



Photo courtesy of the artist

Artist Biography

Jamea Richmond-Edwards was born and raised in Detroit, MI where she currently resides. She studied painting and drawing at Jackson State University in Jackson, MS before earning an MFA from Howard University in 2012.

In her artistic journey, she delves into the rich tapestry of culture and mythology, skillfully crafting narratives that probe the very essence of our reality. Through the medium of self-portraiture, she embarks on a profound quest for self-liberation portraying heroines who embody the relentless pursuit of understanding in our enigmatic world. Influenced by the aesthetics of Africobra and nurtured by her education at Howard University, she creates vibrant monumental epics that invite viewers to immerse themselves in her artistic odyssey.

In 2019, she was honored with the Joan Mitchell Foundation grant, leading to a residency in 2020. She has exhibited works at the El Segundo Museum of Art, Rubell Family Museum, Brooklyn Art Museum, California African American Museum, Frist Art Museum and Houston Museum of Fine Art.

Born in Detroit, MI in 1982
Lives and works in Detroit, MI

Biography courtesy of the artist and Library Street Collective.

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Special thanks to Tara Akitt and the entire team at Library Street Collective for their support of this exhibition.

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GALLERY GUIDE

Jamea Richmond-Edwards: *Leviathan*

March 13 - June 6, 2026

THE JACK W. AND SALLY D. EICHELBERGER FOUNDATION VIDEO GALLERY

The Contemporary Dayton is proud to present *Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Leviathan*, a film by Detroit-based interdisciplinary artist Jamea Richmond-Edwards. Known for her monumental paintings and mixed-media collages informed by mythology, Afrofuturist iconography, and magical realism, Richmond-Edwards extends her expansive visual language into a cinematic form with this immersive work.

This exhibition is one of three concurrent exhibitions of new and recent work by Detroit-based artists, curated by Heather Jones, Curator and Director of Programs and Engagement, and presented to spark dialogue around the art and artists of our time. Also on view is *Jason REVOK: Mutually Exclusive* and *Paul Verdell: Tabernacle*. All three artists are based in Detroit, and these exhibitions consider the shared connections between Detroit and Dayton, cities with intertwined legacies as industrial centers shaped by The Great Migration, economic upheaval, and profound cultural innovation. By presenting these exhibitions in Dayton, we open a space to reflect on these parallel histories and on the resilience and creativity that continue to define both cities.

Using music and dance as narrative conduits, *Leviathan* traces the artist's family history and their enduring connection to Detroit. Raised in a family of dancers and musicians—and drawing on her own experience as a competitive dancer and marching band member—Richmond-Edwards infuses the film with movement and sound that operate as both personal archive and embodied memory. The work unfolds as a poetic meditation on migration, place, and inheritance.

At its core, *Leviathan* explores Detroit's layered histories, spiritual traditions, and evolving landscapes. Invoking the mythic sea creature as metaphor, the film positions *Leviathan* as a symbolic vessel for the powerful, often unspoken forces that propelled and shaped The Great Migration. Through immersive visuals and a resonant soundscape, Richmond-Edwards considers ancestry, resilience, displacement, and the reclamation of belonging, situating personal narrative within broader historical currents.

"Leviathan is both intimate and monumental. In the film, Richmond-Edwards transforms family history into a cinematic language of movement and sound, creating a work that resonates far beyond biography. The film speaks to the layered histories of Detroit while inviting viewers to consider how migration, memory, and myth shape our understanding of home. Through this personal and poetic lens, she connects individual experience with broader cultural histories, reflecting on the enduring forces that shape identity, place, and community."

Richmond-Edwards is an interdisciplinary artist from Detroit whose practice encompasses painting, mixed-media collage, immersive installation, and video. She holds a BFA from Jackson State University and an MFA from Howard University. Her work has been presented at major institutions including the Brooklyn Museum, the Frist Art Museum, and The Phillips Collection, among others. Her work is held in the collections of the Rubell Museum, the The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the U.S. Department of State Art in Embassies program.

For the 2026-2027 season, The Contemporary Dayton (TCD) will mark its 35th anniversary, alongside the nation's 250th birthday, by centering the theme of Freedom of Expression across its exhibitions and public programs. For more than three decades, The Contemporary Dayton has served as a vital civic and cultural anchor, providing a forum for open inquiry and critical reflection. As a contemporary art center, TCD affirms the principles of the First Amendment and supports artists' rights to free expression, particularly when engaging complex or contested ideas.

Exhibition Checklist

Leviathan, 2022 (detail shown)

Digital video

Running time: 11:01 minutes

Courtesy of the artist and Library Street Collective

