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By Morgan Mugwira ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DAYTON TODAY DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE 📅 JUNE 30, 2026

Women, Voting & Art



Niki Johnson

The Contemporary Dayton’s “Pillars of Democracy” exhibition runs July 1 through Aug. 15

[The Contemporary Dayton](#) will honor the Fourth of July throughout the summer with its newest exhibition, “Niki Johnson: The Pillars of Democracy.” This shows depictions of how women have contributed to democracy through portraits. This exhibition will be available July 1-Aug. 15.

“The Pillars” of Democracy exhibition will show four large-scale collages Liberty, Justice, Freedom and Forward as first-time voters from Milwaukee. The exhibition is meant to show the central role that women have taken in democratic progress. These portraits will repurpose discarded material and leftover paint from the 2020 installation of “Shepard Fairy’s Voting Rights Are Human Rights” mural in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Aside from being an artist and curator, Niki Johnson is also executive director of the Forward Art Initiative. Raised in New Mexico, the artist now resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, although she has lived and worked across the United States. Johnson’s work has been reviewed in both national and international major publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *Vice Magazine*, to name a few.

The exhibition will run at The Contemporary Dayton, 25 W. Fourth St., Dayton, July 1-Aug. 15. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on the First Friday of each month. Admission is free.

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