



**Jamaal B. Sheats** is a native of Brentwood, Tennessee. He is Director and Curator at Fisk University Galleries. Sheats holds an MFA in Studio Art from Tufts University-Boston (2011) and the SMFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Art-Boston and was awarded an SMFA Post-graduate Teaching Fellowship. Sheats founded Sheats' Repoussé, that specializes in metal relief art form after receiving a bachelor degree in art from Fisk (2002).

Sheats love of art goes back to his elementary school. It was Greg Ridley, a Fisk Professor and mentor, who introduced him to repoussé, the ancient art form. Ridley taught him the skills to work with metal, such as patience, fine detail and precision that is required for metal relief art form. Sheats art expands from metal relief sculpture and painting, to mixed-media. Sheats credits Ridley for connecting him to the works of the famed Harlem Renaissance and Fisk Art Professor Aaron Douglas.

Many galleries and museums in the United States and Asia have exhibited Sheats' work. He has gone on three fact finding tours of Africa to study African culture, historic monuments, and artifacts. A few of his numerous awards and accolades include, being named one of five "Artists to Watch" by the Boston Globe and the "Shaping the Next Generation of Artist" by the Nashville Scene. Among other commissioned projects, Sheats is one of eight commissioned artists by the Music City Center. Sheats has done lectures and seminars in, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

#### **Artist Statement**

"When I look at a piece of canvas, copper, aluminum or brass, I see my reflection of the sum of my thoughts, desires, and experiences. I engrave, hammer, pull, paint, push and shape until it takes on a new body and piece of art if formed. My work is an extension of myself, my being and each piece tells a different story