have made to the arts. These honorees’ lived experiences also demonstrate how access to art and museums can change lives and shift culture—and in this moment, The Bronx Museum is more committed than ever to providing audiences with unfettered access to affirming creative experiences and expression.”

Marysol Castro—co-host of New York Living, PIX11’s lifestyle show—will emcee the evening, which will include an awards presentation, live auction, and education pledge drive, followed by an **After Party** featuring an open bar, dancing, and dessert, a special live performance by R&B star **Amber Mark**—who just announced she will be opening for Sabrina Carpenter on her fall 2025 concert tour—and a set by **DJ Pete Butta**. The Bronx Museum’s coveted 2025 live auction will be conducted by Kimberly Pirtle of Sotheby’s. Auction items can only be acquired via live, in-person bidding at the Museum’s Gala.

Artist **FUTURA 2000** will receive the Trailblazer Award for his storied career and for exemplifying The Bronx Museum's commitment to artistic excellence and innovation. FUTURA's creative journey over the last five decades is detailed in the blockbuster retrospective *BREAKING OUT*, on view at The Bronx Museum through March 30th. The exhibition is named for the artist's iconic 1980 piece, *Break Train*, where he painted the exterior of a subway car with vibrant washes of color and no lettering, a revolutionary approach within New York City's graffiti movement. As the artist shifted away from graffiti and towards galleries, he continued using aerosol, spray paint, and stencils to create large-scale abstract paintings on canvas, garnering critical acclaim. FUTURA continues to be a sought-after collaborator by fashion designers and major brands such as Kenzo, Comme Des Garçons, Marc Jacobs, and Nike. In turn, FUTURA has connected his fans worldwide to The Bronx Museum, demonstrating the international appeal of the Museum's curatorial programming.

The Bronx Museum's Visionary Award will be presented to Kingston and Chicago-based artist **Ebony G. Patterson**, who was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2024 for Visual Arts. Represented by Monique Meloche Gallery in Chicago and Hales Gallery in New York and London, Patterson's expansive multi-media practice addresses the histories of societal, political, and economic struggles of post-colonial countries. Her work entrances the viewer with vibrant colors and layered embellishments that veil a deeper meaning. Patterson states: "I aim to elevate those who have been deemed invisible/un-visible as a result of inherited colonial social structures, by incorporating their words, thoughts, dress, and pageantry as a tactic to memorialize them. It is a way to say: 'I am here, and you cannot deny me.'" In her 2023 installation at the New York Botanical Garden—just four miles north of The Bronx Museum—the artist invited visitors to contemplate how their relationships to gardens and the natural world had been shaped by colonialism. Patterson's efforts to highlight people and communities who've been negatively affected by colonialism aligns with The Bronx Museum's work to platform artists whose identities have historically been excluded from the Western art historical narrative.

A lifelong creative from The Bronx, **Abbott Stillman** grew up in a building built by his grandfather, an immigrant from the Pale of Settlement—part of the inspiration that led to Stillman earning a Master's degree from the School of Architecture and City Planning at MIT. His love of art was nurtured from a young age by his mother, who regularly took him to visit museums throughout New York City. In the midst of a distinguished career during which he created some award-winning buildings, Stillman began painting in the late 1980s, never intending his work to be shown beyond family and friends. Despite the private nature of his practice, Stillman produced a remarkable body of work, a piece of which is now in the collection of The Bronx Museum. Stillman's journey from early art enthusiast to celebrated painter exemplifies the importance of The Bronx Museum's efforts to provide under-resourced youth in The Bronx with free access to quality arts education and museum experiences.

The Bronx Museum's 2025 Gala & Art Auction comes at a pivotal moment: a transformative renovation of the institution is underway, with a completion date quickly approaching in 2026. Designed by award-winning architecture firm **Marvel**, the renovation will provide communities in The Bronx with the world-class arts facility they deserve and further enhance the Museum's exhibitions and programming. Proceeds from this year's Gala & Auction will allow The Bronx Museum to enter this exciting new chapter in its history with the support and resources it needs to meet the moment and expand its impact through important contemporary art exhibitions, community-engaged education and cultural programming, artist professional development, and 100% free admission.

To purchase tickets or make a donation in support of the Gala, visit:
bronxmuseum.org/gala2025

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WHAT: The Bronx Museum's 2025 Gala & Art Auction
WHEN: Monday, April 7, 2025 from 6:00-11:00 PM
WHERE: Tribeca Rooftop (2 Desbrosses St, New York, NY 10013)
WHO: Honorees: FUTURA 2000, Ebony G. Patterson, Abbott Stillman
Presenters: Zephyr, Miranda Lash, Brigitte Mulholland
Entertainment: Amber Mark, DJ Pete Butta
Master of Ceremonies: Marysol Castro
Auctioneer: Kimberly Pirtle

ABOUT THE BRONX MUSEUM:

For over five decades, The Bronx Museum of the Arts has been a vanguard of cultural diversity and accessibility in the contemporary art world. The Museum offers 100% free admission for everyone to all its exhibitions and programs, providing a vital creative outlet to the public. Through its curatorial practices, including a permanent collection, the Museum seeks to uplift and champion artists of color and other identities that have been historically marginalized and silenced in the U.S. The history and culture of The Bronx are a never-ending source of inspiration for the Museum, and its programs are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement with the people of the borough while also attracting visitors from all over New York City and the world. The Bronx Museum is a leader in the cultural sphere with its unwavering commitment to access, dedication to platforming underrepresented artists, and dynamic community-engaged programming.

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