

# ArtCalendar

the business magazine for visual artists

## Meet the Winners of 2010 Self-Portrait Cover Contest

by Louise Buyo

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**Art Calendar** is happy to present the winner and the finalists of our March 2009 Cover Contest, sponsored by **BLICK art materials**: Jason John, Lloyd Greene and Lavar Munroe.

**Lavar Munroe's** entry is a work as much about his relationship to animals as it is a self-portrait.

It was a self-reflection piece," he admits. "But it was also a homage to animal appreciation — trying to make the statement that animals are just as important as human beings."

The 27-years-old painter and illustrator grew up surrounded by domestic animals: goats, chickens, rabbits, dogs and cats. As a result, they appear in much of his art ([www.lavar-munroe.com](http://www.lavar-munroe.com)).

"Me personally, I'm a lover of animals. From a young age, that was a part of my life," he explains.

Originally from the Bahamas, Munroe moved to the United States in 2004. He now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife, their daughter, two dogs, three fish and six potted plants, juggling his freelance illustration and gallery shows. Munroe has done commissions for Amnesty International and How Magazine. He recently won first place at the Central Bank of the Bahamas 26th Annual Art Competition/ Exhibition. In June 2010, he will have a solo show in Savannah, Georgia, at the Beach Institute, where he was the recipient of an artist grant. The upcoming exhibition will feature artwork with a similar theme.

"The newer work that I'm doing is still human- and animal-oriented. It still speaks about that human-animal relationship, and the bond that should be there," he says. **AC**