

# ARTSY

Art

## 29 Emerging Black Artists to Discover This Black History Month, Part 1

Isis Davis-Marks



[Ute Petit](#) brings other worlds to life in her works, which comprise textiles, drawings, and paintings. Her vivid drawings depict bizarre worlds where snakes leap forth from the ground and guns morph into animalistic appendages, while plants seem to engulf the human figures that inhabit their environments.

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-29-emerging-black-artists-discover-black-history-month-1>



## UTĒ PETIT WINS THIRD ANNUAL ILLUMINATIONS GRANT FOR BLACK TRANS WOMEN VISUAL ARTISTS



Queer|Art is pleased to announce the winner of the third annual Illuminations Grant for Black Trans Women Visual Artists, **Utĕ Petit**. The New Orleans-based visual artist will receive a \$10,000 cash grant, professional development support, and individual studio visits with members of the judges panel to support her practice.

Interdisciplinary artist and farmer, Utĕ Petit narrates Black-Indigenous land traditions across visual and embodied mediums. Petit’s visual language convenes figurative drawing, woven and quilted textile practices, and installation to render Afro-Indigenous sovereignty across the Americas. Across her layered work, Petit pulls from inherited familial textile traditions to chronicle legacies of interdependence and sovereignty among Black-Indigenous peoples: the artist learned quilting from her maternal grandmothers who were quilters in Misi-Ziibi. For Petit, cooking and gardening are somatic vehicles for historicizing and imagining speculative futures. Her current body of work builds off these familial legacies, worldbuilding practices, and aesthetic traditions to imagine a new nation called Ailanthaland—“nation of heavenly beings.” Petit’s Ailanthaland strives “to be an ecological paradise tenable to all beings, following the stewardship of Afro-Indigenous peoples of the Americas.”

2022 Illuminations Grant Judge and visual artist, **Jonathan Lyndon Chase** writes: “Utĕ’s work is multi-layered, sensory touching on physical and metaphysical energies. Hungry and visually generous in the different modes of expression that are generously inviting the viewer to enter an ever growing world. The attention to poetic detail in the drawings are filled with vigor and show subjects I can relate to. **Honest and Raw unapologetic gestures.**”

<https://www.queer-art.org/illuminations-grant-2022>