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The Contemporary Dayton Presents
Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Leviathan
March 13 - June 6, 2026

DAYTON (March 5, 2026) – The Contemporary Dayton (TCD) is proud to present ***Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Leviathan***, a film by Detroit-based interdisciplinary artist Jame 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 at The Contemporary Dayton, and presented to spark dialogue around the art and artists of our time. Also on view will be *Jason REVOK: Mutually Exclusive* and *Paul Verdell: Tabernacle*.

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,” says Jones. “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 Detroit’s histories while inviting all of us to consider how migration, memory, and myth shape our understanding of home. Detroit and Dayton share intertwined legacies as industrial centers shaped by The Great Migration, economic upheaval, and profound cultural innovation. By presenting *Leviathan* in Dayton, we open a space to reflect on these parallel histories—and on the resilience and creativity that continue to define both cities.”

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.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS / ALL PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE AT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON / FREE & OPEN TO ALL

Opening Reception

Friday, March 13, 6-8 pm

Remarks at 6:30 pm

Free and open to all

Artist Talk

Thursday, May 21, 6:30-8 pm

Guided Tours

Saturday, March 21 at 2 pm

Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm

Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 pm

Closing Reception

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 4-6 pm

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025-2026 OPERATING SUPPORT DONORS

The Wiletha McGuire Family, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Culture Works, The Dayton Foundation, The Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, and our Members.

GALLERY & CoSHOP HOURS

Wednesday–Saturday 11 am–6 pm

Closed Sunday-Tuesday

ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON

Advancing art for the community and a community for artists since 1991.

The Contemporary Dayton is the region’s contemporary art center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Contemporary Dayton produces and presents ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTIST TALKS, and PUBLIC ART by local, national, and global creatives and makers, and is ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL. As a non-collecting art center, The Contemporary Dayton is one of 45 non-collecting art centers and museums across North America that specialize in presenting modern and contemporary art.

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