The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) invites the community to an opening reception on Friday, August 27 from 5-8 pm for its newest exhibitions, *The House We Build*, and *Future Planets*. Both exhibitions feature art work created by parents and their children. *The House We Build* showcases paintings and drawings by James Williams II and his two young daughters, Indigo and Zoe. This exhibition is a dialogue between James and his daughters about various themes including family, friendship, and race. *Future Planets* also contains work by young, emerging artists and their renowned artistic parents. Both exhibitions are on view from August 28, 2021—January 2, 2022.

*The House We Build* is an exhibition about family and a family exhibition that invites visitors to witness their intergenerational conversations through the art that emerges as a result of their dialogue. When James’s daughter, Indigo, was about three she began to ask her father questions about life. They would talk to each other about their experiences, which are reflected in their respective artwork. Years later, younger sister Zoe joined these evolving conversations. LCVA curator of exhibitions, Alex Grabiec, notes that “both Indigo and Zoe’s artwork reflect the hopefulness and optimism of youth as they as navigate and question our complex world. Their perspective is a valuable inspiration to James in his own work, which is tempered by the realities of his experiences as an adult.”

James Williams’ art work frequently examines the objectification of Black people and the Black construct in order to find humor and understanding in the inaccuracies and indecisiveness of racial classifications of Black Americans. In describing the genesis of the project, Williams says, “My work centers on social and cultural identity in the United States tied together by self-portraiture and narrative. It was two years ago during an attempt to make sense of race and visual representation for my five-year-old daughter, Indigo, I began to see similarities between her anthropomorphic cartoons and the origin of racial constructs in America, particularly in
Black Americans. Anthropomorphized animals and inanimate objects in traditional stories or Disney movies are relatable to children. One of the main purposes of these stories is to help children differentiate between what is perceived to be good and evil in this world, therefore leading to a biased understanding of race.”

*Future Planets* expands upon dialogue between children and their parents. This concurrent exhibition, which is curated by James Williams II, provides emerging artists ages 3 to 15 a space to showcase their limitless imagination and creativity. Their renowned artist parents are exhibiting alongside them. *Future Planets* features drawing, paintings, sculptures, videos, and installations created both individually and collaboratively by:


In accordance with updated CDC guidance and effective Friday, August 6, Longwood University is reinstating its indoor face coverings policy for indoor public spaces. ALL visitors, faculty, and staff will be required to wear a mask while visiting the LCVA, regardless of vaccination status. Please continue to check the Longwood’s website for the current Covid-19 policies and guidelines. [http://www.longwood.edu/Covid19/](http://www.longwood.edu/Covid19/). Thank you for your continued understanding and support! We look forward to seeing you at the museum.

**About LCVA:**

The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts presents a rotating program of inspiring and conversation-starting exhibitions. Admission to LCVA and its programs is—and always has been—free for all. It is located at the intersection of Main and Third Streets (129 North Main Street) in Farmville, Virginia. For additional information on these exhibitions or other programs and events, contact LCVA at 434.395.2206 or visit LCVA’s website at [https://lcva.longwood.edu/](https://lcva.longwood.edu/).

Image Credits:

*The House We Build*

James Williams II  
*BAE on Vacation, 2019*  
48x36”  
oil on canvas, Velcro  
Courtesy of the Artist
Indigo Williams
*My Family, 2021*
8.5x11
marker on paper
Courtesy of the Artist

Zoelle Williams
*Trolls Coloring Page*
8.5 by 11
marker on paper
Courtesy of the Artist
Future Planets

Kang Joo Kee & Leo Kim
Trace, 2021
acrylic and marker on canvas
36” x 48”
Courtesy of the Artists