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Exhibit at Mother Brook touches on history, pop culture

Graffiti—a word that typically recalls thoughts of large, unattractive scrawl on the sides of buildings or bridges, has taken an artistic turn at the Mother Brook Arts and Community Center on High Street.

"Out of the Everywhere... Evolution of the Graffiti Artist" features works from 13 street artists, and is on display until Oct. 15. Various mediums are used and displayed, but spray paint is the exhibit's central component.

Cedric Douglas, a Boston-based designer, street artist, and social interventionist, used spray paint to portray vivid portraits of himself and important historical figures, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Douglas' paintings are symbolic depictions that remind exhibit patrons of the nation's history, the struggle for equality, and, perhaps, how graffiti is a cultural icon for independence and freedom of expression.

David Taylor, from Stoneham, takes a vintage pop culture spin to his artwork, using spray paint in a different way—as small, precise dots entirely covering the canvas—to depict celebrities Lucile Ball and Charlie Chaplin, to name a few. Taylor's work is loud and vibrant, hinting at the country's desire to hold onto the ideals of the past.

Although spray paint was the commonly used medium and theme, other artistic styles were displayed that related to the evolving form of expression.

John Rodrigues Brewer, from Dorcester, displayed photos of models wearing various fashions, showing beauty in many forms.

Brian Life, from Boston, used airbrushing to paint the pop-culture character E.T. the Extraterrestrial—from the sametitled Stephen Spielberg movie—wearing Michael Jackson's iconic red leather jacket from his infamous "Thriller"music video



"Exiting the Ring of Fire," by Percy Fortini-Wright, is one of the many works on display at Mother Brooks Arts and Community Center through Oct. 15. Courtesy photo

The exhibit is open Wednesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. For more information on the artists and upcoming events, please visit motherbrooksarts.org.

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