BRYAN COLLIER
YOU CAN’T OUTGROW
A PICTURE BOOK
February 16 – April 17, 2020
Author and children’s book illustrator, Bryan Collier grew up in Pocomoke, Maryland. His interest in art started at an early age as he and his siblings were always encouraged to read and create art. As a teenager, he began to paint the world around him. Drawing inspiration from quilts his grandmother used to make during his childhood, he developed a unique style of painting that incorporated both watercolors and collage. In 1985, Collier won first place in a Congressional Competition which resulted in his art being displayed in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. Later that year, he received a scholarship to Pratt Institute in New York City through their national talent competition. With honors, he graduated from Pratt Institute in 1989 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

During his studies in New York Collier volunteered at the Harlem Horizon Studio and Harlem Hospital Center. He later became the Program Director, a position he served in for 12 years. Collier then decided to focus his time and attention on illustrating children’s books full time. The genesis of his book illustrating career was with the publication of his book Uptown. Collier is a four-time Caldecott Honor recipient for Trombone Shorty, Dave the Potter, Rosa, and Martin's Big Words. His books have won many other awards as well, including six Coretta Scott King Awards and three CSK honors. His recent books include Thurgood, Hey Black Child, and Between the Lines. Today, Collier continues to spend his time on book illustrations. He invests a significant amount of his time in K-12 outreach, going into classrooms and interacting with teachers, librarians and students.
Bryan Collier

*Love Can Be Heard*

Watercolor and collage
30 in. x 26 in.

Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Something is Wrong*
Watercolor and collage
24 in. x 18 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Twice Beautiful*
Watercolor and collage
34 in. x 30 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Family Spot*
Watercolor and collage
31 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
Mandarin Journey
Watercolor and collage
31 in. x 36 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
Lady Woman
Print
32 in. x 22 in.
In the Collection of:
NCCU Art Museum
Bryan Collier
*Surprise, Surprise*
Watercolor and collage
34 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Black Star*
Watercolor and collage
26 in. x 26 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Daddy Daughter Day*
Watercolor and collage
21 in. x 19 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
I See You
Watercolor and collage
28 in. x 24 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*My People*
Watercolor and collage
29 in. x 29 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Moods and Attitudes*
Watercolor and collage
29 in. x 29 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
Langston’s Genius Child
Watercolor and collage
36 in. x 26 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
I Can’t Breathe
Watercolor and collage
24 in. x 21 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Five o’clock Band*
Print
32 in. x 22 in.
In the Collection of:
NCCU Art Museum
Bryan Collier
_Giant Steps_
Watercolor and collage
23 in. x 31 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
Armstrong Park
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 16 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Musical Royalty*
Watercolor and collage
23 in. x 31 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Radio Raheim Remix*
Watercolor and collage
36 in. x 24 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Trombone Shorty*
Watercolor and collage
23 in. x 31 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Beautiful*
Watercolor and collage
40 in. x 32 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*I Too, am America*
Watercolor and collage
21 in. x 27 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Elephant in the Room*
Watercolor and collage
34 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Daddy's Hat*
Watercolor and collage
34 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Faces of the Roof*
Watercolor and collage
34 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*A Mother’s Touch*
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
Patience
Watercolor and collage
26 in. x 27 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*God Put a Rainbow in the Cloud*
Watercolor and collage
29 in. x 31 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*God Knows*
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 27 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier

*Knock, Knock*

Watercolor and collage

34 in. x 35 in.

Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier

*Letters from Papa*

Watercolor and collage

34 in. x 25 in.

Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*He’s a Prince*
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Boys to Men*
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Daddy's Home*
Watercolor and collage
22 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Circle of Daddy’s Arms*
Watercolor and collage
31 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Circle of Mommy’s Arms*
Watercolor and collage
26 in. x 28 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier

_Baby’s Delight_

Watercolor and collage

31 in. x 25 in.

Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Love’s Lullaby*
Watercolor and collage
31 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Bubbles for My Baby*
Watercolor and collage
31 in. x 25 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier

*Moon and the Son*

Watercolor and collage

31 in. x 25 in.

Courtesy of the Artist
Bryan Collier
*Anticipation*
Watercolor and collage
28 in. x 29 in.
Courtesy of the Artist
BOOKS
At NCCU Art Museum
Illustrated by Bryan Collier
Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from Football Field to the Art Gallery, 2018

Little, Brown & Company

Between the Lines is a true story of NFL star Ernie Barnes—a boy who followed his dreams and became one of the most influential artists of his generation—with this beautiful and fascinating nonfiction picture book illustrated by four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier.
**Bryan Collier**

*Uptown*, 2000  
MacMillan Publishing Group

*Uptown* is a rich mix of flavors, colors, sounds, and cultures that come together to create a vibrant community like no other in the world. Seen through the eyes of one little boy who lives there, the details of life in Harlem are as joyous as a game of basketball on a summer's afternoon and as personal as a trip to the barbershop where old-timers reminisce.
This picture book of Langston Hughes’s celebrated poem, "I, Too, Am America," blends the poetic wisdom of Langston Hughes with visionary illustrations from Bryan Collier in this inspirational picture book that carries the promise of equality.

Langston Hughes was a courageous voice of his time, and his authentic call for equality still rings true today. Illustrator Bryan Collier accompany and reinvent the celebrated lines of the poem "I, Too," creating a breathtaking reminder to all Americans that we are united despite our differences.
Bryan Collier
Lift Your Light a Little Higher, 2016
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Nikki Grimes’s lyrical text and Bryan Collier’s distinctive collages tell the inspirational story of President Barack Obama. Raised in Jakarta and Hawaii, Obama’s election as President represented a watershed moment in our nation’s history.
Dave the Potter is an inspiring and lyrical story of a gifted craftsman who lived in South Carolina two centuries ago. Dave's superb artistry and the deeply observant poetry he carved onto his pots reveal how he transcended the limitations he faced as a slave.
This picture book biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. tells the story of his life and the profound nature of his message to young children through his own words. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. In this book quotes from some of his most beloved speeches are used to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way.
This tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed. Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement.
Bryan Collier
*The 5 o'clock Band*, 2018
Abrams Books for Young Readers

*The 5 O’Clock Band* by noted musician Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews, and illustrated by multi-award winner Bryan Collier, is a follow-up to their previous book, *Trombone Shorty*. This book is a story about young Shorty earning his music chops in New Orleans, and it brims with the life of that vibrant city. The message is stated outright: In order to succeed, you need dedication, love, and to honor tradition. And readers won’t be able to look away from Bryan Collier's gorgeous, colorful art.
A stirring picture book biography from award-winning duo Carole Boston Weatherford and Bryan Collier, about gospel composer and preacher Charles Albert Tindley, best known for the gospel hymn “We’ll Understand It Better By and By.” Tindley is also known for the writing of the song, “We Shall Overcome,” a song sang during the Civil Rights Movement as a source of hope and encouragement for African Americans.
Bryan Collier

*Hey Black Child*, 2017

Hachette Book Group

Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by poet Useni Eugene Perkins.
Clemente! is a biography of Roberto Clemente, the first Latin American player to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and the only player for whom the five-year initiation period was waived. Clemente was known not only for his exceptional baseball skills but also for his extensive charity work in Latin America. Clemente was well-loved during his eighteen years playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He died in a plane crash while bringing aid supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.
Bryan Collier


*Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope* tell the inspirational story of President Barack Obama. Raised in Jakarta and Hawaii, Obama’s election as President represented a watershed moment in our nation’s history.
Bryan Collier

It’s Shoe Time!, 2017
Hyperion Books for Children

This lyrical beginning-reader by multi award-winning artist Bryan Collier turns the closet on its heel and redefines what it means to be a pair. Beautifully rendered art paired with rich, rhyming dialog creates a powerful reading experience.
NCCU Art Museum Origin Story: “Today’s museum emerged, first from a small room in the old Fine Arts Building, then to a larger space in the former cafeteria building, and finally to this handsome, new, free-standing facility. The dedication of this building, in a newly created complex devoted to the arts, marks a new and heightened stage of visibility and appreciation for the arts at North Carolina Central University, which should result in a strategic enrichment of cultural offerings and experiences here.”

-- Albert N. Whiting, Chancellor
(Served from: 1967—1983)

Source: An excerpt from the grand opening exhibition catalog entitled, HERALDS of LIFE: Artis, Bearden, and Burke, 1977; curated and cataloged by Norman E. Pendergraft

Mandarin Journey, Watercolor and collage, 31 in. x 36 in. Courtesy of the Artist

NCCU Administrative Executives:

Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye
Chancellor, North Carolina Central University

Dr. Yolanda Banks Anderson
Interim Provost, and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dr. Carlton E. Wilson
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Professor Connie Floyd
Chair, Department of Art

Museum Staff:

Dr. Brenda S. Faison
Director, NCCU Art Museum

Mr. Nicholas Headen
Curatorial Technician

Ms. Christine Perry
Art Production Specialist

North Carolina Central University
Art Museum
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