

A r t

C a t a l o g u e

T h e R h y t h m s o f
I n v i s i b l e : G e d e
r e v e r b e r a t i o n s

b y

C l i f f o r d B e r t i n

THE RHYTHMS OF THE INVISIBLE: GEDE REVERBERATIONS



“Gede, in Haitian Vodou, represents a family of spirits associated with death and fertility. These spirits are known for their profound connection to the ancestors and the afterlife, embodying the cycles of death and rebirth. The Gede play a crucial role in Haitian Vodou, serving as a bridge between the living and the dead, and embodying the continuity of life and the inevitable transition of death.”

In my latest abstract collection, I delve into the mystical realm of the Gede spirits, drawing from the rich tapestry of Haitian Vodou that I, as a Haitian-American artist, have been deeply connected to through both my heritage and personal spiritual journey. As a practitioner of Buddhism, my belief system is intricately woven with the principles of mindfulness, the cycle of life and death, and the interconnectedness of all beings. This spiritual fusion profoundly influences my artistic exploration, particularly in capturing the essence of Gede spirits, who embody the duality of existence—life and death, humor and solemnity, fertility and decay.

Through bold strokes, vibrant colours, and the abstract interplay of forms, each piece in my collection is an homage to the Gede, inviting viewers into a contemplative space where the veil between the physical and spiritual worlds is thinned.

My work is not just a visual representation but a spiritual encounter, where the ancestral wisdom and the irreverent vitality of the Gede spirits dance across canvases, challenging perceptions of mortality and celebrating the eternal cycle of life.

This collection is a dialogue between my Buddhist practice, which teaches me about the impermanence of life, and the Vodou belief in the ancestral realm and its influence on the living. It is a personal journey of understanding and acceptance of death not as an end but as a crucial part of life's continuum. Through my art, I strive to convey the profound impact of Haitian culture and ancestral religion on my identity and spirituality, offering a unique lens through which the Gede spirits are not only seen but felt, reminding us of our own place within the cycles of life and death.

CLIFFORD BERTIN, ABSTRACT ARTIST



*“I create like it’s my last day
on earth”*

Clifford Bertin is a Haitian-American, self-taught abstract painter currently based between Haiti, France and Canada. Passionate about culinary art and painting since childhood, he draws from these two mediums to express himself.

His paintings are inspired by Voudou culture, spiritual vibrations and are passionately translated onto his canvases using colours to convey his interpretation of Haitian culture in its many forms. The hidden messages that can be found in his paintings spontaneously transport us to a spiritual and vibrant world that is both subtle and enigmatic, and lead to multiple interpretations of his work.

His paintings are done in series and phases that are carefully thought of and tell stories around themes of joy, spirituality, and societal preoccupations.

Clifford has participated in both individual and group exhibitions in public spaces and has work in private collections all over the world.





Untitled 1

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022
30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 2

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022
30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 3

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 4

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 5

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 6

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 7

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*



Untitled 8

*The Rhythms of Invisible: Gede
reverberations, 2022*

*30 cm x 30 cm
Acrylic on Canvas*

