

Music, Museums, and Murals

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and a sense of pride to neighborhoods that normally don't receive positive recognition. Max Sansing and Kayla Mahaffey collaborated on a dual set of murals in the South Shore neighborhood titled "New Frontiers/Same Old Nine" and "Joined as One," respectively. "New Frontiers/Same Old Nine" depicts a young woman in a Chicago Bulls jersey, a metallic helmet, carrying a stick with two keys gazing thoughtfully towards 79th Street across a colorful sunrise.

Mahaffey's piece "Joined as One" presents the viewer with a young woman in a superhero costume ready for battle, joined by three smaller and colorful characters flying into battle. Each of these characters resembles African American versions of Osamu Tezuka's anime and manga classic Astro Boy, Mighty Mouse, and The Powerpuff Girls. Sansing and Mahaffey's central character share similarities because they both focus on a young African American woman in a powerful pose who carries keys and dons a metallic helmet. These pieces are a marvel to witness, as they are vibrant, expansive, and draw attention to an otherwise vacant lot.

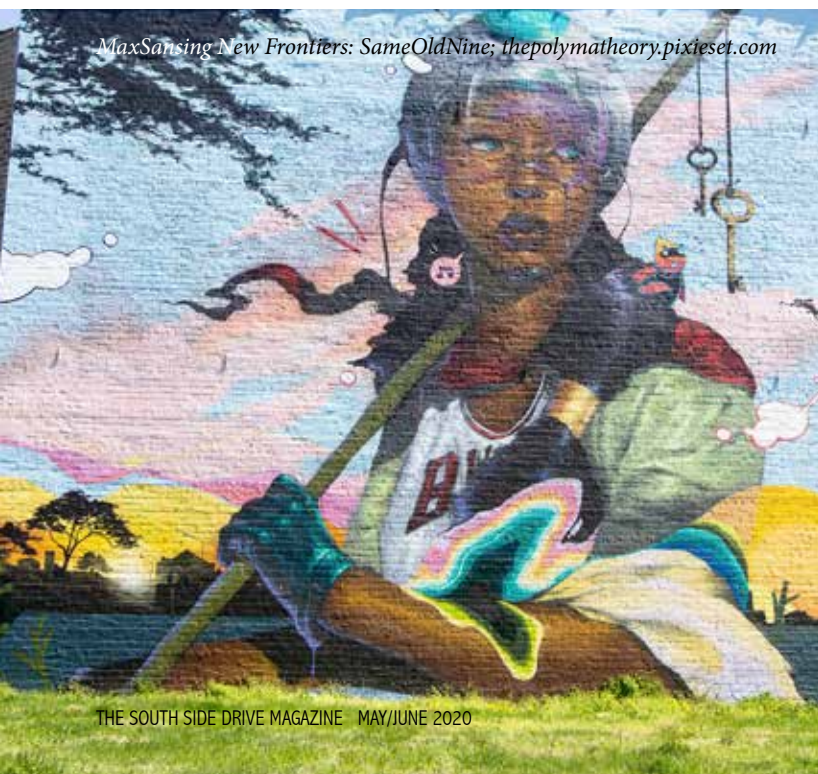
Rahmaan "Statik" Barnes painted "In Memory of Prince"

shortly after the artist's passing in 2016. It is on the east side and north facing wall of a vacant building on 8051 South Stony Island just before the railroad tracks overhead. The mural resembles Prince's iconic "Purple Rain" album cover, but has "Rest in Power Prince 1958-2016" and a golden halo above his head. This mural is joined by many others along the north-facing side of the building including one of Muhammad Ali, who passed shortly after Prince in June of 2016.

An extremely dynamic and massive work is found on the side of the New Regal Theatre building in South Chicago on 79th and Stony Island. This work is titled, "Bright Moments, Memories of the Future" by Mitchell Caton and Calvin Jones. Many African American entertainers of the 20th century and beyond such as Stevie Wonder, Billie Holiday, Josephine Baker, and Chicagoan Nat King Cole. This work is very expansive as it covers the complete breadth of the side of the building. It is located at an extremely busy intersection, and it stands out in the neighborhood. Many of these artists have had a prominent place in not just defining African American culture, but American culture and music as well.

A mural that really captures the spirit of the South Side is the "Song of 47th Street" by Caroline Elaine, John Pitman Weber,

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Max Sansing New Frontiers: Same Old Nine; thepolymatheory.pixieset.com



47th Street Watermark; thepolymatheory.pixieset.com