



AMBER ART AND DESIGN

MEDIA ADVISORY

NOMO FOREVER MO

An Exhibition to Honor the Life & Work of Willis “NOMO” Humphrey

WHAT: **NOMO FOREVER MO Opening Reception**
Exhibition and Auction Fundraiser in memory of Willis “Nomo” Humphrey
In November 2018, Philadelphia lost a gifted artist and a champion for representation of people of the African Diaspora in Willis “Nomo” Humphrey. In celebration of his life and work, and to provide educational assistance for his children, an exhibition and silent auction fundraiser is being held by the Amber Art and Design Collective. Original artwork donated by Philadelphia-area artists will be on display and up for auction, with all monies raised placed into college funds for Willis’ three children: Chloe (18), Logan (16), and Dylan (13). Exhibit and silent auction will remain open to the public on Saturday, March 2 from 12 – 5 pm.

WHEN: March 1, 2019, 6:30 pm

WHERE: The Icebox Project Space in the Crane Arts Building
1400 N American St, Philadelphia, PA 19122

DETAILS: Willis “Nomo” Humphrey was an inspiration to many. He will be remembered for his exceptional talent, his warmth and kindness, and his ability to listen and engage with varied and disparate communities. His vibrant, complex murals have become cultural touchstones across Philadelphia.

Born in Biloxi, Mississippi, Willis “Nomo” Humphrey graduated from the Art Institute of Atlanta and trained as a graphic designer. Upon moving to Philadelphia, he was introduced to Mural Arts Philadelphia through their muralist training program, and later joined the organization as a full-time staff artist. He was a founding member of [Amber Art and Design Collective](#), an organization that uses art as an inclusive platform to initiate critical conversations and harness the resources of art for community empowerment and public service.

Humphrey’s deep body of work in Philadelphia spans the city from playgrounds to senior centers, schools, and recreation centers. He worked

with veterans and young people and was a treasured collaborator with communities and partners in every neighborhood. Some of Willis' most celebrated work explores the lives and history of African Americans. A few notable examples include [Staircases and Mountaintops: Ascending Beyond the Dream](#) at the MLK Recreation Center, exploring the history of the Civil Rights movement, and [Colorful Legacy](#) in West Philadelphia, illuminating the systemic challenges facing boys and men of color. He created large-scale homages to hometown heroes Kevin Hart and [The Roots](#), and to the legacy of [Bishop Richard Allen](#), commemorating the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. One of his last murals, with frequent collaborator and fellow Amber Art member Keir Johnston, depicted Philadelphia's [Octavius V. Catto](#), a Civil War-era voting rights activist, educator, and orator.

Direct donations to the college fund for Humphrey's children may be made at the family's [gofundme page](#).

***Amber Art & Design** facilitates dynamic interactions between people and communities that create spaces for positive growth. With over a decade of collective experience, Amber Art & Design's public projects, exhibitions and educational activities have engaged thousands of people, in hundreds of communities across the United States and internationally. We operate with the belief that art can be a collaborative and inclusive platform to initiate critical conversations. It can be collaborative and inclusive of marginalized voices. Amber Art & Design leverages resources from the art world for the purpose of community empowerment and public service.*

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