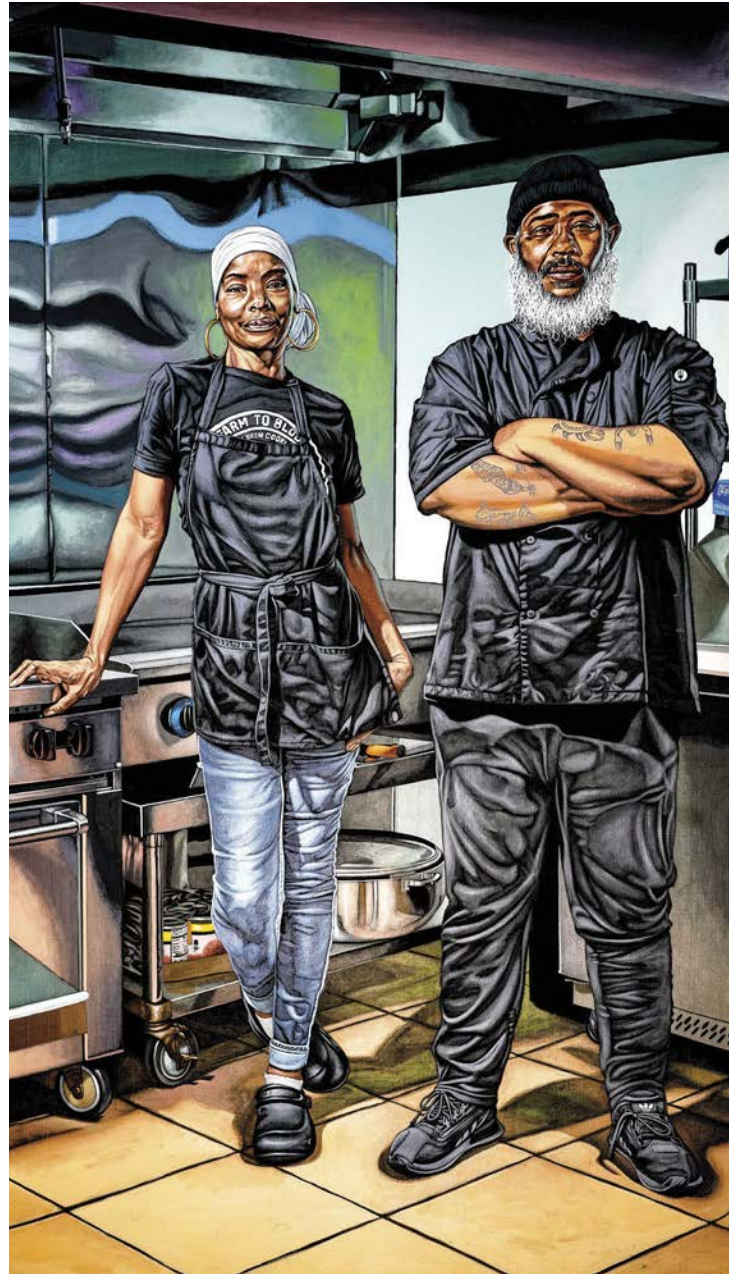


Portrait of Atlanta

CAN YOU FIND THE SOUTH BY way of Queens, New York? Atlanta multimedia artist Alfred Conteh believes so. The SFA's 2023 21c Museum Hotels Artist in Residence made his case with his monumental portrait of husband and wife Malik Rhasaan and Detric Fox-Quinlan, the owners of Che Butter Jonez in Atlanta. The couple relocated from New York City to Atlanta a few years ago and opened a food truck with dishes inspired by the Queens neighborhood where Rhasaan grew up, a place where Jamaican, Middle Eastern, and Chinese restaurants existed on one block. They also drew flavor inspiration from Rhasaan's Jamaican roots and offer several halal dishes like lamb burgers. They've jokingly called their food "hood halal." During the pandemic, they opened a brick-and-mortar restaurant in the heart of southwest Atlanta, a predominantly Black neighborhood chronically underserved when it comes to hip sit-down eateries. Conteh was a customer at the couple's food truck and has watched them embrace the rhythms of the South and the people they serve. Rhasaan and Fox-Quinlan are "synthesizing a new Southern identity with a robust food culture at its core," Conteh said.



—Art by ALFRED CONTEH; Text by ROSALIND BENTLEY