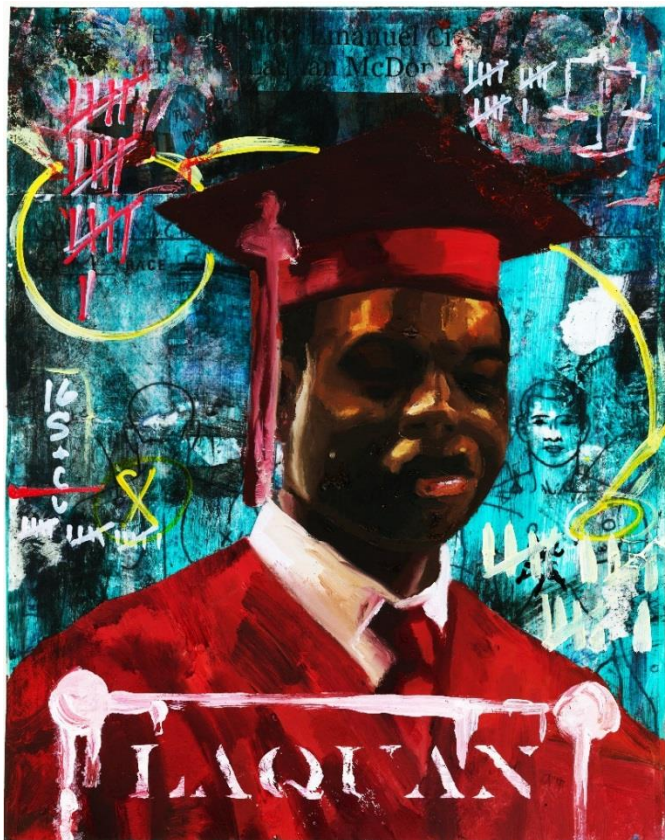


Laquan MacDonald

September 25, 1997 – October 20, 2014 (17 years old)



How did you first hear about the Dearly Beloved project?

Outreach by Dr. Jordan-Zachery.

What was your motivation behind participating in this project?

My artistic practice has always been rooted in social justice collaboration, so it was a perfect fit.

Who did you paint? Why?

I painted Laquan MacDonald. There are a number of reasons why - quickly, he was from my hometown of Chicago and killed by Chicago PD, his murder was at the center of a huge political scandal for the city's mayor, linking political corruption with black death, and all of the photos of him online are extremely grainy, low quality, and I thought painting him was a way of restoring some of his visibility and full humanness.

Did you conduct research on the victim before you started the painting? If so, what was that experience like?

Yes, there is very little public record on his personal life, which deeply informed the content of the piece.

What has collaborating in the Dearly Beloved project meant to you?

It's an opportunity to lend support to an excellent campaign in the name of black lives, so it's been wonderful.

Were there any changes in your views, ideas, perceptions, from the time you started this project to the time you finished?

Anything of this nature works to cement your artistic practice in the lived experience, which is always changing.

Jordan Seaberry is a local artist. To see more of his work, please visit: www.jordanseaberry.com