



THE STUDIO JCM

# BLACK GOLD

*A rich vein of African American art runs through Jersey City*

BY CHERYL R. RILEY

*Jersey City has a good number of artists of African descent. Their work tilts toward the figurative with color galore, though their careers, styles, and mediums vary. Here's a far-from-complete list of artists who talk about their lives and work in their own words. Meet them and mine their creative gold.*

## Ricardo Francis ➤

I knew I wanted to be an artist by age four. My figurative paintings depict men of color in various states of self-reflection while the floral and still life works are abstract. My art questions the social constructs of masculinity, specifically for Black and Latino men. I am inspired by European Renaissance portraiture. Living in Jersey City has allowed me the time to concentrate on my art and develop a lot of new work.

*LeonidesArts Gallery*  
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[leonidesarts.com](http://leonidesarts.com), [apanamae.com](http://apanamae.com).



Ricardo Francis by Omar Mariluz