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CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITURE BY BLACK ARTISTS AT LA ART WEEK 2022

POWERFUL HIGHLIGHTS FROM FRIEZE LOS
ANGELES, FELIX ART FAIR AND
SPRING/BREAK ART SHOW

David Graver 25 February 2022

As [Frieze Los Angeles](#), [Felix Art Fair](#), [Spring/Break Art Show](#) and dozens of galleries, as well as art, design and fashion pop-ups, welcomed an international swathe of guests to LA, every exhibitor had the opportunity to present powerful pieces. Amidst towering and transportive works at the three fairs, and the transgressive and thought-provoking pieces elsewhere (including [Martine Syms](#)' kinetic digital installation for [Prada Mode](#), entitled "*HellA World*"), there were several paintings that stood out for their take on contemporary portraiture. The following seven painted works by Black artists celebrate, honor and commemorate Black figures—and they do so with distinct vision.



Phumelele Tshabalala at Felix

Johannesburg, South Africa-based fine artist [Phumelele Tshabalala](#)'s "[Nokhanya from the Lineage of Grace](#)" (2022) is a bright and mesmerizing work of layered imagination. Presented by NYC-based [Lyles & King](#) at Felix, the exuberant large-scale painting incorporates acrylic, oils, collage and embellishments on wood. Through his subject matter, Tshabalala explores Black identity, resistance and expression.