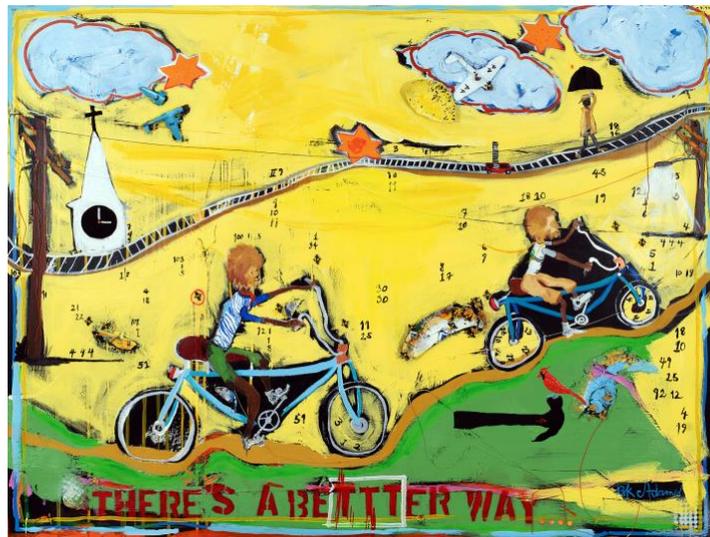




**CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY ANNOUNCES *FIVE MILES*  
GALLERY DEBUT BY ARTIST BK ADAMS**

**ON VIEW IN NEW YORK CITY  
SEPTEMBER 8 – NOVEMBER 4, 2023**



**New York, NY, 28 September 2023** | Claire Oliver Gallery is proud to announce the opening of BK Adams' first solo gallery exhibition, *Five Miles*. Installed in our Harlem location, the show features all new multimedia paintings, created in the artist's signature style, and layered with cyphers and narratives. Representing joy, empowerment, faith, fatherhood, and wisdom, this body of work offers the viewer a moment of reflection and encouragement. Adams employs a series of animal characters including a pride male lion and a blue (collar) horse to narrate his complex biographical and metaphorical stories. "My goal is to make works that speak to the viewer on both personal and universal levels, in a way that is inspirational, and empathetic" says Adams. "I hope to share knowledge and confidence with the community from my own experiences as a family man, artist, and spiritual being.

Each element in Adams' work is symbolic. For example, the artist sported a flower in his lapel every day for a year and at the end of each workday, he left the flower in a bowl in the studio. He then added the dried flowers into his paintings as a symbol of the circle of life and the beauty that surrounds us daily, infusing each work of art with the artist's very DNA and spirit. "I hope my work uplifts viewers and charts a path for choosing to see the beauty and worth behind everything, no matter how insignificant. There is magic in our power to choose joy; we can wake up every day and take that decision for our lives."

The artist's recurrent lion figure symbolizes leadership, wisdom, and protection. Often depicted with cubs, the lion serves as a teacher and guide, imparting Adams' philosophy of finding ways to live each moment to the fullest and find wonder within the minute and mundane. Adams' works are layered, and complex compositions intended to serve as a guide to help us navigate life's obstacles and hardships by focusing on the solution and the path beyond the immediate impediment. The artist encourages us to shift our own preconceptions by offering alternative insights and shifting our belief in what is possible.

This exhibition marks the gallery debut for the artist, whose work has been acquired by four public institutions, including The National Museum of African American History and Culture, since he joined the gallery's program earlier this year. *Five Miles* will be on view in New York City from September 8 to November 4, 2023.



**IMAGE CAPTIONS (L to R, top to bottom):**

BK Adams, *Better Manchild*

Acrylic on canvas, 2022, 72 x 72 x inches/183 x 183 x cm

BK Adams, *Soul Surrender*

Oil on canvas, 2021-22, 60 x 83 x 2 inches/152 x 211 x 4cm

BK Adams, *The Key is Wisdom*

Acrylic on canvas, 2023, 72 x 60 x 3 inches/183 x 152 x 8cm

BK Adams, *Books of Daniel*

Acrylic on canvas, 2022, 60 x 84 x inches/152 x 213 x cm

All images courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

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**ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY**

Claire Oliver Gallery occupies a four-story brownstone in Central Harlem. For over thirty years, the Gallery has remained true to its original mission, championing the voices of underrepresented artistic communities, and supporting social inclusion. It is an important part of the gallery's stated task to expand the traditional art historical canon, creating a platform to showcase these important voices, transcending and disrupting the previous norm. By working to gain space in public institutions and museums for the gallery's artists of color and other minority populations, the Gallery works to diversify what the next generation will see on institutional walls. Claire Oliver Gallery has placed well over 300 works of art by our represented artists into the permanent collections of prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, to name but a few.

To create lasting change, it is important that all towns and cities universally have the opportunity to experience these works; the gallery works hand in glove to assist museums in their acquisition and exposition of our artist's works. Claire Oliver Gallery has worked to bring to fruition the first Bisa Butler museum tour, including a record-breaking, sold-out Art Institute of Chicago inception, and current tours for both Gio Swaby and Barbara Earl Thomas. The Gallery's founder, Claire Oliver, has seen firsthand the inequality women artists and people of color face each day. Assuaging the longstanding tradition of women being paid less and disregarding underrepresented voices, Oliver has made the bold choice to provide equal opportunities and rights to these individuals by wholeheartedly embracing their careers and actively promoting and nurturing them.

The gallery has recently had its programming featured in The New York Times, The Boston Globe, Widewalls, Vouge, The Smithsonian, American Craft and a host of other well respected publications. The Gallery continues to work *exclusively* in the primary market, supporting its artists, creating civic engagement, social inclusion, and cultural programming.

Many of the gallery's artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon. They have exhibited works in major international museums including MoMA, the NMAAHC, Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Center Georges Pompidou, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst many others. Claire Oliver Gallery artists are included in the permanent collections of many important museums worldwide including The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Tate Britain, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The State Hermitage Museum, MoMA, and the NMAAHC among many others. Gallery artists have received prestigious fellowships including Fulbright, Guggenheim, USArtist, PEW and National Endowment for the Arts.

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