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**Prospect.6 Upholds New Orleans As Harbinger For The World, Good And Bad
New Orleans' city wide arts triennial looks at the city as representative of the
world for its historic struggles with colonialism, and it's present and future
struggles with climate change.**



Didier William artwork at Historic New Orleans Collection as part of Prospect.6. PHOTO BY ALEX MARKS.

The curators of Prospect, the city's arts triennial, view New Orleans as a harbinger, a signifier, representative of what's to come. Through newly commissioned works from more than 50 local and international artists spread across the city, event organizers Miranda Lash and Ebony G. Patterson posit "The Future is Present, The Harbinger is Home"—the title for Prospect's sixth edition.

New Orleans as a global point of departure for examining our collective future related to climate change, legacies of colonialism, and definitions of belonging and home. New Orleans as microcosm for the world. New Orleans on the front lines of rising sea levels, stronger tropical storms, and ecological ruin. New Orleans continuing to reckon with the foul characteristics of its founding and what that hath wrought through the centuries. Perhaps the 21st century's greatest calamity outside its front door (climate change), the preceding centuries greatest calamity out back (colonialism).

Humanity's future unfolds daily in New Orleans—the future is present. Humanity's direction will be prophesized there—the harbinger is home.

“What would it mean to think about New Orleans as a global place, not a local one, because it is global,” Patterson said in January 2024 at a press conference held in New York introducing Prospect.6. “I come to New Orleans and I go, ‘I know this place. This place seems familiar to me.’ What does it mean then to decenter New Orleans from a North American narrative and to recenter it, because New Orleans is often discussed as a majority minority city. It is only a minority within this context (of America). New Orleans is actually a majority global city because it largely reflects the way most of the world is occupied and lives because most of the world is occupied by people of color.”

Patterson was born in Kingston, Jamaica.

“Although we do celebrate and talk about how New Orleans is unique, we also want to situate it in conversations with other regions of the world that are experiencing similar things, specifically direct proximity to the effects of climate change, being regarded as a site of extraction, pivoting on a tourist economy, having to reckon deeply with its own history in complicated ways, but also being grounded in its vibrance and its commitment to culture and its commitment to community,” Lash said at the same event.

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