

Daphne Victoria Johnson: Joy Is . . .

Opening Reception: Sunday, August 30, 1:30–3 p.m. Remarks at 2 p.m.

Space is limited. R.S.V.P. art@riverspring.org | 718-518-1596 | [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

On view August 30–September 16, 2026 at the Derfner Judaica Museum



Daphne Victoria Johnson, *Dolcé Vita*, 2022.
Glitter paint and acrylic on canvas, 24 x 18 in.
Courtesy the artist.

Derfner Judaica Museum + Art Collection at Hebrew Home at Riverdale is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition **Daphne Victoria Johnson: Joy Is . . .** which will be on view from August 30 through September 16, 2026. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. with remarks at 2 p.m. at the Museum located at 5901 Palisade Ave at Hebrew Home on the campus of RiverSpring Living. Space is limited. R.S.V.P. required at art@riverspring.org, 718-581-1596, or [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Photo I.D. required for entry.

The exhibition features RiverSpring Living resident **Daphne Victoria Johnson's** vibrantly colored abstract paintings, character portraits, and a mixed media sculpture. Johnson uses a variety of materials, including cut glass, glitter paint, and acrylic paint on canvas to experiment with texture, creating compositions with aesthetic and emotional resonance. As she states, she imbues the art-making process with her own joyful energy. The exhibition poses the question: How do we define joy? Visitors are invited to respond to this prompt by adding to a “joy wall” where a collection of crowd-sourced answers will be displayed for the duration of the exhibition.

Johnson, in her fifties, is a working artist based in Harlem. She began making portraits of residents and staff in the RiverSpring art studio. She found that her art was part of her healing journey after a life-changing medical diagnosis. It helped her acclimate to her “new normal” and opened the way for conversations. Although the portraits she’s made at RiverSpring are executed in the same style as her “character paintings”—fictional personas with names as titles—the works are the first time she’s done portraiture from life. The wealth of personalities she has encountered and the stories she has heard have been experiences she calls “part of her journey.”

About the artist

Daphne Victoria Johnson is an artist of African American and Irish descent who was born on the Lower East Side and grew up in Hamilton Heights. She is an alumnus of The Harlem School of the Arts where she studied art, drama, voice, and dance. Johnson’s work has been exhibited at Art on the Ave NYC; Art in the Garden, part of the annual Uptown Art Stroll organized by the Northern Manhattan Art Alliance; El Barrio’s Artspace PS109; Kota Nest Harlem; and *Where Art Lives*, organized by the West Harlem Arts Alliance, all in Upper Manhattan; and at the Clemente Soto Vélaz Cultural & Educational Center on the Lower East Side. Johnson has assisted on murals and beautification projects in Harlem for GrandScale Mural Project and The Children’s Aid Society. This is her first one-person exhibition.



Daphne Victoria Johnson, *Harley Harlow*, 2022. Glitter paint and acrylic on canvas, 12 x 16 in. Courtesy the artist.

Museum Hours

Museum hours: Sunday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Photo I.D. is required for all visitors to the Hebrew Home campus. Call 718.581.1596 or email art@riverspring.org to schedule in-person or virtual group tours or for holiday hours. For further information, visit our website at www.derfner.org.

About Hebrew Home at Riverdale

As a member of the American Alliance of Museums, Hebrew Home at Riverdale is committed to publicly exhibiting its art collection throughout its 32-acre RiverSpring Living campus, which includes the Derfner Judaica Museum and a sculpture garden overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades. Derfner Judaica Museum + Art Collection provides educational and cultural programming for residents and clients of RiverSpring Living, their families, and the general public from throughout New York City, its surrounding suburbs, and visitors from elsewhere. RiverSpring Living, based in Riverdale, New York, is a leading non-profit organization serving older adults through a range of healthcare services, housing options, and community programs.