

Dahs (1983 – 1984)

In 1981, Ringgold lost her beloved mother and collaborator Willi Posey. Grappling with grief, Ringgold produced an enigmatic and emotional series of abstract paintings known as the Dah Series. As her eldest daughter, Michele Wallace, wrote: “The experiences of death and birth can never be talked about or thought of in a way that resolves.”

Abstraction provided a haven through which Ringgold could continue to create, finding release in gestural expression. The series found its title via the artist’s first grandchild and namesake, the oldest child of her younger daughter, Barbara. Baby Faith, who in the early 1980s was just learning to talk, pointed confidently at the canvases and delivered her first utterance: “Dah!” Upon her repeated insistence, the series was named.

The nine *Dah* works displayed at Glenstone Museum, which remain in the collection of the artist, are on public view together for the first time.