



# EXPO CHICGO

11-14 APRIL 2024

NAVY PIER | CHICAGO





11 - 14 APRIL 2024  
NAVY YARD | CHICAGO



## RICO GATSON

“His work that has enjoyed the broadest public reach is his long-running *Icons* series, which he initiated in 2007. It is celebratory—a contrast to his more somber subject matter, on one level, but also a response to it, attentive to the dialectics of history. These luminous pieces in pencil, each honoring a major figure in Black culture, music, politics, or social history, are less portraits than, again, energy studies. He renders each by appropriation of a black-and-white archival photograph that he places near the paper’s edge, and from which impeccable beams of color radiate across the page. In his permanent installation for the 167th Street subway station (located at 167th Street and Grand Concourse), eight of these *Icons*, all with ties to the Bronx, grace the platform wall in glass mosaic.

With his own deep roots in Georgia, Gatson feels the South on a visceral level, but in Birmingham the research was local and specific, rhythmmed by exchange with those who remember the struggle or carry on in its legacy. Visiting the 16th Street Baptist Church, site of the terrible 1963 bombing, he was deeply affected. It had inspired a work that he had newly begun, he says, but he came away from Birmingham with something more—a kind of confirmation of purpose, ever-deepening the dimensions of the work that escape any art criticism or art history parameters: the spiritual aspect, to give it language.

In the living presence of the freedom struggle, the stakes clarified. Spirit. Transformation. ‘It’s the possibility for transcendence,’ he says. ‘The transference of my energy as a being, hopefully a spiritual being. I have to believe in that power, the potential for healing.’”

- Siddhartha Mitter in “Undeniable Energy”













**RICO GATSON**  
Celia #2, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**  
Donna, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**  
Fannie Lou, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm



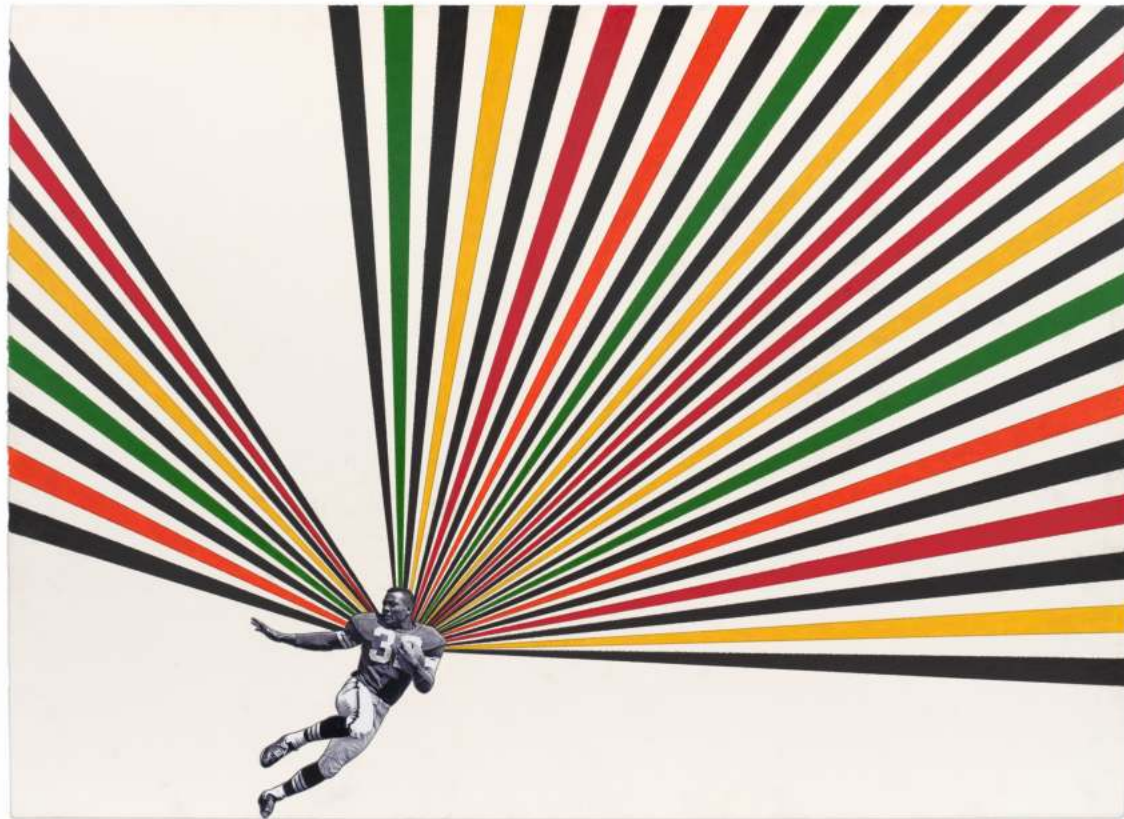




**RICO GATSON**  
Harry, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**  
Jim, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







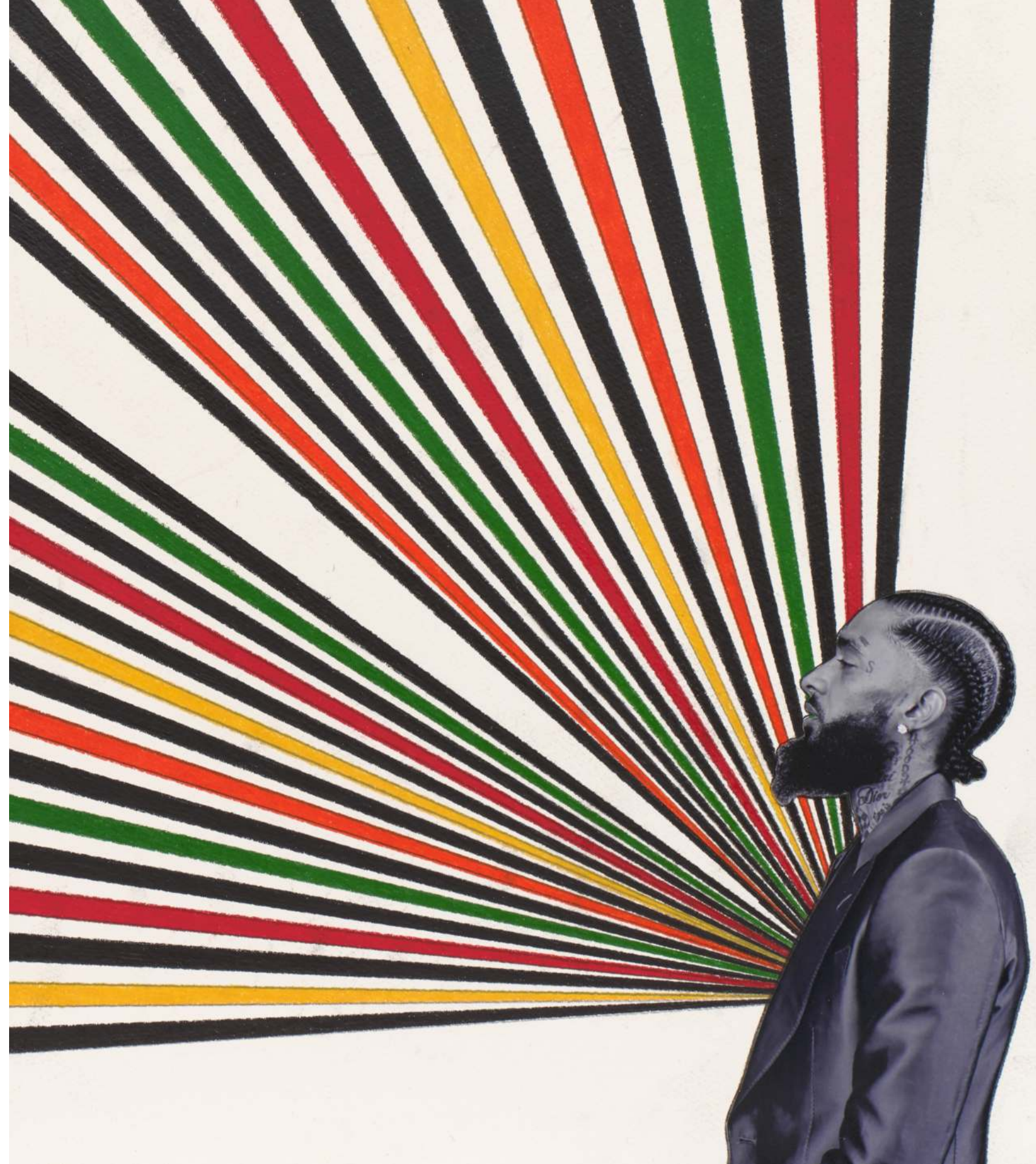
**RICO GATSON**  
Miriam, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**  
Nipsey, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**

Phife, 2024

Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper

22 x 30 inches

55.9 x 76.2 cm







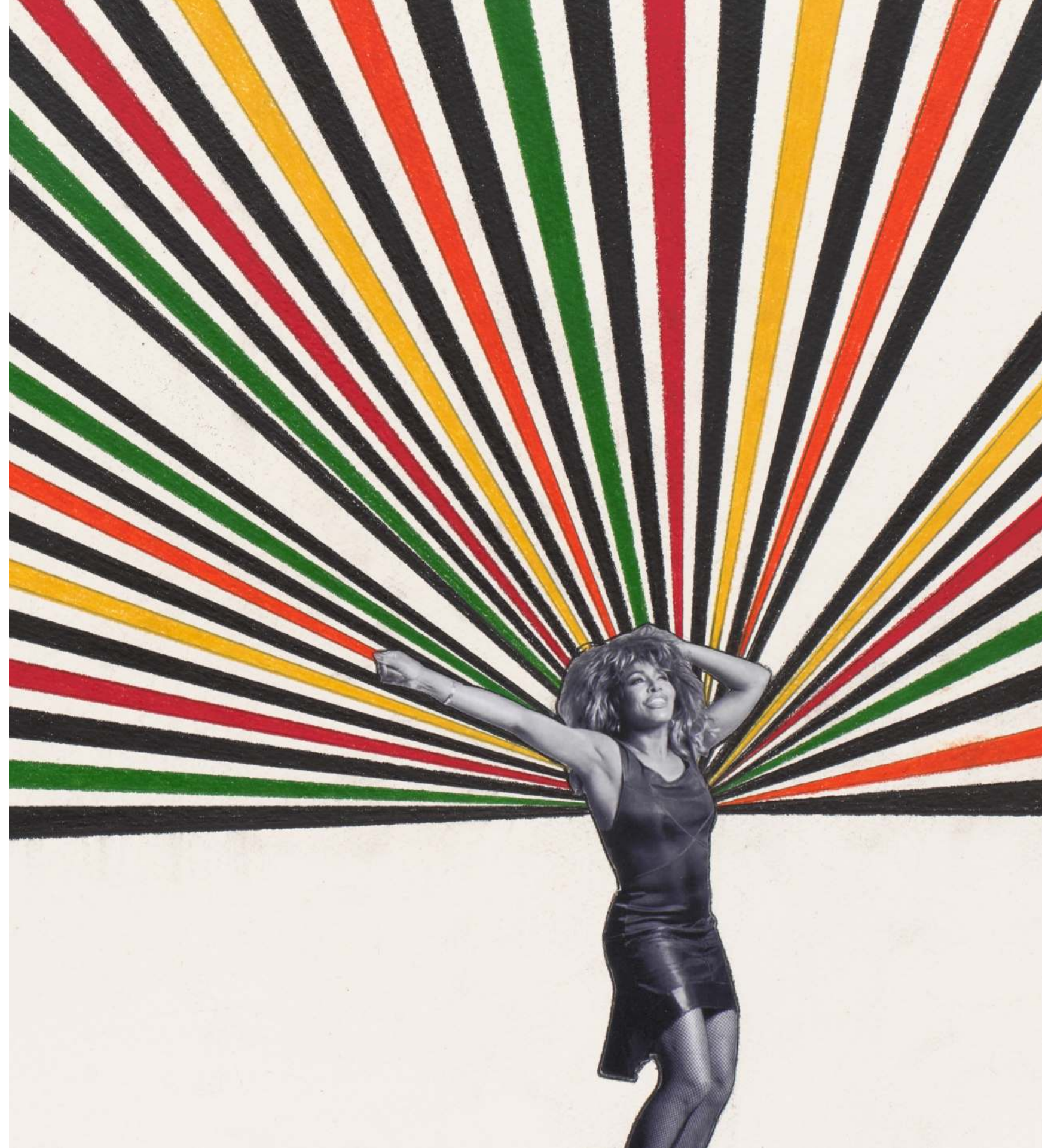
**RICO GATSON**  
Sister Coretta, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**  
Tina, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







**RICO GATSON**

Tony, 2024

Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper

22 x 30 inches

55.9 x 76.2 cm



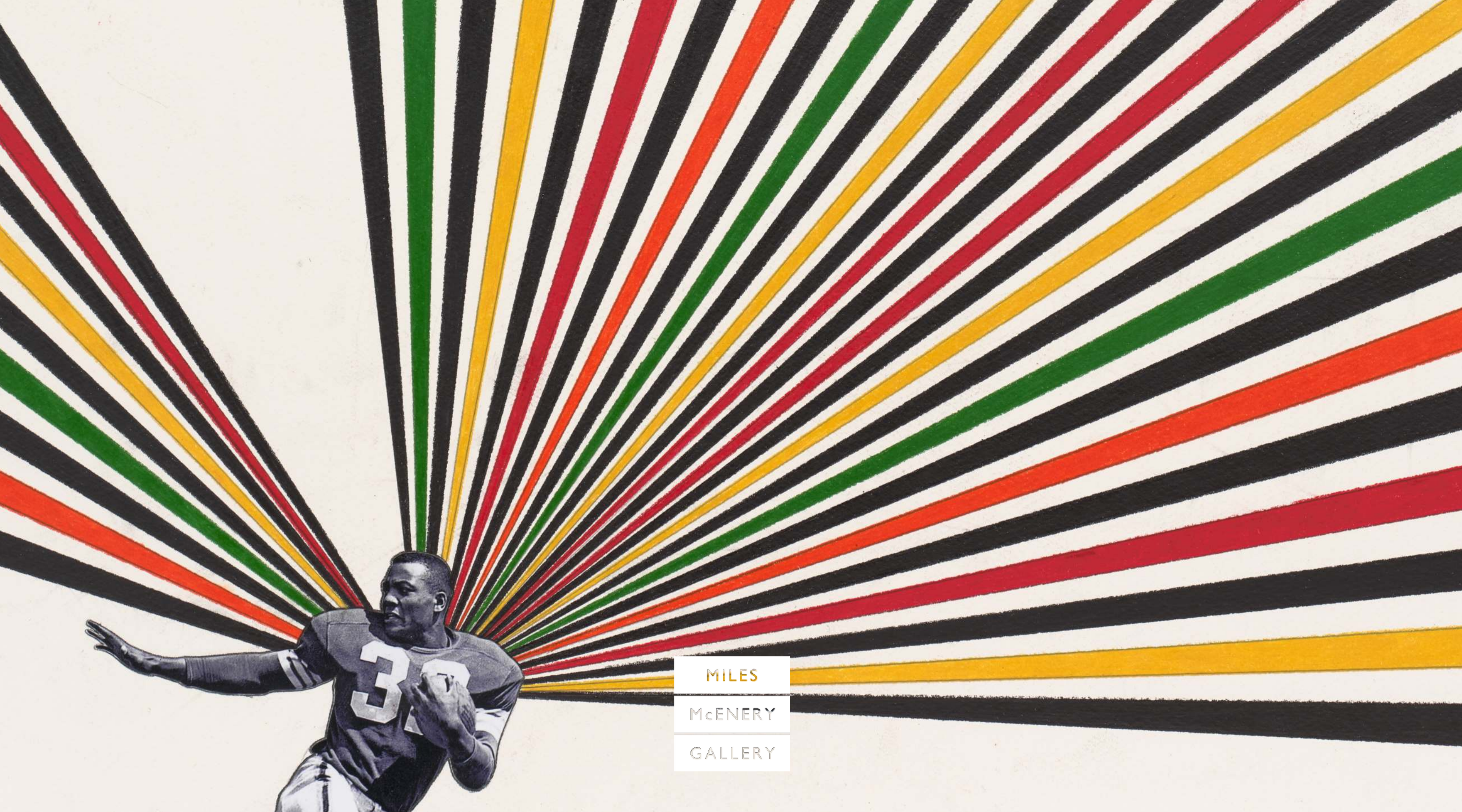




**RICO GATSON**  
Yusef, 2024  
Colored pencil and photograph collage on paper  
22 x 30 inches  
55.9 x 76.2 cm







MILES  
McENERY  
GALLERY