

***History is No Mystery***

**Shea Justice**

June 1–June 26, 2022

SoWa First Friday Art Walk: June 3 | 5–8 pm

Artist Talk: Sunday, June 19 | 2–4 pm

FOR PRESS-READY IMAGES CONTACT: Marie Craig at [director@fsfaboston.com](mailto:director@fsfaboston.com), (774) 286-1800



FS HISTORY IS NO MYSTERY  
Shea Justice

**BOSTON, MA** – Beginning June 1, Fountain Street Gallery will exhibit Shea Justice’s “History is No Mystery.” In this solo exhibition, Justice explores U.S. laws and customs and traces their impact on African Americans from their inception to this day. His work features portraits of figures that have shaped history, as well individuals affected by or consciously omitted from mainstream accounts of historical events. Using watercolor and collage, Justice applies images and text to replicas of historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution. In juxtaposing these elements, he explores the motives and meaning behind the words that have shaped policies in America—and presents the past as prologue to our current times.

The exhibition also features Justice’s scrolls, a long-term and ongoing body of work that illustrates and documents events in American history. The U.S. War on Terror is the focus of one evolving scroll. The scrolls are on multiple rolls of rice paper, some hundreds of feet long. This format allows the drawings and written commentary to accumulate over time, with events added as they unfold.

Justice’s work is united by his intention to acknowledge the African Diaspora and to address legal and political realities of being Black in America over the centuries. As both archive and timeline, each piece in Justice’s extensive body of work is part of an overarching narrative about

the American experience as told by a Black man. Through his devoted labor, meticulous research and powerful artistry, Shea Justice is a critically important witness of our time.

Justice is an artist and teacher who uses watercolor and collage to document these times. He holds a BFA from Boston University (1993) and an MFA from Lesley Art + Design (2012). He currently teaches courses in drawing and painting at Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School. His work has been shown at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Gallery 13, Spoke Gallery, and deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. He is a member of AAMARP (African American Master Artist Residency Program) at Northeastern University. One day Justice hopes to share his work with a larger audience at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

### **Image Information**

Shea Justice, *The Greatest (detail)*, watercolor, 22 x 30 inches, 2007

### **Additional Images Available**

Shea Justice, "Hands Up!" from the Constitution Series, collage, 9 x 12 inches, 2007

Shea Justice, "Black Woman: This is Not your Last Supper", collage, 30 x 40 inches, 2011

### **About Fountain Street**

Fountain Street is a contemporary gallery in the SoWa Art + Design District of Boston. We exhibit a wide array of media from over 30 emerging and mid-career artists in our main and annex galleries, and 24/7 at our sidewalk video gallery. Founded in 2011, our passion has always been about connecting art seekers and makers through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, juried shows, collaborative projects and installations. Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected in the media that we exhibit, artists and curators that we promote, and audiences that we seek to engage.

### **Contact**

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