

Bob Dilworth: When I Remembered Home

September 28, 2024 – January 12, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 28, 2:00 – 2:00pm



Bob Dilworth, *Piggy-Back*, 2023, acrylic paint, enamel paint, paper on canvas, 66 x 66 inches.
Courtesy of the Artist and Cade Tompkins Projects.

Dilworth paints the people and places he loves on a monumental scale and in vivid color, and over the last eight years his style has evolved to include intricate layers of paint, paper, and fabric. The fabric and paper in many of Dilworth's paintings originated from the homes and closets of his family and friends, and their inclusion acts as a material manifestation of memory, honoring and memorializing loved ones from his hometown of Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Not only does Dilworth portray his loved ones—family and chosen family—but he repeats their figures to capture different facets of their personalities. Portraying, Dilworth offers an intimate view of his subjects and their internal lives as well as a powerful corrective to how Black people have been historically represented in fine art and popular culture.

After decades as a painter and a professor of studio art at the University of Rhode Island, Dilworth has a profound understanding of paint and how it reacts, transforms, and moves, and that predictably has driven his interest in cloth. Fabric, and the challenges posed by learning to use a sewing machine, have become sources of deep creative inspiration for Dilworth in recent years. The works in this exhibition trace this evolution, presenting for the first time a collection of compositions made entirely of fabric.

Mark your calendars! We will celebrate the opening of *Bob Dilworth: When I Remembered Home* on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 2 – 4 pm. This reception is free for FAM members or with admission.

This exhibition was organized by FAM Curator Emily Mazzola and FAM's Terry and Eva Herndon Assistant Sarah Harper.



Bob Dilworth, *Lawrenceville Landscape #2*, 2021, acrylic paint, acrylic based spray paint, paper, fabric, markers on canvas, 67 x 95 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and Cade Tompkins Projects.

About FAM

The Mission of the Fitchburg Art Museum is to inspire creativity and learning, and to contribute to the well-being of our diverse communities in Fitchburg, North Central Massachusetts, and New England.

To accomplish this mission, we organize exhibitions of the work of New England contemporary artists and artworks from our art historical collections, offer programs for learners of all ages, support public art projects, invite community participation and partnerships, and stimulate the creative economy – all in the spirit of inclusivity.

The Fitchburg Art Museum serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster and the surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Founded in 1925, FAM plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region and has recently repositioned itself to focus on community access and service. FAM uses its artistic and educational resources to aid in the economic revitalization of Fitchburg, and the Museum maintains active educational partnerships with the local school systems, as well as Fitchburg State University. FAM is an engine for creativity, education, community building, and fun!

Hours:

Wednesdays through Fridays, noon – 4:00pm
Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Website: www.fitchburgartmuseum.org

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