

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, [http://www.dia.org/portrait\\_studio/wall.html#](http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#)



*Jamaii, Fortress Studios, 2013 (printed 2014)*

“I think just the history of how things happened in Detroit has, like, shaped who I am and how I work. Like, I really involve the historical aspects of lots of things. Like, one of the things I’ve been working on just historical poems on different places in Detroit and people in Detroit, just the impact on where we are. There’s a far way to go with this blank canvas concept. But behind that blank canvas, there’s a reason that you can get to the point where there’s a blank canvas. There has been so much that has been had, along just this strip of Oakland Avenue—like the Apex bar is, like, where John Lee Hooker played. In the North End, lots of Motown legends lived in this neighborhood. There’s so many artists that have done murals and organized labor unions. Like, I feel organizing is an art. And just done so many things in the neighborhoods around Detroit to get to a point where it can be a blank canvas to build upon. So, there’s a great opportunity to move forward, but there is some history behind that blank canvas.”