meet the artist

Felton Williams

Felton Williams was born in Unadilla, Georgia in January 1976. He grew up in this farming community until the age of seventeen. Growing up in impoverished Southern Georgia, he saw many of his family members and friends lose virtually their entire farms during drought seasons and floods. These life experiences are what Williams credits as his primary influence in the emotional quality of his work.

His mother was a painter, focusing on rural landscapes of the South. He began painting at a very young age, around seven years old, his first experimentations imitating his mother's style closely. As they painted together, she encouraged him to find his own voice and get to the root of emotion in his paintings. He took as many art classes as possible all through school. After high school, he travelled by himself for a few years before returning to the South and enrolling at the University of Tennessee School of Art in 2003. He received a BFA in Painting and Illustration. At this time, he was in a new exciting stage of experimenting with collage, abstract mark making and composition. He sites a mix of pop, classical, abstract styles with themes leaning toward social issues, global tragedy and movement. His primary influences are Rauschenberg, Warhol, Basquiat, and Klimt. The techniques that Williams uses are continuations of his artistic influences: the meticulous and realist nature of Klimt, the layers of Rauschenberg, the color of Warhol, and the free movement of Basquiat's composition.

Williams believes "that great art doesn't have to be a long process, it only has to be a truly believed concept. Visual art needs only to invoke feelings, emotion and inspiration."