

ICEHOUSE Project Space is excited to announce the opening of Katro Storm's exhibition "Will it Grow in Sharon?" on Saturday, August 13, 4-6, which will be followed by a potluck dinner!

When Artist Katro Storm landed in northwest Connecticut, just before pandemic lockdowns began, little did he know it would become his home. Storm had grown up in New Haven, and after having spent years in the Bronx, had returned there to nurture a career as a portraitist and muralist, working in city communities telling the stories of African-Americans for whom he felt pride which he expressed through the study and rendering of their faces. Through his mentor Winfred Rembert, also of New Haven, Storm began to see his and his family's lives as worthy of the same focus.

In "Will it Grow in Sharon," Storm has delved into his roots, sharing with viewers episodes, objects and individuals from the path that brought him to Sharon. His family's farm in Whiteville, NC is at the center, the springboard from which his mother's generation launched but to which they all stayed connected. Storm's mother had left behind a life of tight-knit family and backbreaking tobacco and cotton farming but oft-told stories bonded the family members to each other and to the past. Every summer Storm's parents and siblings would head down I 95 in his father's yellow Cadillac to rejoin grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

"Will it Grow in Sharon?" features these tales as well as Storm's own and pairs them with portraits of the individuals featured. In the winter he and I raised tobacco and cotton plants from North Carolina seed under grow lights in the basement and later transplanted them to containers near the Icehouse filled with Sharon topsoil. We didn't know if they would grow here or if the conditions would be inhospitable. Read Katro Storm's and his family's stories, look at his paintings and draw your own conclusions. Please join us on Saturday, August 13, 4-6 pm to celebrate Katro Storm and this remarkable body of work. Opening reception followed by potluck dinner under the tent, rain or shine. We plan on serving fried chicken and moonshine courtesy Katro's uncle (don't tell) so please bring a dessert or side dish to share!