

THE ANDROMEDA CHRONICLES



Revival of Black Romulus and Remus

In the summer of 2024, the City of Sheffield welcomed two very special guests - Romulus Wimbledon and Remus Stanfield from the year 1772, revived by Artist Patty B. Setting her time travelling co-ordinates back 300 years, she landed at the grand estate of Wentworth Woodhouse.

The estate, home to Lady Rockingham at the time of Romulus and Remus servitude, is known for its staggering scale and architectural elegance, spanning over 15,000 acres, 2.5 miles of corridors and over 300 rooms. At its peak, Wentworth Woodhouse relied on a vast workforce to live on-site and maintain its glamour, from footmen and maids, to gardeners and gamekeepers. Though their daily labour was recorded, their personal stories remain hidden and overshadowed by a history that speaks only of the Lords and Ladies. What we know of Black Romulus and Remus is that they were two 16 year olds boys that were sent as a gift to Lady Rockingham. The correspondence between butlers in London and Wentworth Woodhouse shows arrangements being made to accommodate the pair who were said to be french horn players and perhaps this is what earned their value as gifts for Lady Rockingham. Romulus and Remus are listed in the household itinerary as footmen, so their main duties were to cater to the family's formal needs but with their acknowledged musical talent, it is likely that they also provided entertainment at the family's events.

Visit www.dwys.co.uk for more hidden stories.



It's About Time

[This article is linked to a soundtrack. Click to listen.](#)

“Travelling, the way we do, is not easy.” says Patty B on her return from her hiatus. “A rest break every now and then is all part of the journey. Some rest breaks are planned, some happen because of whatever circumstances you meet on your way. But when you find your resting place, honour it, remember who you are and then

when the right time come, step forward.”

As a self-professed time-traveller, Patty B takes her journeys to the past with great care. “Picking up a buried history, unearthing fragments of the lost narrative, walking in a dead man’s shoe- it’s heavy on the heart and soul” she says, and her latest dive into the archives of Wentworth Wood-

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house Estates was no exception. “Finding the story of a Black Romulus and Remus was such a monumental marking on my timeline. The roman Romulus and Remus is a tale that’s well known and well taught, Now is the time for Black Romulus and Remus, and I had the honour of telling that story.”



Black Romulus and Remus on billboards in Sheffield City Center

The DWYS team spent months piecing together pieces of the identity of the two young men that were buried deep in archival records. Within the 1772 Wentworth Woodhouse memorandums were letters, itineraries and pay logs, with their signatures. From these findings, Patty B re-imagined the story of Black Romulus and Remus, and the piece was showcased at The Dig Where You Stand Biennale, 2024. “Black Romulus and Remus were given front row seats to everything that was happening in Sheffield when they were displayed on the billboards around the city that summer of 2024. I wondered what they would have thought of our time, whether it matched their hopes and dreams for the future. Would they have thought that slavery would no longer be the norm? Could they have even imagined that black folk would be born free, integrated into

white British society, and that their rich and beloved culture would be loudly present across the globe?” Shortly after the launch of the Dig Where You Stand Biennale Exhibition in August 2024, riots began in the norther quarters of England. Fuelled by incendiary propaganda on immigration, far-right mobs took to the streets to violently attack people of colour, their homes, businesses and even places of worship were subjected to the violence. Not far from where Black Romulus and Remus stood watching, mobs set a hotel on fire, because it was rumoured to house migrants. This is England 2025.

Now the artist turns her gaze from the past to the present and faces the foreshadows that shape our outlook. Inspired by the great science fiction writer - Octavia E Butler, Patty B’s sets course on her next ambitious chapter, entering the realm where science meets the arts. “When I draw historical characters, with-in the stories of the past, I hear a whisper of the



Patty B embarking on her new mission

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future. And science is a philosophy full of imagination and unanswered questions - just like art, so now I want to create from where the two meet. Past, future, time exploration -It's all about the illusion of time." She explains, "and the emerging collection will be a superposition of science, history, art, literature, music and film, creating a multi-sensory story."



Tuesday Sessions
building rhythms and sounds at the Maryfield Studio

Throughout Patty B's collections are hints of her curiosity with space-time concepts and rhythms of the universe. "From the Mountains of the Moon" is a pastel piece that predates her journey as an artist and is her depiction of origins. Claudius Ptolemy, the African born and raised astrologer, claimed this mountain range to be the source of the Nile - the river that plays a significant role in ancient timekeeping. The legend is that after



From the
Mountains of the
Moon (2019)

communicating with the moon, the mountains would flood the Nile valley, signalling the appearance of Sopdet in the night sky and marking a new year. "From the Mountains of the Moon" featured as the opener for Patty B's debut collection that was exhibited at the Abbeydale Picture House Show and "Sopdet," the Egyptian deity of the New Year, featured as Patty B's opener for the collection. Other hints in Patty B's collections include Andromeda, the Ethiopian princess from Greek and Roman mythology whose legend as ruler of men is immortalised in the stars, Timekeeper from the In Her Nature series, The House of the Rising Stars, a tribute to Black musical legends; and Earthseed - a nod to science fiction storyteller Octavia E. Butler.



Sopdet,
The Transdimensional Social (2019)

Patty B's foray into the world of science could be seen as another revival project. Her reasons for coming to Sheffield were to study Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience. "I've always had a deep interest in the brain, and what's going on in my head. I was born into a family where psychiatry, the brain, human behaviour was frequently discussed. I followed in that familial pattern, obsessively studied those

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subjects, had my own research on Autism, visual processing and social behaviours published in top journals, and now I play the role of a clinician when I am not in my home studio creating art. So the sciences have never really left me. Their story is just resurfacing.”

In her upcoming work, Patty B's goes from making hints of her fringe interests to boldly inviting us to observe quantum phenomenon, discover the secrets of many worlds, and expose the illusions of reality. She brings her culture into the discussion by artistically portraying the black science and its perspectives on the mysteries of the revolving universe.



Searching for Addis (2024).

[Visit Schrödinger's Gallery to view the emerging collection](#)

A Revolution will be televised

In early 2025 Patty B's Risqué Business designs were spotted by BBC costume designers. After signing the release paperwork Patty B can now announce that Risqué Business is set to make an appearance on awarding winning British Sitcom Black Ops. The TV show is a comedy about a couple of police officers that find themselves on an undercover mission. Main characters on the show will be donning Art by Patty B

t-shirts in episodes that are scheduled to air later in the year. Keep a good look out for this big screen debut, and visit the Patty B clothing collection to get yourself a Patty B tee.



Patty B t-shirts available in store at Cole's Corner and online at www.pattyb.co.uk

Everyday Wondering

[This article is linked to a soundtrack. Click to listen](#)

The Andromeda Galaxy is our closest neighbour in the cosmic space. She is 2.5 million light years away from us on Earth meaning that when you look up into the night sky and spot Andromeda's twinkle, then you are viewing an existence from 2.5 million years ago. Essentially you are receiving a coded message from the past.

Our planet Earth, is stationed in the Milky Way galaxy. Rumour has it that Andromeda is falling hard for the Milky Way, set on a collision course and coming towards us fast. This is not her first collision course either. Astrophysicists even call her a cosmic cannibal for how she devours smaller galaxies and leaves traces of her meals swirling in its outskirts.

The collision is not scheduled for another 2 to 4 billion years, when our sun will be nearing the end of its life, giving both galaxies time to prepare for the union.

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A note on mental care

[This article is linked to a soundtrack. Click to listen](#)



Her Healing Space (2023).

At The Andromeda Chronicles we explore ancient pasts and future collisions, report on ancestral whispers and put together pictures of our illusions. With all these temporal displacements and hypothetical states, grounding to reality is so important. As someone who has navigated mental health challenges, Art by Patty B continues with commitments to raise awareness of mental health matters and the support systems that are out there. In this section we open space and give voice to the unspoken truths of mind and spirit.

Hyperempathy conditions

For us that feel too much, the arts is often a means to carry and heal from emotional overwhelm- especially when it's hard to find the words to speak on the experience. For artist Patty B, creating has become a means to channel that sensory overwhelm.

In *Parable of the Sower*, Octavia E Butler, writes her protagonist Lauren Olamina to have a neurological condition that causes her to feel the pain and pleasures of others. Though many readers may be quick to view this as a gift or super power, Butler is intentional in framing Lauren's hyperempathy as a vulnerability that puts her at a disadvantage in the cruel dystopian world set in a futuristic 2025. The society she lives in is collapsing and becoming more individualistic and Lauren believes that the violence and cruelty is perpetuated by the desensitisation to suffering. She copes with her condition and her faltering surroundings by formulating *Earthseed*, a blueprint for survival in which she urges people to consider interdependence and realise the impact we have on each other. With *Earthseed* she challenges systems of exploitation, classism, racism, ableism and the desensitisation to suffering by glorifying resilience and she provides a moral alternative - community strength and growth through interconnectedness.

"And while Butler herself was careful to remind us that Lauren's condition is a delusion, not a gift, she also reminds us that change often begins with people who refuse to accept reality as it is, even when it costs them everything.

So, before you read Parable of the Sower only as a dystopian warning, remember that it's also a testimony.

Not about perfect heroes, but about broken people with impossible dreams. Not about psychic powers, but about the unbearable weight of human empathy. And not about easy survival, but the cost of refusing to harden your heart."

excerpt from Mental Health, Hyperempathy and Parable of the Sower, Dr Briana Whiteside

It's hard to imagine such interconnectedness in today's world when we live with a continuous stream of crisis. Wars, climate disasters, racism, hateful trends, injustice - the global suffering



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seems never ending. Have we spiralled into the future forewarned to us by Butler? It's no wonder that people opt to disconnect from the suffering, turn it into something abstract – just politics. But disconnection does not mean immunity. We can disconnect but we're still all carrying burdens and nursing wounds. Butler invites us into a future that asks us to take note of each others burdens, to care when it hurts to care, to see each-other when it's easier to look away. She shows us that this requires bravery for in such a heavy world, feeling deeply need not be a form of weakness but a form of resistance.

For time, mental health conditions have not just been misunderstood, they are also not believed, especially for marginalised communities. Today we have research that has evidenced how the world does not seem to believe the pain and struggles of Black Women in particular, and the same is true for their mental struggles. The hyperempathy condition that Lauren Olamina experiences is also not taken seriously in her society. There is no framework for her to understand or treat her condition, there are no therapies, no clinics, no support groups. Her condition is seen as shameful and her father encourages her to hide it, and not bring attention to it.

The relatability of Octavia E. Butler's characters has served me as a resource when coping with the turmoils of our present world. We are now living in the very timeline she envisioned in her Parable series—written in 1996 and set in our current years of 2024–2026. The accuracy is uncanny: an extremist president with the slogan “Make America Great Again,” wildfires in Los Angeles, riots, violence, widespread crime and corruption, and communities dividing themselves out of fear. With such piercing foresight, we ought to take note of the valuable lessons she teaches us: – to listen deeply to each other's stories, to not turn away from suffering, to let suffering carry no shame—whether it's ours or someone else's. Instead, let's nourish communities that heal together. Because survival was never meant to be a solo mission.

Mental Health First Aid

Whether you're navigating overwhelm, emotional pain, or just need a safe space to talk, here are some resources that may help:

Helpline and Apps

- CALM – For support with anxiety, suicidal thoughts, or life's heavy moments. www.thecalmzone.net
- Shout 85258 – Free, 24/7 text support from trained volunteers. Text 'SHOUT' to 85258
- Bearable App – Track moods, symptoms, and triggers to better understand your emotional patterns. www.bearable.app

Youtube Channels

- Dr. Tracey Marks – Psychiatrist who explains mental health conditions with clarity and compassion. [YouTube: DrTraceyMarks](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXpYkqYkqYkqYkqYkqYkqY)
- The BPD Bunch – A peer-led channel by people living with Borderline Personality Disorder. [YouTube: @theBPDbunch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXpYkqYkqYkqYkqYkqYkqY)
- PMDD Collective – Raising awareness around Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder. Linktree: [PMDD Collective](https://www.linktr.ee/pmddcollective)

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Patty B Features

Visit www.pattyb.co.uk to see and read more about PattyB's features - past, present and future.

The Patty Art Show

December 2024

Hosted by Coles Corner, Sheffield

Dig Where You Stand

July - August 2024

Archival Project

The Great Summer Art Exhibition

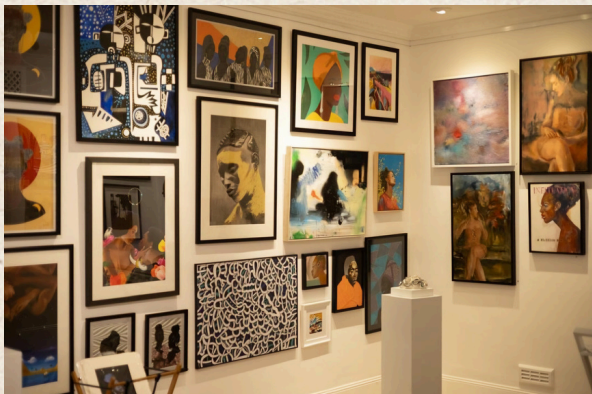
August 2024

Curated by The ArtHouse Sheffield

Global Majority Art Fair

December 2024

Curated by CasildArt Contemporary



The Boogie

By The Colonel and Mr Bailly

Cover Art by Patty B



Empower Her: Womens International

Month

March 2024

Curated by CasildArt Contemporary

Movements that Matter

October 2023

Curated by The ArtHouse Sheffield

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