



and promotion of art produced by Louisiana-based artists and artists of African descent throughout the world.

As an artist with a strong focus on heritage and social justice, Scott's work advances the mission of both the XULA Art Collections and Gallery and Xavier University's mission to promote a more just and humane society.

A testimony to the artist's heritage and his commitment to passing it on, "Holding On: Reaching Forward, Selected Works by Ayo Scott" features works that the artist has created since 2020. It includes the series "Artifacts of an AfroFuture Continuum, Crowned" and a series of portraits that honor artists and instructors that have shaped Scott's practice. The works examine the importance of community, cultural bearers, and the pivotal role of women and mothers in society.

"Scott's work is a conversation between past, present and future: the past upon whose shoulders we stand, our present reality and the future that we imagine for ourselves and those who follow us," **said Gair.**

A signature work in the exhibition is the self-portrait "Kente Cola." In this painting, the artist is wrapped in kente cloth, a gift of Bishop Moses Anderson. This exhibition represents a full circle moment for the artist because Bishop Anderson christened Scott in the former chapel that now operates as the art gallery. "Kente Cloth" provides a lens through which to experience the exhibition. Special to the display is "Black Butterfly" by Scott's late father, famed New Orleans artist and former Xavier University of Louisiana art professor John T. Scott ('62). Also on display are a handcrafted hobby horse and scooter also created by the elder Scott.

###

### **About Xavier University of Louisiana**

*Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.*

*Established in 1925, by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African American and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robot1(e)-1(a)11(n)-11(0 g0 11( )5(r)-7(e)-11(c)2add0.000091*

*and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at [www.xula.edu](http://www.xula.edu) or contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or [rreyes@xula.edu](mailto:rreyes@xula.edu).*

### **About the artist Ayo Scott**

*Born and raised in and by New Orleans, multimedia artist and painter Ayo Scott is a second-*