

(This article was published on Georgia State University's College of Arts and Sciences homepage on September 19, 2013. View it here: <http://cas.gsu.edu/storydetail.aspx?id=895>.)

[head] High ambitions

[deck] Art student Yanique Norman is currently featured in the High Museum of Art.

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Before she even went to college, artist Yanique Norman already had two pieces in the permanent collection of Atlanta's biggest art venue, the High Museum.

"The High currently owns two of my works," said Yanique, "but I never thought they would be shown. I never thought they would see the light of day. Usually they buy art and store it, just in case you make it big later."

Her big break came sooner than she thought possible, and her work was chosen for the High's summer 2013 exhibit, *Drawing Inside the Perimeter*.

Though this is Yanique's first time exhibiting in a major museum, she's no stranger to the many galleries around town. Her series *Middle Passage Redux* in the prestigious Sandler Hudson gallery earned her rave reviews from critics around town, including a prominent review in *Creative Loafing*.

(<http://clatl.com/atlanta/middle-passages-redux-carries-the-weight-of-the-modern-world/Content?oid=3729171>)

With success like that, why go to school?

"I had been working as an artist and doing some showings," said Yanique. "My career was going okay."

It was at one of these showings that Larry Walker, former director of Art and Design at Georgia State University, came across her work. He told Yanique that she had talent, but that Georgia State could take her from good to great.

"He taught me about ways in which I was a little bit inadequate," said Yanique. "He encouraged me to go back to school for my BFA. And once I started school, the ball really got rolling."

As the first in her family to attend college, Yanique found that classes radically changed her life and her art. Instead of jumping into a new work head first, she now painstakingly researches the subject matter, which she says has greatly improved her work.

"I've developed rigorous studio practices. Georgia State teaches you the foundation," said Yanique. "You've got to do sketches. You've got to do research. You've got to flesh out the idea and engage the work."

The program has also helped spur her creativity.

"I experiment more. I use different mediums, different angles and perspectives. The 'grand idea' doesn't come as an epiphany; it comes when you're working with the piece."

Yanique will graduate this spring, and already has high aims for her next step.

"I want to go to graduate school. I want to show nationally. So far I've only shown in Georgia, so now I want to do something in New York or California."

She's certainly on the right track. In fact, her current showing at the High has gone so well that the museum has invited her to take part in their Monster Drawing Rally event in September.

"Georgia State has helped me tremendously. It's changed my entire career."

See Yanique's work in the *Drawing Inside the Perimeter* exhibit at the High Museum until September 22. The Monster Drawing Rally will take place on September 21. Details can be found at the High's website (<https://www.high.org/Programs/Programs.aspx?cat=events&parties>).