



## Biographical Statement

Alma Roberts is a Baltimore-based, second generation abstract expressionist artist. At the age of 62, she literally picked up a paint brush and began producing what has been described as “fully formed, energetic abstract compositions” that belied the fact that she was, at the time, new to the medium. Her works provide an insight into her viewpoints on life and the issues and forces that impact it.

Alma’s Father was a portraitist. He drew the faces of those fighting and yearning for a new way of life in this country and she tackles the same issues with her abstract paintings. She uses a broad pallet of colors to grab the attention of the viewer and then she adds splattering, markings, pours, and layering to get her messages across. She relies heavily on the use of circles and dots to represent humanity both living and past. Her work conveys her deep commitment to messages that are culturally grounded and focused on the struggle to undo racism and its traumatic generational impact on people of color in the U.S. Even as she engages in this continuous struggle, all of her work has some point of hope. ***“The hope for change is what has driven my activism all of my life.*** In the words of Poet, Amanda Gorman, I have tried to “see the Light” and I have tried to “be the Light.”

For many years, Roberts’ creativity was channeled through spoken and written imagery. In 1983, she founded an award-winning cultural arts organization (New Breezes, Inc.) that promoted the works of regional and national literary, visual and performing artists. She uses her visual works to connect to and to translate her life to those she lives with, and live for. ***“Even at this age, it is my intent to stay unapologetically woke and present through my art. I owe that to my Father, to honor the gift of his artistry that he passed on to me, and the sacrifices he made to give it. I also owe it to society to fight for what is needed to move our democracy to be the best that it was intended to be for all of its citizens.”***

Roberts is a self-taught artist who considers artists Alma Thomas, Jack Whitten, Norman Lewis, Sam Gilliam, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko as influences on her work. She has had numerous exhibits over the years. In 2017, she had a successful solo exhibition at the City Hall Galleries in her hometown of Baltimore. She also has one of her compositions (A Vessel Full of Power, 2017) in the permanent collection of the James E. Lewis Museum at her undergraduate Alma Mater, Morgan State University (Baltimore). She is included in the Baker Artist Portfolios, and she is a Maryland State Arts Council *Grant for Artist* grant recipient (2022). Roberts is a founding member of the Joshua Johnson Council at the Baltimore Museum of Art. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture, and is a Commissioner on the Baltimore Public Art Commission that oversees and approves the installation and maintenance of public art throughout the city.

**Website:** [www.almaroberts.com](http://www.almaroberts.com)

**Instagram:** @almarobertsart

**Facebook:** Alma Roberts Studio

## Selected Exhibitions

**Mayor Catherine E. Pugh Presents- Woke**, December 7, 2017-January 22, 2018, Baltimore City Hall Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland (Solo exhibit)

**In Her Own Words: Art, Blackness, and Womanhood**, February 18-April 6, 2018, James E. Lewis Museum of Art, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Women Speaking Here; Women Speaking Hear**, March 2019, Eubie Blake National Jazz and Cultural Center, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

**I Kan Do Dat**, March 2019/April 2019-May 3019, Rush Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania & Upper Darby Gallery, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania (group exhibit)

**Reimagining Democracy**, June 2021, Virtual National Exhibit, Mozaik Foundation, (Special Mention National Prize Winner-group)

**Busboys and Poets-Baltimore**, Inaugural Exhibit May-November, 2021, (group exhibit)

**Kuumba**, February 26, 2022, Neiman Marcus, Tysons Corner, Va. (group exhibit)

**Kuumba II**, February 18 & 19, 2023, Neiman Marcus, Tysons Corner (group exhibit)

**Kuumba III**, February 17 & 18, 2024, Neiman Marcus, Tysons Corner, Va (group exhibit)

**Women of Color Art Expo**, June 17-19, 2022, The 3<sup>rd</sup>, Columbia, Maryland (group exhibit)

**PASSION**, July 21-July 31, 2022, Honorable Mention, See/Me Community, Gallery Arte Azulejo, New York City (international group exhibit-virtual)

**Artist Corner, Featured Artist**, September 23-December 15, 2022, James E. Lewis Museum of Art at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland (solo featured artist)

**Wombmanity**, October 20, 2022- March 14, 2023, BWI/Marshall Airport, International Concourse, Baltimore/Washington, D.C. (group exhibit)

**Rise Above**, February 3- May 2, 2023, Howard County, Maryland, Welcome Center, (group exhibit)

**Black'ity Black**, March 17-April 18, 2023, Novado Gallery, Jersey City, New Jersey (group exhibit)

**We The People**, March 5-June 5, 2023, Treasury Building, Annapolis, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Black Art: In the Presence of Light**, May 3-31, 2023, Gallery B, Bethesda, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Love, Hope, and Art**, September 8-November 5, 2023, Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Resilience Unveiled**, September 17-October 29, 2023, Douglass-Myers Museum, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Artdromedia Collective**, January- April, Montgomery Park Galleries, Baltimore, Maryland (group exhibit)

**Thoughts, Questions & Shit to Say**, March 8, 2024, Dupont Underground Annual Women's Show, Washington, D.C. (group exhibit)

# Andrew Nichols

RE-NOWN ARTIST



Born in Brooklyn New York, Andrew discovered that he had a gift of drawing at an early age. He began expressing himself through pencil on paper in elementary school, and soon began receiving formal Art awards, his first being at age nine. The signal was clear to those around him or to anyone who viewed his early work, that Andrew had a true talent. Andrew continued to win Awards throughout Jr. and Senior High School. His artworks remain displayed at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn New York.

Andrew continued his education and art expression at Kingsboro Community College. It was during this time in his life that he developed a passion for oil on canvas.

Andrew began to tour the region selling his original oils. He was soon displaying his artworks at the Jacob Javits Center, Pratt Institute, and one man shows. Andrew expresses positive African American images through his artworks. He projects his passion of the family as a strong loving unit.

Andrew often transfers his love for children to his canvas. He expresses life beginning on a canvas painting called *"Welcome to the World"*.

Andrew is best known for some of his latest artworks like *"Goodnight"* *"Harmony"*, *"Sisters"*, and *"Good Morning"* just to name a few.

When asked about a heart-felt moment, Andrew sites when several members of the New Jersey Nets purchased his oil originals, it was *"defining"* for me.

Andrew's message to the world community is; *"we are all role models to each other in one-way or the other, Always be positive, because somebody is looking up to you, known or unknown. Stay focused on your dream; do not be afraid to express your passion. Just as I transfer my feelings and inspiration to canvas, you are transferring your positive strength to others"*.

smceachin

## Anita Henley Carrington Artist's Biography

Anita Henley Carrington's artistic journey unfolds as a captivating narrative, illustrating her unwavering passion, versatility, and dedication to both her craft and environmental consciousness. What sets her apart is her unique approach—serving as a conduit for the creative force to flow through her hands, infusing a spiritual dimension into her art practice. This connection with creative energy allows her to craft artworks that elicit a diverse range of emotions and ideas.

Her use of varied tools and substrates exemplifies her willingness to explore and experiment with different mediums and materials. This artistic versatility empowers her to create a wide spectrum of artworks, ranging from joyous to somber, reflecting the intricate tapestry of human emotions and responses to art.

The "Relationship Series" stands as a remarkable example of how she seamlessly integrates her environmental consciousness into her art. By priming each canvas with used dryer sheets and flexible modeling paste, she not only adds texture but also underscores her commitment to the planet and sustainability. This integration of environmental awareness imbues her art with meaningful messages beyond mere aesthetic beauty.

Carrington's return to creativity, rekindled after a thirty-year hiatus, has unfurled a new and expansive world of opportunities. Her active participation in juried competitions and exhibitions attests to her talent and recognition within the art community.

As the Vice-President of the Laurel Art Guild since September 2023, Carrington's role reflects her deep involvement and dedication to contributing to the art community. This position provides her with the opportunity to support and promote fellow artists while continuing to nurture her own artistic journey.

Since initiating her painting journey in 2019, Carrington has immersed herself in the art world, actively participating in numerous juried competitions and exhibitions. Her dedication and talent have been showcased in various prestigious events, including:

- The Laurel Art Guild's Open Juried Exhibitions (Montpelier Arts Center):
  - 51st
  - 52nd
  - 53rd
- AsIAm Exhibition at the Blue Gallery, Manhattan, NYC (2022)
- Kuumba II and III at Neiman Marcus, Tysons Corner, VA
  - 2023
  - 2024
- We, The People (Comptroller of the Treasury, Maryland (2023)
- Black Art in the Presence of Light (2023)
- Juneteenth Celebration (2023) (Neiman Marcus, Tysons Corner, VA)
- Blossoms of Hope at the Columbia Art Center:
  - 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Artist's Eye Exhibit (Benfield Gallery, Severna Park, MD (2023)
- Resilience Unveiled (2023) Frederick Douglass/Issac Myers Museum Exhibition in Baltimore, MD
- Art For Change (Persad Center, Pittsburgh, PA)
  - 2022
  - 2023

Carrington's journey is marked by a rich tapestry of exhibitions, each contributing to her growth as an artist and further establishing her presence in the vibrant art community.

Anita Henley Carrington's art practice forms a rich tapestry woven with spirituality, emotional expression, and environmental consciousness. Her ability to communicate and connect with her audience on a profound level is a testament to her artistic prowess and the depth of her creative journey. As she continues to evolve and explore new avenues in her art, Carrington aims to leave a lasting impact on both the art world and those who encounter her thought-provoking and emotionally-charged artworks.

## **B/ue Robin**

**Bio:** I am B/ue Robin, an artist who seeks to spread love through my creations. My mission is to use art as a tool for healing, with the belief that it begins in the depths of our hearts. I strive to create experiences that touch the emotional and spiritual essence of my audience.

My art is meant to be sensory, an immersive experience that evokes emotions and leaves the viewer feeling alive and connected. It is designed to be consumed and interpreted in multiple ways, allowing individuals to derive their own unique meaning. My creations are intended to be a wake-up call, pinching the audience's senses to remind them that they are not merely dreaming.

I draw inspiration from various art forms, including painting, digital art, photography, sculpture, dance, and music. By combining these mediums, I aim to provoke as many senses as possible, providing a multi-layered and immersive experience for my audience. In essence, my art is a manifestation of love that seeks to transform individuals and communities.

## Babacar Pouye

My name is Babacar Pouye and I live in the city of Tivaouan in Senegal. Since childhood I have spent most of my free time with drawing and painting. It has become my passion and works at the same time as meditation for me.

I constantly think of pictures stuck on my retina and I want to realize them with pencils or brushes. I make sketches and try different techniques and materials. My focus has become a realistic portrait style with a symbolic submenu.

I consider my world in the immediate surroundings as well as on the Internet, listen to a lot of music, meet people, friends as well as new acquaintances. We reflect on the changing mosaics of fate and adventure. All in all, there are associations and ideas for images that grow up for my interior and some take shape as pictures at home in my studio. I have participated in many group exhibitions in Senegal. I was nominated for the big price art humanity international.

Africa is a continent of nominated saturated colours. In the morning sparkling crisp, dazzling light in midday's dazzling heat transcends to sunsets in deep red and violet tones. All of these colours have got a fix in my spinal cord and probably characterize choices on my palette



## **Brayden Green**

Brayden Green is 11 years old and from Alexandria, Virginia. He's been artistic his whole life and excels at portraits. He enjoys spending his time outside riding bikes, doing gymnastics, and playing with his friends. He also loves making eggs and taking care of his little sisters.

## David Amoroso

David Amoroso shares his “Pop Art” aesthetic through painting, photography, and block and screen-printing. Although the majority of David’s work is dedicated to painting portraits of cultural icons, he also represents everyday people and addresses social justice through his art.

The influence of Mexico and Central America are apparent in his bold color palette, and he upholds traditional cultural artistries such as Papel Picado, altars for Día de los Muertos and Guatemalan Alfombras de Aserrín.

David Amoroso has exhibited in the DC Metro area, New York, California, Mexico, and Central and South America. His work is frequently highlighted in cultural events, festivals and Smithsonian programs.

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*David W. M. Cassidy, M. Div.*

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## Artist Resume

### EDUCATION:

**1987-1990**

**Interdenominational Theological Center, C.H. Mason Seminary**

Atlanta, Georgia

Master of Divinity, Bible/New Testament

**Course:** Historical Critical Methodology

**Work:** African-American Religious Traditions

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Graduated with honors (3.792 GPA)

**1983-1988**

**Naval School of Health Sciences**

Hospitalman

Field Medical Service Technician

X Ray Technician

Emergency Medical Tech/ Ambulance; EMT

**1973-1979**

**University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California**

Bachelor of Arts, Urban and Rural Studies.

**Thesis** Community Organization/Health Care Distribution

Metropolitan Development Analysis

## Brief Biography of David W. M. Cassidy

David W. M. Cassidy grew up in Compton and Los Angeles, California. Graduated from George Washington (Preparatory) High School in 1973. He received a B. A. in Urban and Rural Studies, University of California, San Diego, Third College, 1979. He served in the United States Navy as a Hospitalman, Field Medical Tech, X-Ray Tech, and Emergency Medical Tech. A graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), C.H. Mason Seminary, 1990, graduated with honors and received the Master of Divinity degree; Vanderbilt Graduate Department of Religion, New Testament, Ph. D. Candidate. Elder Dave was licensed in 1982, and ordained in 1990 by Bishop George Dallas McKinney Jr., Southern California 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, of the Church of God in Christ.

David Cassidy is a published writer and published artist (magazines and book covers, project designs, logos) Designed artwork for United Methodist Publishing. His medium of choice is oil He is known for a cubist abstractionist style, the boldness of expression and attention to details of color and composition in his paintings.

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## Artist Statement

*What I do artistically is part of what I believe can be classified as a distinct genre in art, African American art. It is distinct from European art because it comes out of a distinct, although not monolithic, shared historical and sociopolitical reality, one that is unique to African Americans. But African American art cannot be totally divorced from what is known, as a broad category of art, African art. African art cannot be reduced to a monolithic category that can be easily separated from its expression in Diaspora. However, distinctions in the use of color, subject matter, the voice of the art (how the art speaks and what it says), and materials used may distinguish African art from African American art, from African Caribbean, African Haitian, or African Brazilian, etc. Even so, the rhythm of the art and the cadence of the beat will flow with a certain familiarity that is purely African in flavor and therefore unmistakable. This more true (I believe) of folk artist than it is of the trained African American artist. This I feel is especially true when the trained artist foolishly allows "a prefabricated technique," or European artistic imperialism to construct and dominate their work rather than natural creative curiosity. The truly gifted artist does not allow their gift to be ruled by simply a rote mastering of technology, but subjecting technology to their creative calling.*

David W. M. Cassidy is married to Rev. Lillian Catherine Smith, M. Div., Pastor, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Wayne, PA. He and Lillian have two sons, David Charles Jasper Smith-Cassidy and Hayward Felton Earl Smith-Cassidy.

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## Artist Statement



David's first artistic talents became evident when attending Grape Street Elementary School in Watts, California. David's teachers discovered that he never drew "lollipop" trees or stick people like other kindergartners. His trees had branches and the branches had individual leaves. David is not what you call a formally trained artist. The only art courses he took were in junior high (Roosevelt Jr. High, Compton, CA) and High School (George Washington, Los Angeles, CA) where he was primarily interested in ceramics, sculpture and drawing.

My art is the result of my life experiences. I do the art; the art does not do me. What I am thinking about at any given time, may find its way into my poetry, paintings, drawings, sculptures, or photography. I like lots of colors with lots of vibrant, overlapping and intersecting images. I want you to stop and stare to discover what is hidden in the artwork. I want to make your eyes work at searching out the story.

What I do artistically is part of what I believe can be classified as a distinct genre in art, African American art. It is (I believe) distinct from European art because it comes out of a distinct, although not monolithic, shared historical and sociopolitical reality, one that is unique to African Americans. My art attempts to tell a story, my story, your story, and our story. But African American art cannot be totally divorced from what is known, as a broad category of art, African art. African art cannot be reduced to a monolithic category that can be easily separated from its expression in diaspora. However, distinctions in the use of color, subject matter, the voice of the art (how the art speaks and what it says), and materials used may distinguish African art from African American art, from African Caribbean, African Haitian, or African Brazilian, etc. Even so, the rhythm of the art and the cadence of the beat will flow with a certain familiarity that is purely African in flavor and therefore unmistakable. This truer (I believe) of folk artist than it is of the more formally trained African American artist. Especially when the trained artist foolishly allows "a prefabricated technique," or allow European artistic imperialism to construct and dominate their work rather than a flow of natural "in-born" creative curiosity.

Technology can kill a "naturally-gifted" artist (It doesn't have to). It can improve one's technique, expand one's choice of creative avenues outside of the artist's normal purview. I have always craved formal training but I have not had the time to pursue it. Too busy painting.

It is the spirit of the artist that makes art truly live. Art that comes out of the "raw" spirit and soul of the artist is far more useful than that which is merely the technical manipulation of substances. African American art can therefore be copied technologically, but it cannot be fully reproduced outside of the womb of soul and psyche of those who have been "gifted" existentially with the call to speak with an artistic voice. In my work I like to

## **DERRICK VAUGHN ARTIST**

Has established an exceptional reputation in the field of Fine Arts. Derrick, a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts, developed a unique and creative style of visual art. It was at Ellington where Derrick began to realize that art was his communication with the world.

From Ellington, Derrick attended Virginia Commonwealth University, where he earned a Bachelors Degree in Communication Arts Illustration and Design. As an enthusiastic student of illustration art, commissioned by various clients, Derrick works avidly to solve conceptual and aesthetic illustration art problems.

Derrick is adept in various mediums however he is partial to working with oils or watercolors. Before founding spotlight studios, he worked as a curator at the 8-Rock Gallery as a curator in Washington, DC. He also taught at Minor Elementary School, Maya Angelou Public Charter School to name a few,

Derrick on numerous occasions has been featured at different exhibitions and events though out the United States. Some of his commissioned events include The Washington Capitol Jazz Fest and The Rhythm and Blues Star Fest amongst others.

Derrick's client list includes Peggy Copper Cafritz Former President of the Board Of Education, Skip Fleming Former owner of WKYS, a local radio station in, David Sandborne Jazz musician, Keith Sweat singer/entrepreneur and acclaimed restaurant club the industry in Atlanta GA.;actress extraordinary Simbi Khali of Third Rock From the Sun Television Series.



## **Bio**

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania and raised in East Orange, New Jersey, Erasto Curtis Matthews moved to the Washington DC area over 30 years ago as a student at Howard University. He began exploring his artistic talents as a teenager by drawing portraits of friends, family and his favorite musicians. Self-taught, he began painting later in life and his unique abstraction-based style is heavily influenced by elements of African culture and African American life. His work is grounded in vibrant color combinations and unique otherworldly settings. Erasto's work has appeared in the pages of the Washington Post (2/4/2022). He is currently showing his work at the Barn Gallery at Wellspring Manor in an ongoing exhibit that started in 2018. He has exhibited his work at The DC Black Theater and Arts Festival, Neiman Marcus/Black Art Today "Kuumba" Exhibition, The Lake Arbor Jazz Festival, Gallery B, Bethesda MD, Studio Gallery, Montclair NJ, Frederick Douglas - Isaac Myers Maritime Museum, Baltimore MD, Reginald F Lewis Museum, Baltimore MD, Wolfgang Puck's Sunset Room, National Harbor, Gateway Arts Center's 39th Street Gallery, Brentwood Maryland, Artomatic DC, DC Art All Night, Athenaeum Gallery's "Speak Your Truth - Black Lives Matter" Exhibition, Falls Church Arts Gallery, Falls Church VA, Wheaton Arts Parade Gallery "Celebration" Exhibition, Bowie Maryland City Hall and Busboys and Poets Anacostia. Erasto also has work at Serengeti Gallery, Capitol Heights Maryland.

## **Artist Statement**

I am inspired by the Sun and what it does to things from an artistic perspective. I love the beauty of nature and the beauty of people. I am interested in the world community and all the inspiration that it has to offer.

With each piece of Art I create, my goal is to open a window to the imagination. In my abstract pieces, I want people to see something new each day. I believe my art is the doorway to a conversation between the spirit and the elemental self.

## **Social Media**

Instagram: [@ErastoArts](#)

Facebook: [@ErastoArts](#)

Website: [www.ErastoArts.com](http://www.ErastoArts.com)

## **Media/Press**

Washington Post - "Always in Fashion" | February 4, 2022.  
Section D Page 1.

Tribes Magazine - "The Black Lives Matter Issue" | September 2022.  
TRIBES #16, The Black Lives Matter Issue, Edited by Ishmael Reed and Danny Simmons

Metro Weekly Magazine - Athenaeum Gallery: Exhibition Review by Doug Rule of "Speak Your Truth | Black Lives Matter." October 8, 2020. Pages 56,57.



# FELIX OSIEMI, MFA

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## EDUCATION

- Master of Fine Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts** 2014  
Goddard College Plainfield, Vermont, USA
- Areas of Study: Visual Art, Art/Science, Art/Healing, Pedagogy, Art and Culture.  
Graduate Portfolio: “*Interdisciplinary Enquiry and the Creative Process*”
- BA (Honors) Painting - GPA 3.6** 1983  
Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

## PROFESSIONAL ART PRACTICE

- Group Exhibitions** 1989 – 2022
- *Tyson's Galleria & Black Art Today “KUUMBA”* February 25, 2022  
Neiman Marcus (Black History Month)
  - *Moody Jones Gallery 2019*, Glenside, PA, USA March 15 – April 30, 2019  
*Philosophical Underpinnings: Dialogues in Abstraction*
  - *Infinite Treasures 2018*, Lagos, Nigeria October 27 – November 5, 2018
  - *Art Crawl* Graduate Residency Program, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont 2012 – 2013
  - *Artful Intentions* African American Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA 2010
  - *International Art Expo*, New York 2003
  - *Endless Light* Parallel Gallery, Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 2002
  - *Collage Cinque* Gallery, 560 Broadway, New York 1991
  - *Zeitgenossische Nigerianische Kunst* Bonn, Bocholt, and Monchengladbach Germany 1989
  - *German/Nigerian Workshop Exhibition*, Goethe Institute and National Museum, Lagos, January – March 1989
  - *Arts and Craft Exhibition: International Symposium on African Literature*, National Theatre, Lagos 1988
  - *From Our Minds: Painting, Sculpture, Drawing Exhibition*, Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria 1988
  - *International Art Exhibition USA and Nigerian Art Exhibition in Belgium* 1983

### Solo Art Exhibitions

- *We Wear The Mask*, Signature – Beyond, Lagos, Nigeria 2015
- *Transposition* Sheen Center, New York June 16 – August 30, 2015
- *Ebullition* Artjaz Gallery, Philadelphia February 5, 2010
- *Harmony* Lucien Crump Art Gallery, PA 2004
- *The Transformation* The Framery Gallery, Lynchburg, Virginia 1999
- *La Femme* Fenchurch Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria. 1995
- *Out of Africa* Studio G, Washington DC 1992

## PROFFESIONAL AWARDS

MUSE Award Winner: Applications & APIs / Online Presence, United States	2012
Gold: Iconic Images Audio Tour, City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, Acoustiguide, Inc.	
Silver: Mural Arts African American Iconic Images Website, Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, Bluecadet	2011
Albert M. Greenfield African American Iconic Images Collection	
Certificate of Recognition - The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program	2004-2006

## TEACHING/LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### **Lead Muralist, Mural Art Instructor, Coordinator** 2004 - 2006

Philadelphia School District and Community based Mural Arts Program

- Teach and direct the mural art process as Therapy and Community Enhancement.
- Coordinate and direct group meetings with the community leaders and the mural project team
- Collaborated with the mural team (Youth and Adult community leaders) to create mural theme and design.
- Make, direct and supervise mural art design projects.
- Facilitated project implementation and completion.
- Collaborated with the mural team and community leaders to create mural theme and design.
- Make, direct and supervised mural art design projects.
- Facilitated project implementation and completion.

### **Art Instructor** 1989 - 1990

Painting and Sculpture Residency, Nigeria

Student Industrial Workshop Experience (SIWES) Ahmadu Bello University

- Planned and implemented instructions for art lessons for - Student Industrial Workshop
- Presented subjects in accordance to school curriculum guidelines
- Established and maintained efficient workshop management procedures
- Created a positive and achievement oriented learning environment
- Integrated technology with art process and research

### **Art Lecturer** 1983 - 1984

Drawing and Painting, Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria

- Instructing students on basic principles of art and art practice
- Provided skills and techniques of artistic expression consistent with school guidelines
- Maintained professional competence through in-service education activities provided by the school, and self selected professional growth activities
- Performed other duties as assigned by college Administration.

## PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- Mural painting: Women of Jazz, Strawberry Mansion, Philadelphia, PA 2006
- Mural painting: Ferguson School, Philadelphia, PA 2005
- Mural painting: Hill freedman School, Philadelphia, PA 2004
- Portrait Gallery: National Gallery of Modern Art, Nigeria 1987 – 1989

## SOME PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

- “Lagos Oh Lagos”, 1990 – oil painting on canvas, Chartered Bank of Nigeria, Lagos Nigeria
- "Communion," 1988 – oil on canvas. Goethe Institute
- “The Market” 1988 – oil on canvas. State House, Lagos Nigeria
- "Elder Statesman," 1988, National Gallery of Modern Art, Lagos Nigeria
- Oil Paintings on Canvas: United Bank for Africa Collections, New York

## ART RESIDENCY

- 2012–2014 Graduate Residency Program, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont (January 2012 – June 2014)

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2015 Egbo, Vwovwe. "Felix Osiemi: Signature-Beyond Art Gallery Presents 'We Wear The Mask' Exhibition Arts & Culture - Pulse." *News and Entertainment - Latest Updates in Nigeria*. N.p., 04 Oct. 2015.
- 2015 "Women of Jazz Mural - All That Philly Jazz." All That Philly Jazz. N.p., 08 Mar.
- "2012 MUSEAwardWinners." AwardWinners.N.p.,n.d.Web.28Mar. 2012.
- 2011 "African American Iconic Images Collection." African American Iconic Images Collection.N.p.Web.26Mar.
- 2006 Golden, Jane, Robin Rice, Natalie Pompilio, David Graham, and Jack Ramsdale. "Page 84." *More Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2006. N. page. Print.
- 2005 *Beautifying Schools Transforming Lives*. Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, 2005. DVD.
- Alder, Leke, and O. Odimayo. *The Chartered Bank Collection: An Artistic Expression beyond Space and Time*.
- Lagos: Chartered Bank, 2000. Print.
- 1992 *Guide to African Arts*. Paris: Association Dialogue Entre Les Cultures, 1992. Print.
- 1991 Kelly, Bernice M., and Janet L. Stanley. *Nigerian Artists: A Who's Who and Bibliography*. London: H. Zell, 1993. Print.1
- Noserime, Rukeme Ufuoma. *From the Atmospheric to the Transparent: A Progressive View of Osiemi's Art*. MA thesis, Institute of African Studies, Ibadan University, Ibadan, November 1990. viii, 61 leaves, illus., bibliog.

## PUBLICATIONS

“Contemporary Nigerian Art in Lagos Private Collections: New Trees in an Old Forest”. Edited by Jess Castellote. Published by: Bookcraft Press Nigeria 2012.

“More Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell” Co-authored by: Golden, Jane, Robin Rice, Natalie Pompilio, David Graham, and Jack Ramsdale Published by: Temple University Press 2006.

“The Chartered Bank collection: an artistic expression beyond space and time”. Authors: Leke Alder, O. Odimayo. Published by: Chartered Bank Lagos 2000.

Nigerian Artists: “A Who's Who and Bibliography”. Compiled by: Bernice M. Kelly, Edited by: Janet L. Stanley 1993. Publisher London; New York: Published for the National Museum of African Art Branch, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, DC [by] Hans Zell

“From the Atmospheric to the Transparent: A Progressive View of Osiemi’s Art”. MA Thesis by Noserime Rukeme Ufuoma. Published at: University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1990.

Rukeme Noserime – Head of Department, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria.

## **GRADUATE RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

*Fear and the Creative Process* – MFA Graduate Presentation, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont 2013

## **AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION**

*Philadelphia Mural Arts* – Cable Television VH1, 2006

A live interview with Patti Labelle and my mural painting “Women of Jazz” at the Philadelphia Strawberry Mansions was featured in *Living It Up with Patti Labelle Show*, in collaboration with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and Patti Labelle

*Beautifying Schools Transforming Lives* 2005

Audiovisual DVD was produced and distributed by the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program to advocate for fine art programs in Philadelphia Public School District.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Alumni Association Award – Best Student School of Art & Printing, Yaba College, Lagos Nigeria	1982-1983
Bulgarian Embassy Scholarship Award – Most Outstanding Painting Student, Lagos Nigeria	1982-1983
Fasuyi Award – Best Student in Painting, Yaba College, Lagos Nigeria	1982-1983
Society of Nigerian Artists Award, Painting, Yaba College, Lagos Nigeria	1982-1983
Gong Gallery Award – Best First Year Student in Painting, Yaba College, Lagos Nigeria	1980 -1981
Lintas Award – Best First Year Student in General Art	1979-1980

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS / EXPERTISE**

Adobe Creative Suite (versions CS6 through CS2 on Mac and PC Platform), MS Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel), Video, New Media, Visual, Sculpture, Photography.



# Dr. Harriet Smith

## **Artist Statement and Bio**

### **Artist Statement**

I am an abstract artist with a passion for creating color combinations and textured surfaces on canvas using oil paints and mixed media. My artwork has been described as “instinctive and melodic.” I attribute my love of photography and music to my creativity and creations alike – and it inspires my vision of art that is personal and inviting. I look to uncover conceptual images portrayed in still photos and draw influences from my imagination and surroundings. Those inspirations guide my color technique of layering and designing shapes and forms that appeal to the visual senses and subjective and objective interpretations. I aim to balance spontaneity with intentionality that generates energy in each piece of art.

### **Artist Bio**

Dr. Harriet Smith is a native Washingtonian residing in Prince George's County, Maryland. In addition to being an artist, she is a United States Air Force veteran and an educator with a doctorate from The George Washington University and a master's and bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland University College and Hampton Institute, respectively. Her work is displayed on the Black Art Today Foundation website, at the Wellspring Manor and Spa in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and in collectors' homes and businesses. Harriet's art has also been displayed in exhibitions in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and Italy.



## The Art of James E. Murphy Jr.

*“For as long as I can Remember, I’ve always wanted to be an Artist”,* remarks James E. Murphy Jr. as he recalls his 4<sup>th</sup> year in grade school, a pivotal point in his life where he decided to pursue his passion for Art.

Later, James attended the Baltimore School for the Arts High School and afterwards the Maryland Institute college of Arts where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Visual Communication. After college, James began his art career as a freelance illustrator completing illustrations and designs for numerous clientele including Physical Therapy Today Magazine and Umoja Children Greeting Cards; but today James focus is on his fine art drawings, paintings and reproductions which he distributes through his own company, Something For Your Soul Fine Arts.

James’ Art has been featured in various exhibits, numerous art shows & festivals and also on Baltimore’s WJZ-TV Channel 13.

Collectors may acquire James’ art through his website or by scheduling an appointment to visit his Home Studio located in Baltimore County.

James sums up his work by simply stating, *“I am a Husband and a Father, a man of Faith as well as a man of Color; Its these experiences that I seek to explore and express in my Art.”*



Something For Your Soul Fine Arts  
P.O. Box 66682, Baltimore, MD 21239

[www.somethingforyoursoul.com](http://www.somethingforyoursoul.com) | [info@somethingforyoursoul.com](mailto:info@somethingforyoursoul.com) | 443-543-6119

## **Janet Waters**

Janet Waters, a native of Baltimore, grew up in a family filled with creativity. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and a sizable extended family, all created wonderful and useful things with their hands. They all share in bringing a multitude of skills and sensibilities to her work.

By age seven, Janet was designing and making doll clothes based on the styles of the 1950's. By age eight, she was knitting her first sweater. She continued expanding her skills and interest in creating art and by her sophomore year in college declared her major as studio art.

Janet's early work life was divided between corporate marketing/sales management for companies such as Revlon and Gillette and her love of making art. Throughout her years of art-making, she has created jewelry, ceramic sculptures, wearable art, quilted fabric wall hangings, linoleum prints, knitting, leatherwork, and painting (oil, acrylic and watercolor).

Collectors of her work span from the east to the west coast, as well as, internationally with collectors in London, England and Cotonou, Benin; and finally in the permanent collection of James E. Lewis Museum.

Later in her work life, she joined the staff of Baltimore Clayworks in four positions including Instructor and later Director of Community Arts. Additionally, Janet taught art to children through after school enrichment programs, summer art camps and museum workshops throughout the Baltimore and Washington, DC area. Some of the organizations that hired her to teach include Smithsonian African Art Museum, The Walters Art Museum, The Reginald Lewis Museum, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, Child First Authority, Howard County Arts Council and St. Ignatius Loyola Academy.

She now paints watercolors. Her current professional affiliations are Black Art Today Foundation and Directors & Collectors Salon.



## Karen Y. Buster

### BIOGRAPHY

Karen Y. Buster, is a native of Baltimore, MD. She started her first business “Bustertizin” at the age of 18, as a t-shirt designer while attending Dillard University in New Orleans, LA, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1981. Karen is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated since 1978.

After fifteen years of designing and printing t-shirts, Karen transitioned to fine art through the urging of her fellow artist, friend, and mentor Larry Poncho Brown. Karen created and sold works during “The Golden Age of African Art” between 1985-2000. This period made art accessible to the masses through direct participation in community art exhibits and cultural festivals. As a result, Karen’s artwork has been nationally featured in “Images Magazine” and prominently featured on several TV shows including “In Living Color”, “Roc”, and “Uptown Comedy Club”. Of recent, her work was featured in the movies “Coming To America II” and “Halloween Kills”. Her work is also included in the private collections of several prominent celebrities to include Toni Braxton, Will Downing, the late Aretha Franklin, Queen Latifah, Sheryle Lee Ralph, Jada Pickett Smith, and Avery Sunshine.

Karen is the recipient of Baltimore’s own 2014 “Unsung” art exhibition “Female Artist of the Year”, The 2007 National Coalition of 100 Black Women’s Art and Culture award, and the 2002 recipient of the Black Heritage Visual Arts Association’s, “Favorite Emerging Artist”. Karen is the first female featured artist of three national level events: Black Heritage Art Show (Baltimore, MD) Capital Jazz Festival (Columbia, MD), and Sankofa Fine Arts Plus (Cleveland, OH). Her “Delta Business” sculpture is prominently displayed in The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated National Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Karen artistic contributions extends well beyond her unique artistic renderings her art is also cathartic. She has facilitated several art therapy sessions throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan Region.

“In my artwork, you will see a different perspective of how negative and positive spaces interact. Allow your eye to travel the lines and sharp edges drawn by my precision knife which speaks of the development of my style.

“Collectors have describe my work as irregular, eccentric, different, unusual, and unconventional. I will continue to look at everyday images in this unorthodox way. Art has allowed me to speak feelings that I can’t always express with words. I hope I can inspire young people to know that art has a voice.”

*“Art is not what I see...but what I make others see.”* ~ Karen Y. Buster



BIO:

Re: Kay Lee

Bio:

Kendra (Kay) Lee, is a true Washingtonian with an unyielding spirit! Growing up in a changing and challenging environment, art became her beacon of light, a non-verbal expression of positivity and resilience. Fueled by an unwavering passion, Kay creates mesmerizing pieces that captivate and evoke emotions. Her art leaves an indelible mark on anyone who beholds it, whether it's joy, sadness, anger, or calmness. She's a master of acrylic paints, palette knife paintings, and an array of other artistic ventures like murals, logos, digital illustrations, stationery, and clay creations. Kay Lee has always been told her story is worth sharing, and her artwork does just that. It's an invitation to experience her journey and be inspired by her unwavering pursuit of passion, even amidst the roles of a wife and a mom.

website: [www.keionaclarkart.com](http://www.keionaclarkart.com)  
email: [keionaclarkart@gmail.com](mailto:keionaclarkart@gmail.com)  
phone: (301) 266-1108



**Keiona Clark** is an artist, and advocate, entrepreneur and a curator based in Washington, DC metro area. Clark is Founder and CEO of the DMV League of Artists; her passion is to align with similar minds and network to build a force in the creative community through fostering relationships and creating fellowship by engagement with the public through curation, works shops, public art and events. Providing

opportunity and access to enjoy original work, while also bringing awareness and culture to public facilities and the community while enhancing the network of Artist and collectors. Keiona has not only proven herself to be a force in the “Art” of business; she is also an Artist/ Creative inspired by her love for all thing’s art, creativity, and community. Keiona is a (stage 3B) breast cancer survivor who was inspired to create shortly after her chemo infusions. Surviving cancer helped her decide that her life would be centered on her passion to create, as well as provide opportunities for artists and contribute to the art and culture of communities. As a young child, Clark had a natural talent and took to art as soon as she was able to hold a crayon. Keiona has painted over 30 murals throughout the City and is also responsible for brokering others. She has been featured/mentioned in numerous media outlets and brands; most notably National Geographic and Nike- Jordan Brand. Non-traditional application of paints and technique make her art original, inspirational, and unique.

# Kez Starks

K Starks has had a passion for a wide range of art disciplines from an early age, beginning studies in music with violin at age 4 and piano at 6. They (K uses they/them pronouns) graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts high school as a theatre major, subsequently returning to music with a bachelor's degree from the classical guitar program at Towson University.

While there, they expanded their interests into the visual arts by taking several sculptural and figurative ceramic courses. Though the initial experiments in pencil portraits occurred during this time, it wasn't until 10 years later that they began to draw in earnest.

During those 10 years, K established a career in hospitality. In developing a passion for wine and craft cocktailing, K has often described creating music, cocktails and visual art as processes that have more similarities than differences.

The year 2017 brought on a year-long battle with breast cancer, during which they took up acrylic painting to pass the time. Upon a fully successful recovery, K travelled abroad to southern Italy, working in a winery by day and painting by night.

This much-needed change of pace brought on a new sensitivity to art, culture and spirituality, one that precipitated an exciting and fruitful return to pencil portraiture.

Today, K can be found back in their hometown of Baltimore, MD, drawing and painting contentedly in their home studio in Butcher's Hill.

## **Kibibi Ajanku – Fiber Artist**

Kibibi Ajanku makes and presents ethnically charged art. Her passion embodies the thrust of the African Diaspora. Kibibi's creativity is the ongoing and ever evolving effort of her life journey. Her work is eclectic and innovative. It is ancient while at the same time new-world and always changing. Ajanku's muscle as a visual artist spans from contemporary fine art to village inspired craft, and the performance. Her artistry is layered with... and entrenched in... indigenous folkways. Her work embodies research, identity, and the gathering of elements of African retention, in hopes of evoking intuitive memories that reach back into ancestral histories and stories that impact the here and the now.

Kibibi Ajanku's passion for art began early. She was nurtured by "grandma's hands" as she sat at the knees of a quilt making maternal grandmother and soon followed on the heels of fashion forward seamstress aunties. This fueled an artistic journey as an exploration and execution of an indigenous aesthetic. Ajanku is empowered by international training and workshops: adire fabric design in Osogbo, Nigeria; tapestries in Theis, Senegal; adinkra fabric printing and kente weaving in Kumasi, Ghana; mud cloth acquisitions from the Mali railway; embroidery work in Medina, Senegal; and Orisha attire in Havana, Cuba. Ajanku has traveled the African diaspora to study, teach, and perform with many masters, and each trip has included fabric and fibers. Ajanku believes that when presented properly, art is the perfect vehicle to move forward into greater intercultural awareness for the global community.



**Larry "Poncho" Brown**, is a native of Baltimore, MD. He started his first business at the age of 17 as a signwriter and he has been a full-time artist ever since. Poncho received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design and photography from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD. His art, both fine and commercial, has been published nationally in Upscale, Ebony, Ebony Man, Essence, and Jet magazines. His art is featured in the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History book entitled "Wrapped In Pride" and "Connecting People With Art". His popular works have been prominently featured on several TV shows including "A Different World", "In the House", "The Wire", "The Carmichael Show", "Star", and "Greenleaf". Movies featuring his art include "Avalon", "He Said, She Said", and "Soulfood". His work adorns the walls of the likes of Camille Cosby, Dick Gregory, Anita Baker, Susan Taylor, Ed Gordon and Bernard Bronner just to name a few.

His original works are in the corporate and institutional collections of Coppin State University, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the District of Columbia Superior Courts, the Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University, Howard University Hospital, and Yale New Haven Health Park Avenue Medical Center.

His earlier works were predominately airbrush illustrations. He evolved from a graffiti artist in his earlier years, to a classically trained sign painter and graphic artist. Poncho's early published works in the mid 80's like his "Black is Black" Series was the first to address the subject of colorism in the African American art realm. He was one of many artists often referenced as "The Popular Artists" who gained national recognition during "The Cosby Show" era and found commercial success between 1985-2000 during a period known as "The Golden Age of African American Art", by making their art accessible to the masses through direct participation in community art and cultural festivals, foregoing the traditional artist arrangement of artist representation, gallery representation, and art publisher distribution. At the height of this era his works were sold in 3000 galleries across the country, and on the walls of nearly 500,000 homes.

In pursuing his philanthropic goals, he founded Raising the Arts which has created over 70+ images to assist non-profit organizations and African American Organizations with fundraising for the past two decades. He also co-founded the Creative Quarantine which is a collaboration with other professional artists that dedicate the entire month of January to creating new experimental works. Poncho was awarded "Artist of the Year" by the African American Visual Arts Association in 2000, the "Heritage Arts Festival Palette Award" in 2003, and the "Save the Arts Award" as Museum's Choice in 2010, "The Jan Spivey Gilchrist Visual Arts Award" in 2013, the "Baker Artists Award" in 2021, the Curtis R. McClinton Jr. 3rd Annual Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023, and awarded "Best Visual Artist" by The Baltimore Times "Best of Black Baltimore" in 2023.

Admirers often site rhythm, movement, and unity, as favorite elements in his work. He primarily works in acrylic, although he uses a variety of mediums and styles to express his interests in Afrocentric themes, Ancient Egyptology, and dance. Poncho's unique style combines past and present art stylizations to create a sense of realism, mysticism, and beauty, which gives his art universal appeal.

*"The African American art realm has been pressing onward because of the positive images that have become a narrative of our perseverance. My works attempt to capture SOUL while purposely depicting positive representations of African American culture. Art and imagery are the strongest forms to challenge the perceptions of African Americans in our society."* -Larry Poncho Brown

## Lauretta J McCoy

Lauretta J McCoy has been an artist since she was a child. Instead of asking for toys, Lauretta would ask her mother for art supplies. This began her journey as an artist. She majored in painting at North Carolina A&T, and later studied at Corcoran School of Art and Design .

For Lauretta, her venture into make-up artistry in film and television, as well as her role as a fashion editor, represent more than just career diversification, they are extensions of her artistic journey, using the human body as an alternate canvas to express her vivid creativity.

She loves creating abstract images using full range of color as well as black and white.

She enjoys bright colors and their mood enhancing abilities.

Like some of the masters she finds using gold-leaf an irresistible medium.



## **Artist Bio**

Levi Robinson's Art takes you on a journey through the sublime and familiar. He uses mixed media techniques to create visual art that serves as metaphors that encourage the viewer to reimagine the way they consider language, theatre, music, art and culture while exploring complex questions of race, religion, gender and politics. He is co founder, program director and curator of the Hue2 Foundation (formerly), Grail Arthaus, and Unbound Digital. He is a leading member of DMV League of Artists art collective and has participated in several major art fairs including Spectrum at Art Basel in Miami Beach, and Superfine DC. He has developed a burgeoning mural practice that has landed him media coverage from Reuters, New York Times, USA Today, National Geographic and ABC News.

## **Artist Statement**

"My process involves a lot of slowly building up form, layer by layer, followed by the slow 'destruction' of it by distorting, rearranging, or combining it with other improvised elements. My process is very much an additive and subtractive 'What if I do this? Oh, okay. Well, what if I do that?' kind of method. There's a real push and pull quality to it. There's a lot that winds up never being part of the final image in the end. If I were a movie director, you might say there is a lot that winds up 'on the cutting room floor'.

I usually have an idea in my head of what I want the end piece to look like, feel like, and generally where I want it to go. However, there's a lot of experimenting and improvising along the way, and a lot of back and forth.

I want it to be able to evolve as I create it. I want it to retain a certain expressiveness. I want it to be the result of what I am feeling at that moment, and not necessarily stuck at the initial thoughts of its inception. This means that a particular image can really go on quite a transformative journey, depending on how long it took between inception and completion. The result rarely matches what I initially had in my head, sometimes to my delight, other times to my chagrin."

"Influence can be a tricky thing to pinpoint. I feel we are constantly being influenced by a variety of sources beyond visual art, without being consciously aware of it.

I would definitely cite music as being a huge influence on my work, perhaps because my art is expression driven, rather than primarily concept driven."

I'm in love with the animate nature of the stroke. Whether it be by brush or by knife. I believe its what separates the artist from the art.

Social Media: @levirobinsn (IG)

Website address: [LeviRobinsonArt.com](http://LeviRobinsonArt.com)



# **Luis Del Valle**

## **Brief Bio**

Award winning artist, Luis Peralta Del Valle was born in Nicaragua in 1980 and migrated to the U.S. in 1986. At the age of 13 he started painting graffiti murals in the District, Maryland and Virginia. A few years later at Bell Multicultural High School he began his formal artistic education, continuing his studies at the Corcoran College of Art and Design.

In 2023 Luis was honored with Mayor Muriel Bowser's SOMOS DC Award for his notable influence, the promotion and creation of artworks that inspire and enrich our culture. In 2023 he also received the LIT in DC Award for the Arts. In 2019 he was awarded 2nd place in the Chroma International Juried art exhibition by Art Impact international. In 2017 Luis was honored with the NCIS Director's Coin by NCIS director, Andrew L. Traver. In 2013 Luis was selected as the winner of the East of the River Distinguished Artist Award. That year he was also a finalist for the District of Columbia 28th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards. These accomplishments preceded the presentation of the National Museum of Catholic Art and Library National Artist Award by Prince Lorenzo Maria De Medici in 2014, and his selection as the artist commissioned for the 2015 Beijing / District of Columbia Sister Cities Project. The latter project resulted in a panda statue painted by Del Valle that was given to the Mayor of Beijing as a state gift from Mayor Muriel Bowser. Del Valle is also the recipient of the 2015 National Museum of Catholic Art and Library Portrait Award.

Luis received his first commission from the fitness franchise Body by Jake after his 16th birthday. Since then he has been commissioned by other businesses, foundations, public institutions, museums and private collectors to create murals, portraits, sculptures, and paintings of various themes. Luis has exhibited his works at various museums and institutions including; NCIS headquarters, V.A., Vatican City, The Embassy of Italy, The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, The Historical Society of Wash-

ington DC, The Vatican Embassy in DC and the Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Museum in Baltimore, MD.

Luis continues to grow his unique personal artistic sensibility remaining an active leader in the metropolitan arts world. His commitment to the arts community is well known in the District of Columbia and abroad.

Luis believes that artistic development is a critical element in community development; the arts facilitate improvement in quality of life by providing tools to modify behaviors through the channeling of self-expression into productive work.

To learn more about Luis and his artistic career please visit his site at [www.LoveHopeArt.com](http://www.LoveHopeArt.com)

## Marie Antoinette

Marie Antoinette is a native New Englander and graduate of the University of Massachusetts. She also holds a Masters in Cosmetology.

Marie's Love Language is the intersection between art and fashion, which is where she thrives as a self-taught, mixed media artist. That being said, her body of work includes but is not limited to photography, clothing, textile, wallpaper and most recently painting. Marie has curated numerous fashion shows, artistic displays, and cultural events worldwide.

Currently her home collection of collaged picture frames, lamps, and planters are featured at Arts'tination Gallery, National Harbor Maryland where she is a resident artist.

Marie credits her creative process and diverse approach to extensive travel, living abroad, and the strong cultural influences she experienced as a child growing up in the wake of the 70's race riots.

Furthermore, Marie acknowledges the ancestral contributions of coming from a family of Quilters. Marie is committed to creating works that are noteworthy.



## **Marilyn Gates-Davis**

marilyngates-davis.com

[marilyndavis44@gmail.com](mailto:marilyndavis44@gmail.com)

Painting since a child, Marilyn Gates-Davis has over 40 years and counting as an artist. She has been working as a graphic designer for the past 30+ years, designing magazines, books, and print materials. She typically paints intimate portraits of friends and family members as well as iconic figures.

To counteract negative stereotypes, she chooses to depict the joy of the black culture through her paintings. Marilyn paints images that celebrate grace, strength, dignity and love of black people, often utilizing her art to share personal stories and childhood memories.

Marilyn paints primarily in acrylics and oils. She also creates collage work using cut paper, acrylic paint and other organic textured materials. While there is much diversity in her work, a throughline can be found through her chosen subject matter. Her goal is to take the everyday images and life experiences and elevate them to tell stories that connect us all.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Group Exhibit, M-NCPPC, 30th Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition, Harmony Hall Art Center, October-December 2018
- Group Exhibition, "**Seeking Prince George's!**" M-NCPPC, Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD, January-April 2019
- Juried Selected, "**Reflections of Self**" M-NCPPC, 31st Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition, Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel MD, November-December 2019
- Group Exhibit "**Perspective: Prince George's**" M-NCPPC, Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD, January-April 2020
- Featured in WANDER magazine, "34 Women Illustrate Their 2021 Dream" October 2020
- Solo Show, "**The Black Family**" M-NCPPC, Southern Area Aquatic Recreation Complex (SAARC), Brandywine, MD, July-Sept 2021

- Group Exhibit **“Symbiotic Presence”** M-NCPPC, Prince George’s County Juried Exhibition, Brentwood Arts Exchange, Brentwood, MD, November 2020-January 2021
- Solo Show **“No Justice, No Peace”** HCAA, Prince George’s Plaza Community Center, Hyattsville, MD, October 2021
- Group Exhibit, Wellspring Manor & Spa Art Gallery, Upper Marlboro, MD, March 2022-present
- Group Exhibit **“Songs That Move Us”** WCADC, The Gallery at Friendship Heights Village Community Center, Chevy Chase, MD, July 2022
- Group Exhibit, **“What is Ours?”** WCADC, Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, MD, September-November 2022
- Group Exhibit, **“Art Maryland 2022”**, Howard County Arts Council, September-November 2022
- Group Exhibit, **“Black Prometheus: The Legacy of Jacob Lawrence and Global Modernist Art of the Mid-Twentieth Century”** NSU, The James Wise Gallery, Norfolk, VA, October-November 2022
- Group Exhibit, **Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Waldorf Gallery Exhibit**, December-April 2023
- Group Exhibit, **“Renewal”** M-NCPPC, Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD, January-April 2023
- Group Exhibit, **Carbonado: Asserting the Emerging Exhibition at the Sebrof Forbes Cultural Arts Center**, February 2023
- Group Exhibit, Rhizome DC, **“UpBringing”**, Washington, DC, February 2023
- Group Exhibit, **“Kuumba II Art Exhibit”**, Neiman Marcus, Tyson Galleria, Mclean, VA, February 2023
- Solo Show, **“African Children Series”**, Baltimore City Hall, Baltimore, MD, March-April 2023
- Group Exhibition, **“We, The People”**, Goldstein Treasury Building, Annapolis, MD, March-June 2023

## **Ramsey Brisueno**

Ram Brisueno is a Baltimore based, self taught artist with a degree in English from UMBC. Ram considers himself a collagist focusing on personal, cultural, and gender using mixed media in an intuitive collage style. An almost surreal perspective between material and transformations that play in stories and dreams.

Ram's submissions for Voices reach for a personal connection with my Puerto Rican background of my father and myself as a boriquas of African American descent. The collages flow around central figures, saintly beings referencing Latin culture, with garden and island imagery. The paintings invite the viewer in, opening and revealing themselves to me and others.

Ram has lived in New York, Germany, Washington, DC and Baltimore and has shown his work in museums, galleries, venues, and private collections.



## Russell R. Lewis

*I have come to understand that being an artist transcends mere subject matter and materials; it resides within the process and the contemplation behind every stroke or creation. With each piece, I delve into an exploration, sharing fragments of my essence—how I perceive, think, operate, and dream within this world.*

Russell Lewis is a Washington, DC native who attended the prestigious Duke Ellington School of the Arts. His passion and skill saturate his paintings with vivacity. Lively colors dance around the canvas as his intriguing use of texture commands the eye to closer scrutiny.

### **Education**

Duke Ellington School of the Arts from 1984 to 1988 -Diploma Communication Arts

Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, Virginia) – BFA Communication Art and Illustration

### **Career Highlights**

Hargrove Decorating Corporation, Art Development - Washington, DC.

The Phillips Collection, Museum assistant - Washington, DC

PSI Family Services, Creative Arts Counselor, teaching expression through art to mentally and/or physically challenged individuals - Washington, DC. -

### **Selected Solo & Group Exhibitions**

Friendship Gallery (Curated by Llewellyn Berry) – *An Autumn Impromptu* (Exhibition) – Chevy Chase, MD

Ellington Gallery (Curated by Gallery Educator Marta Reed) – *50+* (Exhibition) – Washington, DC

Just Lookin' Gallery – *New Year New Visions* (Exhibition) – Washington, DC

T. Miller Gallery – Baltimore, MD

Pope John Paul II Cultural Center – Washington, DC

H & F Fine Arts – Mount Rainier, MD

The Pehl Collection – Eldersburg, MD

Voice Against Abuse Fundraiser – Los Angeles, CA

Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher Law – Washington, DC

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Reunion Exhibition – Richmond, VA

Superwomen “Stop the Cycle of Child Abuse” - Los Angeles CA

Virgin Atlantic Airlines VIP Lounge - Dulles Airport VA

## **Selected Murals**

Department of Homeland Security – Springfield, VA

Yohnnex Sports Body Building Exhibit – Alexandria, VA

The Industry Restaurant – Atlanta, GA

Reggie's Café, Reggie Williams (NBA) - Lanham, MD

Skip Fleming, former owner of WKYS – Washington, DC

## **Selected Commissions**

National Geographic Children's Magazine - Washington, DC

Charles E. Day Author of The Tenth Man, Book Illustrations - Fort Washington MD

Simbi Khali Williams Actress & Writer - Los Angeles CA

Keith Sweat, Recording Artist - Atlanta, GA

Glen Harris Sports Show Channel 8 - Temple Hills MD

Third Eye Music CD/Album Cover - Temple Hills MD

## **Social Media**

Facebook: Russell R. Lewis

Instagram: Russ\_roc

TikTok: Russrocready

## Tanya Bracey- Art BIO

Having painted professionally for 20 years, Tanya has drawn the figure all her life. Beginning with comic books and ebony magazines; her interest in portrait is present in much of her work.. Painter Juliette Aristides remarked the warm sensibility experience when viewing her portraits. Influenced by 19th Century Masters; she focuses her painting style on classical realism. Having a respect for cultural traditions of story telling, her paintings are thinly painted describing the temporal nature of life. Drawing the brightly colored layouts of Ebony magazines as a child, lends itself to the graphic and compositionally conscious look of many pieces.

She has trained at Delaware College of Art and design and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts where curriculum centered on the human figure. This period of time enriched her knowledge of traditional methods of painting and appreciation of many styles. Tanya is licensed as a CADC with a master's degree in mental health counseling. Working in human services and corrections since 22 has strengthened her concern for the issues such as choices, peace and redemption. The subjects of her work illustrate metaphors for scriptural verses reflecting her faith.

Over the last ten years, she has taught art workshops with Delaware Tech, Camelot, Leach Elementary, and various correctional environments. Tanya has also worked as a mixed media instructor in prisons and juvenile programs. A strong advocate for the arts in prison population, Ms. Bracey has developed and facilitated several art sessions serving different levels of security facilities.

# Thomas E. Dade

## Artist Memento

Thomas Dade's work is inspired by music, identity, and mystery. Primarily an abstract painter, the artist uses various mediums to conceptualize his vision. Thomas Dade was born and raised in Washington, DC.; credits working as an assistant to international artist Sam Gilliam and sculptor/architect John L. Dreyfuss for his passion to become a working artist. The artist currently resides and works out of his studio in Hagerstown, MD.

My work is driven by the notion that our ancestors have helped us live our future now. Pulling from ancient unexplainable phenomena for inspiration, such as the Egyptian pyramids and astrology has inspired me to create something abstract and mysterious. I have embraced the energy of music, mystery, and my ancestors to guide me through a colorful and complex journey of metaphysics.

This has been instrumental for the understanding of the invisible nature of life to transcend into a physical thing I can create. ART; under the veil of Abstraction and the pioneering aspects of Afro-Futurism. ~ Thomas E. Dade

Tommi Blake

My road to art is one where a crossroad of art as healing entered my world. My roads' journey took an unexpected turn. Traveling has always been one of my passions and my mainstays. I have visited six of our seven continents, with Africa being one of my most profound experiences.

I was first a Massage Therapist before becoming a different type of artist. I traveled to Southern Africa and used massage to serve women and children living with HIV and AIDS. As a Massage Therapist, my hands have been used to aid in comforting much like art, colors, and imagination now create vibrancy through the artist's hand.

Art came to me by way of me needing to fill a void caused by sustaining an injury while training for a marathon. Where my soul was consumed with toning, preparing, and conditioning.....my injury required a new focus...that of healing. And so TJ Blake artistry rose. A renewed passion in life, an extension of working with my hands as a Massage Therapist, I now work with canvass, using primarily acrylic paints , resin and someday oils.

I'd rather paint than eat, as I am ever anxious to create my next masterpiece!

Tracey Akua MarLené Connor, (a.k.a.) Nana Akua Acheampomaa..., born and raised in NY, recently retired Federal Forensic Scientist, who currently calls Bowie, MD home... describes a bit about the blocks that built this Harlem bred, baby boomer's journey to self-discovery.

Tracey didn't consider retiring early to cease working. She was determined to step out on faith and go full-time with skills she had acquired as a graphic/web designer and her 6+ years working in church production. "I loved working in production. I went from stagehands to stage manager, video camera operator, photographer, and Director of Production." Once Tracey began to understand and embrace her talents & gifts, she started to attract her calling.

She graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, with a degree in Forensic Psychology and worked within the criminal justice system for over 30 years. Tracey sought a secondary education as a creative. "I discovered my love for photography while pursuing my certification as a Digital Graphic Illustrator at Sessions College of Design. I was drawn to both the science and art of photography, I never looked back. Though I received my certification as a Digital Graphic Illustrator, I was determined to go further, I wanted to study photography."

The shift paid off! Her photography has been exhibited at Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Museum, Baltimore MD, The City Lore Gallery, New York City, and Black Cow Restaurant/Lounge, Bowie MD. Also, at present, she is published as a contributing photographer in Simply Bowie and Simply Annapolis Magazines. Tracey is enjoying her retirement as an Editorial / Travel Photographer and Multimedia Creative. Her work will also be featured in the Indie Film "Bye for Now", a Queen Film - in theaters soon.

Tracey's work as a creative did not just get started.

Tracey grew up in Harlem, NY - where the energy from dancing, singing, and watching her dad arrange a center piece on a food platter would last a lifetime. Tracey remembers the feeling of awe as she would watch her grandmother whip the material under the foot of her black Singer Sewing Machine. Tracey continues to draw inspiration and confidence from those memories. "Mama's skill of combining tinctures and herbal remedies to crush any illness kept all of us alive! She just knew what to do!" To date, her late grandmother's love & legacy continues to illuminate and guide her path.

Tracey explains how shortly after she retired, she traveled to Africa (Ghana) with a group of fellow creatives. "Discovering my roots has become pivotal in my truly loving who I am and what calls my soul." Tracey reflected on how the beauty of Africa, and the power of her Ancestral Roots elevated her senses, and purpose. "Thank you to all the creatives who have dedicated their lives to not stopping! You are how I refocus."

Artist Statement:

I aspire for my photography to lift your story..., to be studied... exhibited... and ultimately memorialized as the evidence of my lifetime, and my work as a creative.

~Tracey Akua MarLené

## Dr. Yemonja Smalls

Originally from Hershey, PA, but a recent Chicago, IL to Baltimore, MD transplant, Dr. Yemonja Smalls works in the Maryland Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Administration as the Director of Professional Development.

She has over 25 years of experience working with children and adults with developmental disabilities who exhibit significant challenging behaviors and is committed to supporting them to live their best lives in the communities in which they wish to thrive.

Yemonja completed her doctorate from Louisiana State University in Psychology. She is expanding her clinical skills with a master's degree in Art Therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with focused interest in caregivers who may be subject to secondary trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout.

Yemonja's creations in various mediums have been exhibited in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, on the set of the famous Fox Hit TV show "Empire", Harold Washington Library, South Side Community Art Center, Gallery Guichard, Howard University, Hill Center Galleries, the Sojourner Family Peace Center among others, and reside in various private collections across the nation.

As the author and illustrator of "The Day It Rained, Yemonja has also has sought to bring creative opportunity for children and their parents to discuss the challenges that dementia presents on the family structure. And woven between these creations, she adorns and embellishes, and designs apparel in her JustHuman line.

## Yewande Kotun Davis Bio

Yewande Kotun Davis is a Nigerian American self-taught visual artist based in Baltimore, Maryland. She grew up heavily involved in the arts, but ultimately pursued a career in healthcare administration. Yewande resumed painting in 2015 after a series of traumatic personal events and continued to develop her craft while focusing on her healing. In 2023, Yewande pivoted from corporate to practice art full-time—a proverbial homecoming. While her previous experience as a population health administrator lends to her expertise at the intersection of health and mental wellness, place, and racial justice, her Nigerian heritage and Southern upbringing lend to her love of stories and storytelling. As such, Yewande utilizes her work to celebrate, depict, and reframe narratives that have been inadequately or falsely delivered in the past. With a focus on traditional media and murals, Yewande is able to center the layered experiences of Black folks— most often women and children— by taking a special interest in their narration as a source of inspiration and truth. Through her approach and various media, Yewande’s work serves as a vehicle for community care by highlighting our connectedness, inciting joy, and creating space for healing. Yewande’s work has been exhibited in Baltimore and throughout the DMV area, as well as in Florida, Georgia, and California.

## Yewande Kotun Davis Artist Statement

Community care has always been central to my being and my life’s work— be it through my first career as a healthcare administrator or my chosen career as a practicing artist. I believe that art creates space and opportunity for people and their stories to be seen and heard and utilize my work to highlight those who historically have not had their voices amplified, let alone their stories told. Through direct social and community engagement, which often informs my work, followed by a delicate dance between oil, acrylic, and water-based media, my work centers the layered experiences of Black folks— most often women and children— highlighting our joy, resilience, and shared humanity. Within my work, first-person narratives are married with vibrant colors, reimagined yet familiar imagery, and attention to naming in order to highlight our connectedness and drive meaningful dialogues that promote healing, incite joy, and help redefine the human experience.