The List Gallery is pleased to present *Ubiquitous Presence*, featuring recent wall-mounted installations and portraits by Barbara Bullock alongside four iconic works the artist created between 1998 and 2007. A gallery reception in honor of the artist will take place on Thursday, September 15, 4:30-6:30 PM. The artist will give a short gallery talk and answer questions at 4:30 p.m. An exhibition catalog will be distributed at a closing reception on Sunday, October 30, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. List Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5:00 PM. All events are free and open to the public.

Born in 1938 and raised in Philadelphia, Bullock is one of the Mid-Atlantic region’s most notable and widely-respected artists. She has spent nearly sixty years challenging European artistic and cultural conventions; offering new ways of approaching form, color, and process; and investigating complex ideas related to gender, belief systems, dreams, and other aspects of identity. Shifting between abstract and figurative modes, Bullock centers and honors diverse Black cultures. She also prioritizes the cultivation of relationships – both ancestral and contemporary – in every aspect of her life and practice.

Iconic works, such as *Ethiopian Woman with Wings* (1998, from the *Journey Series*), and *Healing Altar* (1994, from the *Healing Series*), reflect the artist’s travels throughout the African continent during the mid 1980’s and early 1990s, her lifelong study of art and culture related to the African diaspora, and her ongoing meditations on both
personal and collective belief systems. Later works, such as *Used Furniture* (2007 from the *Katrina Series*), offer a response to contemporary events and challenges in the United States—particularly injustices that disproportionately affect African American communities. Presented on boldly colored walls alongside Bullock’s sculptural paper installations, such works highlight the artist’s vibrant palette and virtuosity.

An entire wall panel in the rear gallery is devoted to a key work in the exhibition: *Trayvon Martin: Most Precious Blood* (2013-2014, shown above). The adjacent walls highlight a series of portraits Bullock began in 2020 in response to notorious examples of social injustice and the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Rather than composing perceptually or emulating photographs, Bullock abstracts features drawn from varied sources, including sketches, personal memories and photographs, historical research, and contemporary events. For example, the artist notes that she began one of her portraits working intuitively, but soon found herself thinking about George Floyd, who was murdered by a police offer in Minneapolis in 2020. Although Floyd’s likeness and the events surrounding his death informed her creative process, the resulting work became more archetypal in character. Surrounding the viewer with poignant images, Bullock emphasizes the importance of both creativity and interconnection.

Bullock’s work has been exhibited and collected by galleries and museums throughout the United States, including The Woodmere Art Museum, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and The African American Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; The Noyes Museum in New Jersey; and the Minneapolis Institute of Art in Minnesota. In 2016, La Salle University Art Museum organized the exhibition, *Barbara Bullock: Chasing After Spirits*, and published an eponymous 155-page exhibition catalog. Bullock’s most notable accolades include a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, a Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Visual Arts Residency Grant, the Bessie Berman Grant awarded by the Leeway Foundation, and two Distinguished Teaching Artist awards from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has won and executed numerous public commissions, including for the Philadelphia International Airport, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, SEPTA, and the Village of the Arts and Humanities, Philadelphia. As an educator, advisor, and artist, Bullock has led countless classes at museums, schools, prisons, and non-profits, such as Arts Horizon.

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