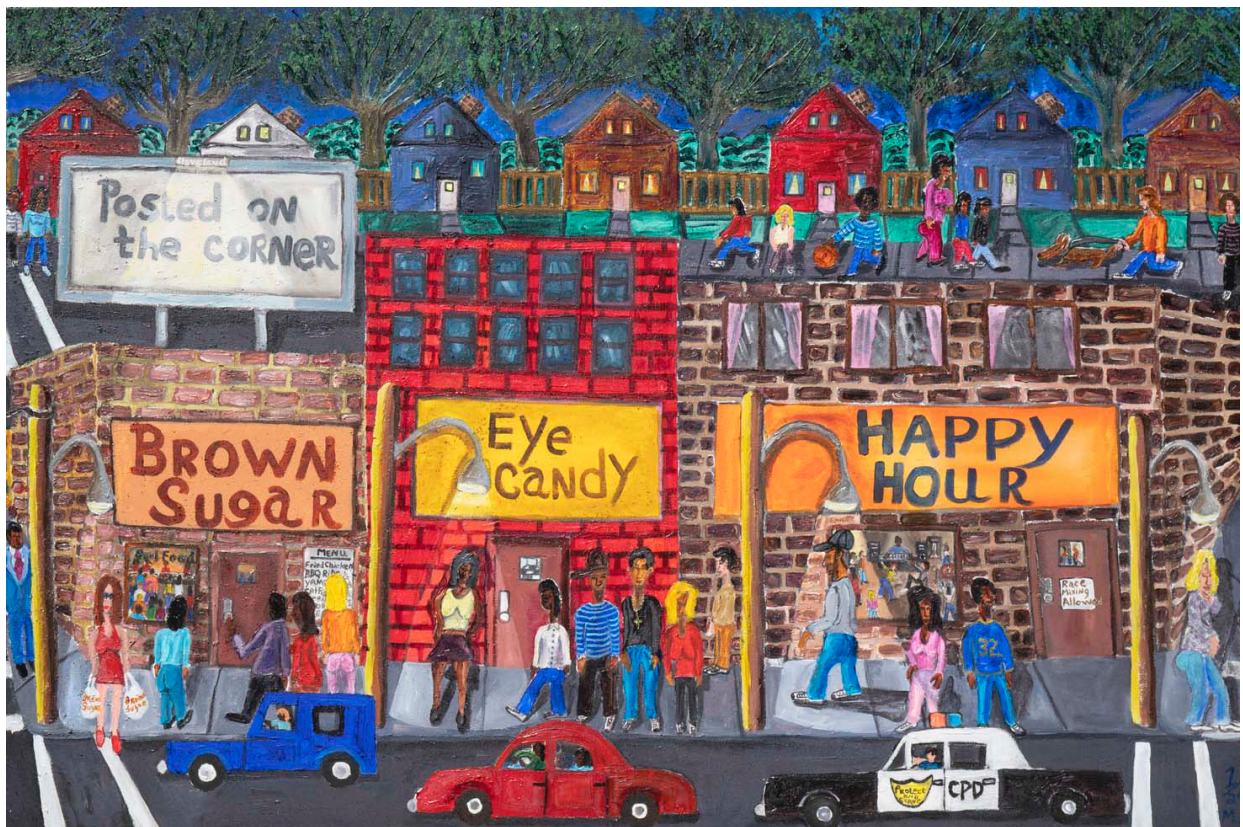


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We Heart

**Michelangelo Lovelace, Cleveland by Night:
Michelangelo Lovelace's singular approach to
portraying nightlife, society and Black identity is
explored in New York exhibition...**

By Lisa Davidson – February 27, 2024

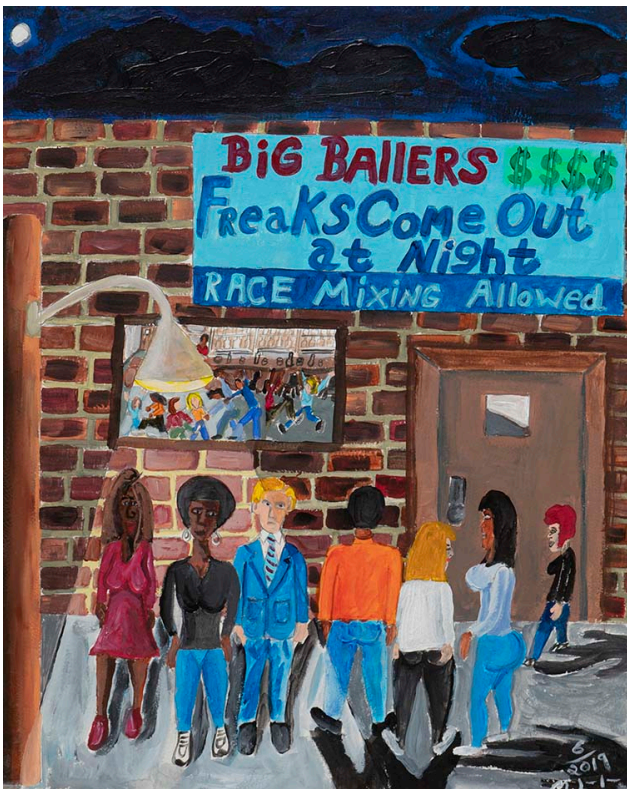


Michelangelo Lovelace, *The Midnight Hour*, 2019, 40 × 60 in, Acrylic on canvas.

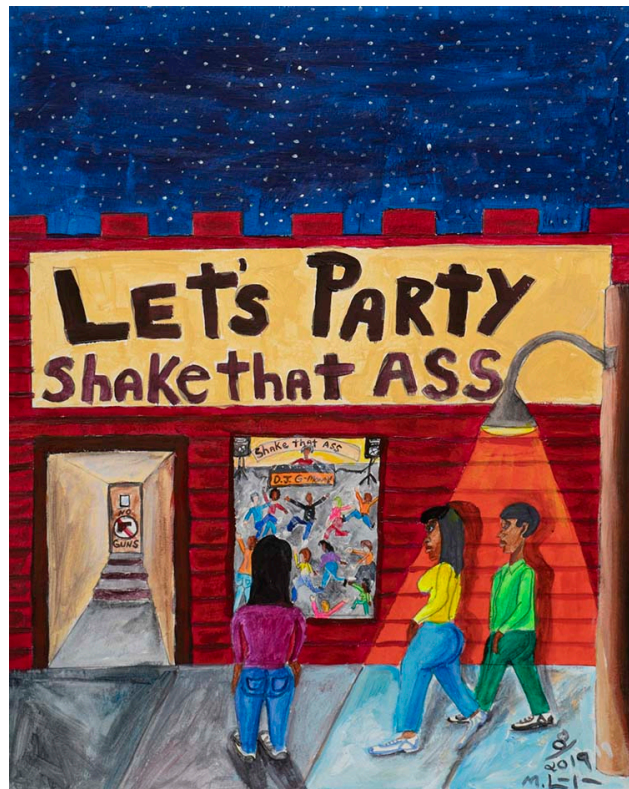
Passing away at the age of 60 in May 2021, Michelangelo Lovelace was a Cleveland-based artist renowned for his vibrant paintings depicting quotidian scenes of urban life, policing, poverty, war, and personal investigations of Black Identity. Undoubtedly one of the city's most expressive painters, his work is included in museum collections throughout the United States.

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Cleveland by Night, a new exhibition at Fort Gansevoort, New York, spans a period of his work from 1998 to 2020, and illuminates the mysterious and animating qualities of the night as synthesized by Lovelace. The early hours, for many, a time for rest, leisure, or amusement, for the late artist these hours were a critical time for creative productivity and contemplation.



Being a Big Baller, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in



Shake That Ass, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in

Attracting critical praise in his lifetime for intimate depictions of Cleveland's Black community and its built world, Lovelace's subject matter explored topics of law and order, community deprivation, international war, and the state of American healthcare, all replete with deep personal expressions of Black Identity and shaped by his immersion in art as an antidote to the effects of poverty and addiction.

Through a fiery colour palette and somewhat of an eccentric, approach to spatial perspective, Lovelace's art imbued his subjects with immediacy and relatability, enticing the viewer to join him in examining the struggles of urban communities as well as their resilience and energy.

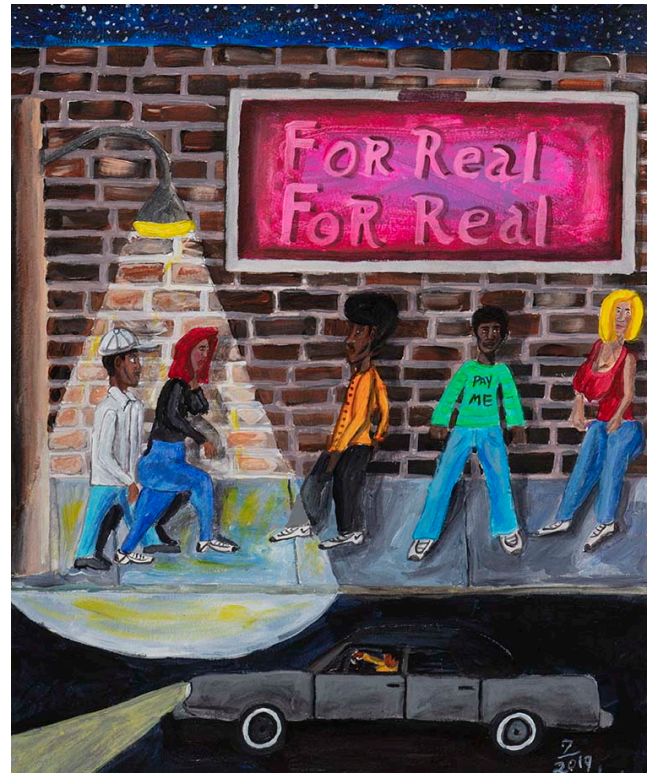
Depicting nocturnal city life in Cleveland, Ohio, capturing the city where he was born and lived for all of his life, *Cleveland by Night* by Michelangelo Lovelace is a powerful body of work from a vital component of the country's contemporary counterculture. Remaining on show at Fort Gansevoort New York until 30 March 2024, the exhibition precedes the upcoming *Michelangelo*

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Loveland: Art Saved My Life, which will open at Akron Art Museum 4 May, 2024, and represent the first museum retrospective of the artist's work.



West 25th, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in

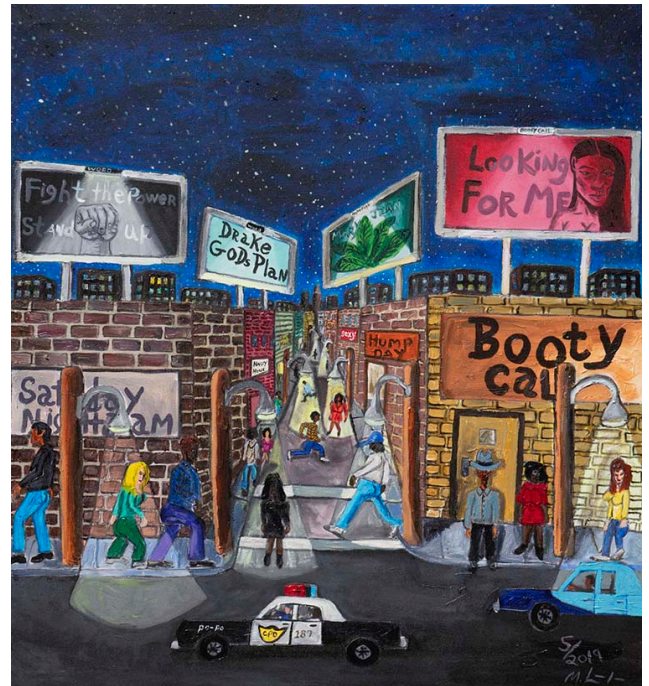
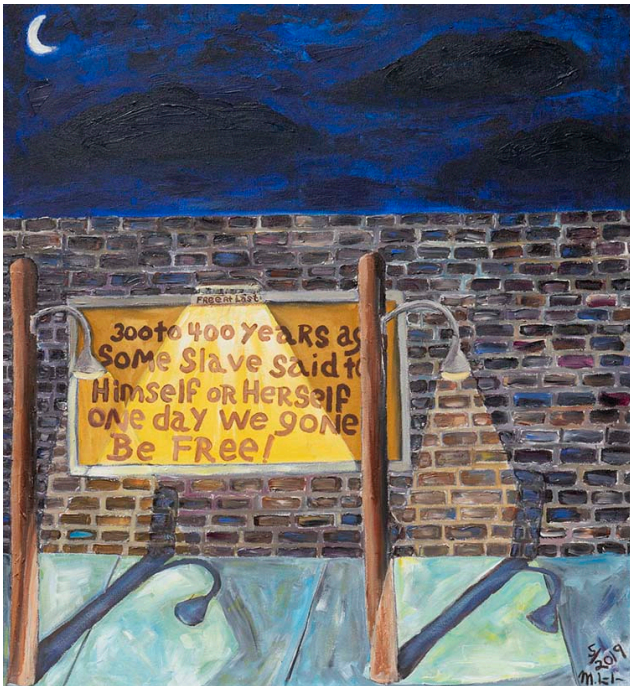


Coming From Where I'm From, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in

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Chasing Fireflies, 2019, 43 x 60 in, Acrylic on canvas.



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When Freedom Comes, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
39 x 36 in

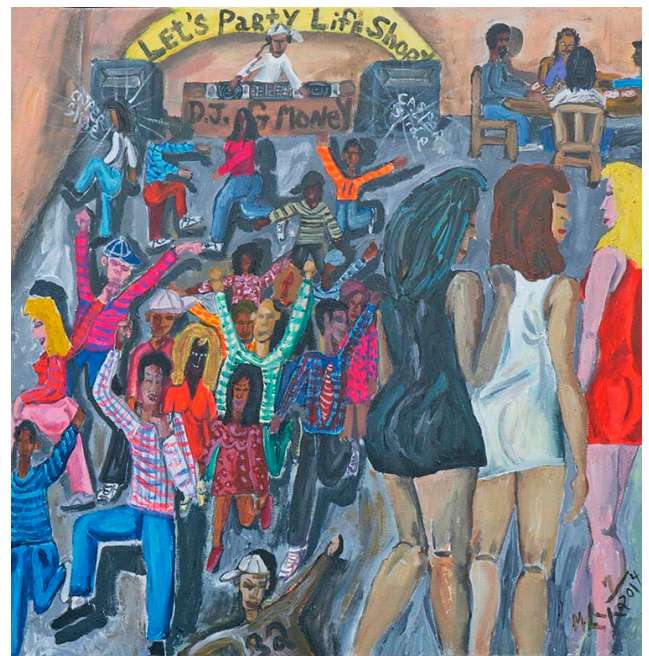
Late Night Rendezvous, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
38.75 x 36 in



Color Count, 2001, 34.75 x 50.5 in, Acrylic on canvas.



Social Distancing, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
63 x 60 in

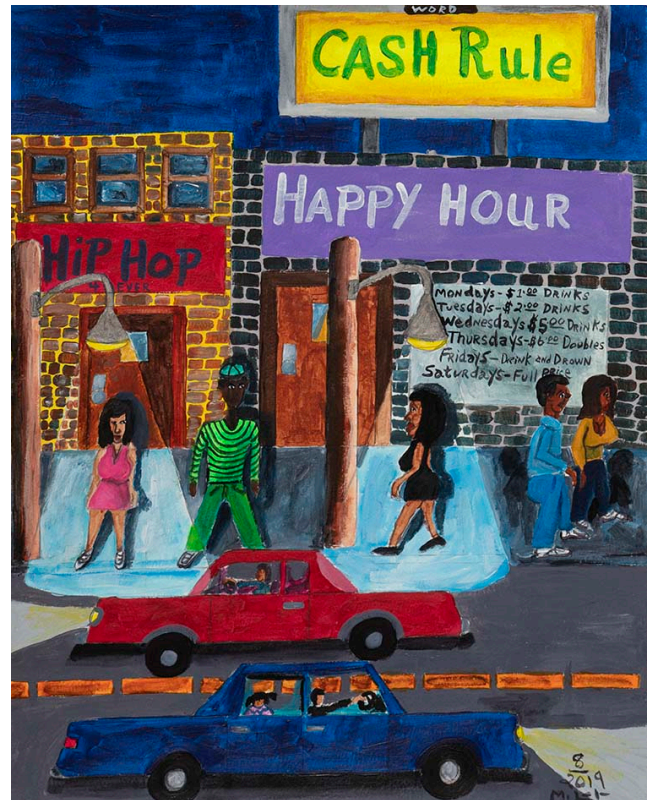
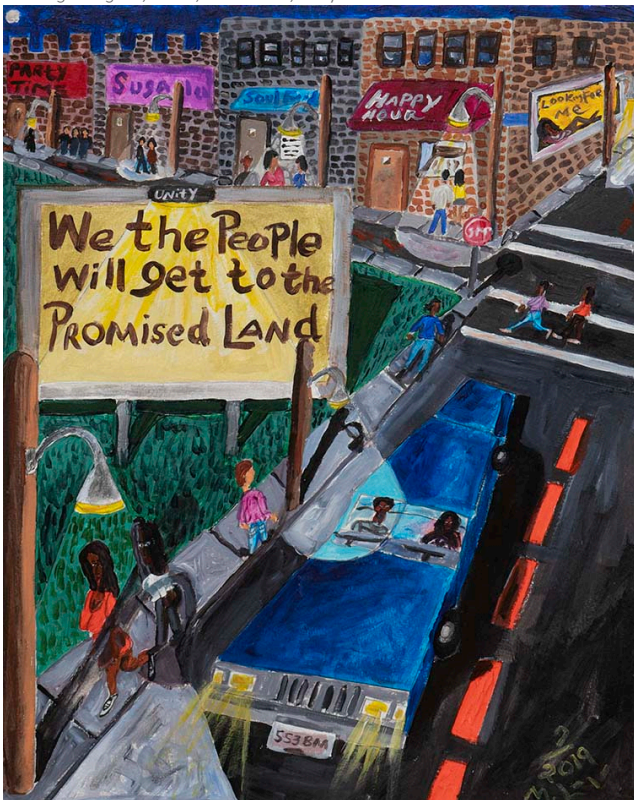


Doing the Casper Slide, 2014
Acrylic on canvas
23.75 x 23.25 in

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The Boogie Nights, 2003, 30 x 40 in, Acrylic on canvas.



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Yes We Can, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in

Cash Rule, 2019
Acrylic on paper
20 x 16 in