

# THE BRONX MUSEUM

**The Bronx Museum 2025 Gala & Art Auction  
honored pioneering artist FUTURA 2000,  
MacArthur “Genius” Ebony G. Patterson,  
and lifelong creative Abbott Stillman**

**This year’s gala & art auction raised critical funds  
in support of this singular contemporary art museum**



Left to Right: Honoree Abbott Stillman; Honoree Ebony G. Patterson, Director of Curatorial Programs Eileen Jeng Lynch; Honoree FUTURA 2000; and Board Chair Joe Mizzi.

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Credit: Bre Johnson/BFA.com

**(April 8, 2025 – The Bronx, NY)** – Last night, on **Monday, April 7, 2025**, **The Bronx Museum of the Arts** hosted its annual **Gala & Art Auction** at **Tribeca Rooftop** (2 Desbrosses St, New York) raising over \$800,000 in support of its mission to continue championing artists whose identities have been historically marginalized and engaging audiences in The Bronx and beyond through free exhibitions, arts education, and programming. The Museum honored 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; and Bronx native and lifelong creative **Abbott Stillman** with The Bronx Creative Vanguard Award, presented by gallerist **Brigitte Mulholland**.



**Interim Co-Directors Shirley Solomon and Yvonne Garcia commented:** “Our deepest appreciation goes out to everyone who supported The Bronx Museum’s 2025 Gala & Art Auction yesterday evening where we celebrated our three stellar honorees. We are especially grateful to our Board of Trustees for their generosity and fundraising savvy, our Gala Host Committee, and, of course, our Gala sponsors. Thank you as well to the talented artists who donated their work to our auction. Proceeds from the evening will continue furthering our mission of making contemporary art accessible to all and uplifting artists who have historically been excluded from the art historical narrative.”

Guests included: **Charlie Ahearn** (Filmmaker), **John Ahearn** (Artist), **Joey Bada\$\$** (Rapper) **Henry Chalfant** (Filmmaker), **Kathleen Chalfant** (Actress), **Martha Cooper** (Photojournalist), **Brian Donnelly (KAWS)** (Artist), **Rachel Cole** (Art Advisor), **Kyle Croft** (Executive Director, Visual AIDS), **Alessandra DiGiusto** (Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation), **Awol Erizku** (Artist), **Halim Flowers** (Artist), **Sky Gellatly & Nikle Guzijan** (Co-Founders, ICNCLST), **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson**, **Sam Gordon** (Gordon Robichaux Gallery), **Nate Lewis** (Artist), **Reverend Joyce McDonald** (Artist), **Timothy McGurr (13th Witness)**, **Monique Meloche** (Gallerist), **Wardell Milan** (Artist), **Kim Nguyen** (Filmmaker), **Soull & Dynasty Ogun** (Founders, L'ENCHANTEUR), **Angel Otero** (Artist), **Karen Patterson** (Executive Director, Ruth Arts), **José Parlá** (Artist), **Lee Quinones** (Artist), **DeLonzo Rhodes** (Board Member), **Amy Rosenblum-Martín** (Curator), **Souleo** (Artist), **Jasmine Tsou** (Director, Lisson Gallery), **Rachel Uffner** (Gallerist), **Kendall Werts** (The Jeffries).



Top row left to right: Joyce McDonald (Artist), Sam Gordon (Gordon Robichaux Gallery), Brian Donnelly (KAWS) (Artist), Sky Gellatly & Nikle Guzijan (Co-Founders, ICNCLST), Jeffrey Merris (Artist), Kim Dacres (Artist); Bottom row left to right: Soull & Dynasty Ogun (Founders, L'ENCHANTEUR), Joey Bada\$\$ (Rapper), Charlie Ahearn (Filmmaker), Kathleen Chalfant (Actress), Henry Chalfant (Filmmaker), Martha Cooper (Photojournalist), Awol Erizku (Artist). Photos by Bre Johnson for BFA.

The Bronx Museum's coveted 2025 live auction was conducted by **Kimberly Pirtle** of Sotheby's. The auction included artworks by **Awol Erizku**, **Gamaliel Rodríguez**, **Abbott Stillman**, and **FUTURA 2000**, as well as an exclusive studio visit with artist **Rashid Johnson**. **Marysol Castro**—co-host of *New York Living*, *PIX11*'s lifestyle show—emceed the evening, which included an awards presentation and education pledge drive, followed by an After Party featuring a dazzling performance by R&B star **Amber Mark**—who will be opening for Sabrina Carpenter on her fall 2025 concert tour—followed by a set from **DJ Pete Butta**.

Artist **FUTURA 2000** (Leonard McGurr) received the Trailblazer Award for exemplifying The Bronx Museum's commitment to artistic excellence and innovation. The artist's five-decade creative career was recently showcased at The Bronx Museum in the critically acclaimed retrospective, *BREAKING OUT*, named for FUTURA's iconic 1980s piece, *Break Train*, in which he painted the exterior of a subway car with vibrant washes of color and no lettering. Introducing FUTURA, **artist Zephyr remarked**: "Painted by FUTURA in 1980, the [*Break*] train represents a departure from the entire aesthetic present in our aerosol world at the time. And it was on this so-called 'Planet FUTURA' that Lenny McGurr developed into the greatest painter of our movement. His output is always exciting and always completely inspirational." **FUTURA recalled in his acceptance speech**: "The train that I painted 45 years ago, that silver car, helped to get the ball rolling for my whole story. And if Martha [Cooper] doesn't document that train, there's no subsequent discussion. No one calls me an abstractionist, I would have never heard of Kandinsky or anyone. I'm very grateful for you, Martha. Everyone's here. My team is here. Thank you so much. I love you. I'm very honored to be here."

The Bronx Museum's Visionary Award was presented to Kingston and Chicago-based artist **Ebony G. Patterson**, whose multi-media practice addresses the histories of post-colonial countries, employing vibrant colors and layered embellishments to convey a deeper meaning. As she presented Patterson with the Visionary Award, **Curator Miranda Lash said**, "She's a visionary in her work, it's no coincidence that she was given a MacArthur Fellowship and she's now regarded officially as a genius. She has a magical way of urging us to do more, in a way that also simultaneously shows us that more is possible." **Patterson**, who is represented by Monique Meloche Gallery (Chicago) and Hales Gallery (New York), **then remarked**, "I'm incredibly honored that The Bronx Museum has chosen to acknowledge my practice. We are more powerful than we may feel, and we must remember why each of us is gathered here: it is because we believe in the importance of artists and institutions that support them. We believe that institutions of the imagination make it possible for us to carve new futures. The life we shape in the present is never for us, it is for those who are to come. This is our charge."

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. In the midst of a distinguished career during which he created some award-winning buildings, Stillman began painting in the late 1980s, producing a remarkable body of work, a piece of which is now in the collection of The Bronx Museum. Presenting Stillman with the Creative Vanguard Award, **gallerist Brigitte Mulholland commented**: "His work has a genuine impulse to give beauty to the world, to add something that's happy and joyful in a really honest and thoughtful way. He's also just incredibly supportive of other artists and institutions and wants to do better for the world by painting and by making sure that art is a part of everyone's life." **Stillman recalled**, "None of us would be able to do what we do without the support of the people here: other artists, collectors, advisors, critics, curators, and all the people who think the arts are important enough to spend some time supporting them. So, I accept this award, but I have to say, I don't consider it an individual award; I consider it an award for all of us."





Top row from left to right: Honoree Ebony G. Patterson receiving her award from curator Miranda Lash and Board Chair Joe Mizzi; Honoree Futura 2000 with his award, Honoree Abbott Stillman gives a speech upon accepting his award; Bottom row left to right: Emcee Marysol Castro, Auctioneer Kimberly Pirtle, R&B Star Amber Mark; Photos by Bre Johnson for BFA.

The Bronx Museum 2025 Gala & Art Auction took place as progress continues on a historic renovation of the organization's campus, made possible by nearly \$44 million in City support. Designed by award-winning architecture firm **Marvel**, the renovation will create the world-class arts facility the people of The Bronx deserve and further enhance the Museum's offerings. The vital funds raised at this year's Gala & Auction have helped give The Bronx Museum the resources necessary to expand its impact through contemporary art exhibitions, community-engaged education, cultural programming, artist professional development, and 100% free admission.

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**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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