

BRIAN TESTA

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

WHO AM I?

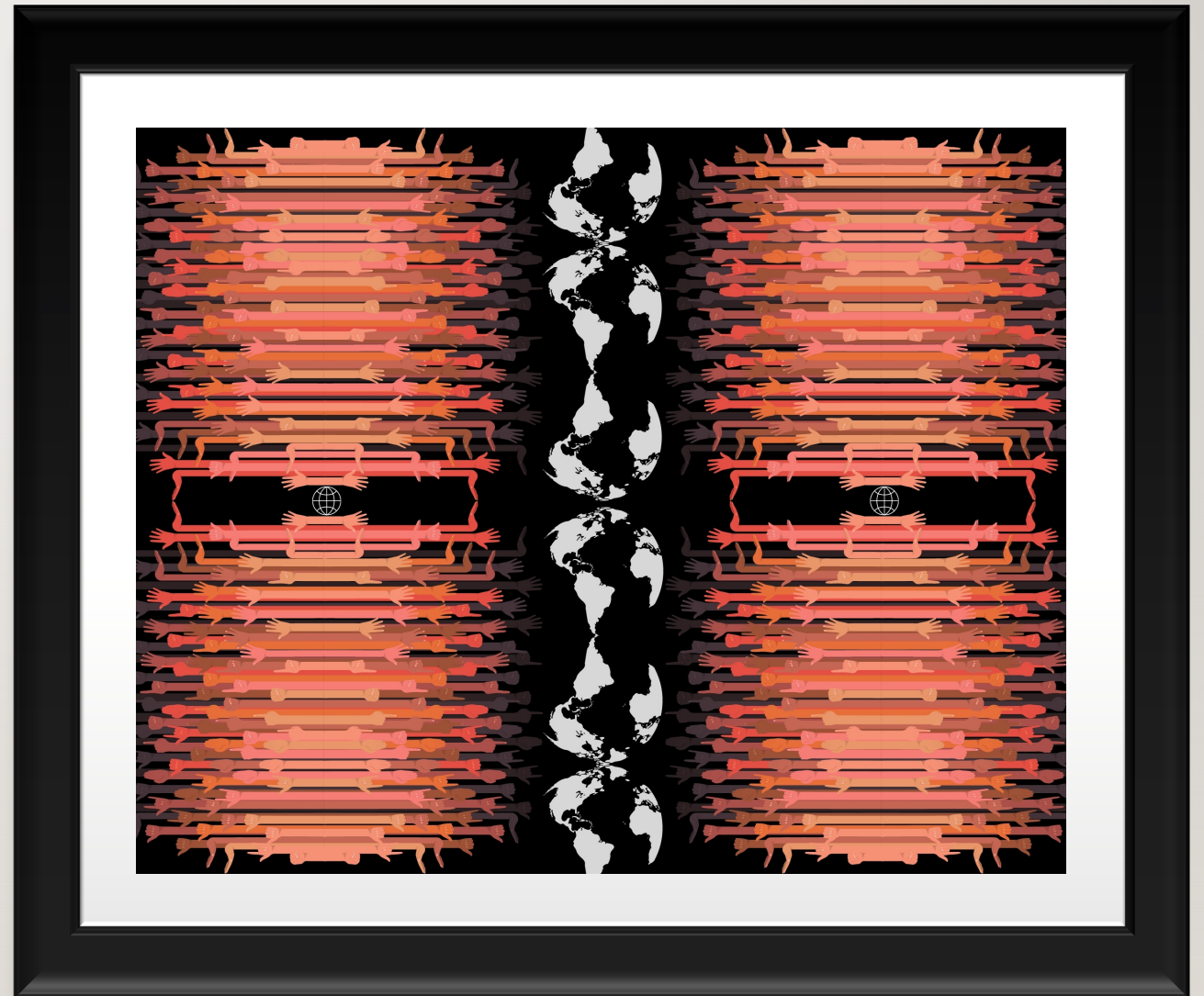
- My name is Brian Testa, I am an artist and art educator. I was born in Queens, New York. I currently live on Long Island, where I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art & Design Education, with a focus on S.T.E.A.M. from Adelphi University. I also received an Associate of Arts in Art Studies from Nassau Community College. I have taught Art and STEAM through the Liberty Partnership Program at Adelphi University, the past few years. Throughout the pandemic I have taught this program remotely. My research interests include: Choice-based Art Education, Visionary and Shamanic Art, Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality, Crypto and NFT Art.



MULTI**I**CULTURAL

Digital, 18" x 24"
Brian Testa, 2021

- For this project I wanted to create an image that reflects interconnected and multicultural aspects of society. I choose to represent different cultures and peoples through thousands of hands reaching out towards one another. I also choose to use a negative or inverse representation of the Earth to represent the challenges associated with a multicultural education.



MULTICULTURAL ART EDUCATION

Why Multiculturalism?

Politics and Misconceptions

Multicultural Society and Identity

Multicultural Connections

MOST RELEVANT & INFORMATIVE

- The core premise of multicultural education is the eradication of discrimination and prejudice against minorities in the American public school system.
- One major dilemma to multiculturalism is the fact that within any liberation movement, some opt for integration, those who argue for separatism, and those who choose pluralism as the best route to liberation (Collins, 1981).
- In the United States, dominant values reproduced in curricula often reflect a culture not shared by an ever-growing number of students (Davenport, 2000).

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

**Alma
Woodsey
Thomas**

Tyeb Mehta

**Takashi
Murakami**

ALMA WOODSEY THOMAS

- **Thomas** was an African-American artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington, D.C. Thomas is best known for the "exuberant", colorful, abstract paintings that she created after her retirement from a 35-year career teaching art.

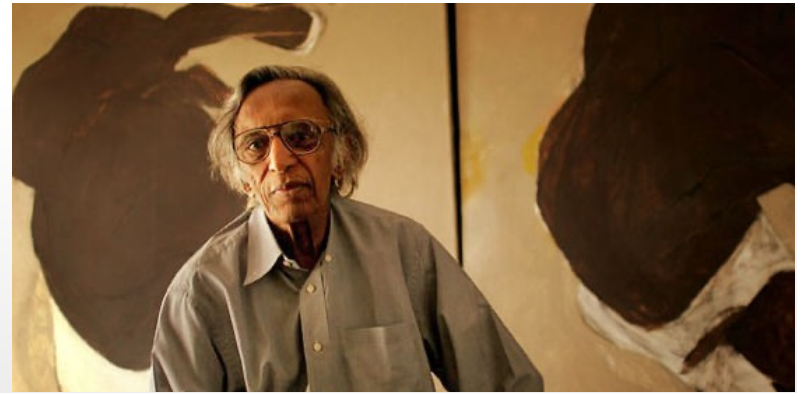
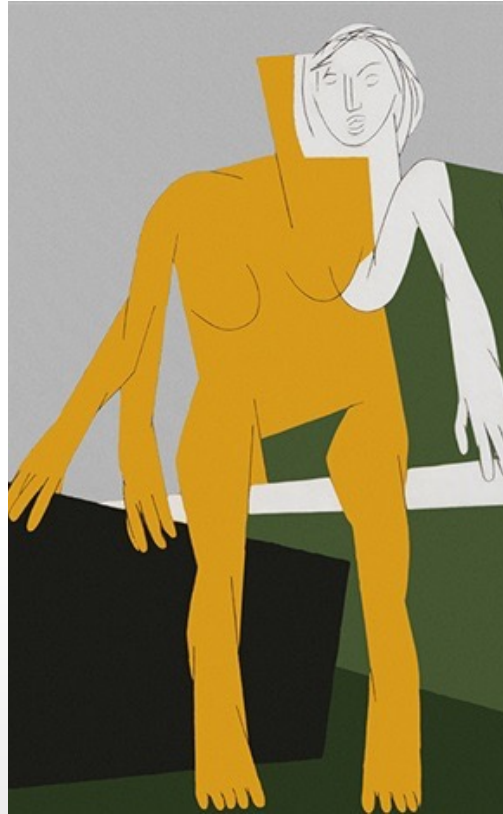


1. *Iris, Tulips, Jonquils and Crocuses*, 1969
3. *Splash Down Apollo 13*, 1970

2. *Portrait of Alma*, 1976
4. *Untitled, Study for Resurrection*, 1966

TYEB MEHTA

- **Mehta** was an Indian artist known for his paintings of figures set amidst diagonal shapes of color. He was part of the first wave of post-colonial artists in India.



1. *Untitled*, 1981.
3. *Falling Figure with Bird*, 2002

2. *Rickshaw Puller*, 2002
4. *Portrait of Tyeb*, 2005

TAKASHI MURAKAMI

- **Murakami** is a Japanese artist known for blurring the boundary between fine and commercial art. Exploring the links between traditional printmaking techniques and Japanese manga in postwar society, Murakami's art acts as a cultural barometer with subversive undertones and imagery.



1. *A Field of Flowers Seen from the Stairs to Heaven, 2018*

3. *Rainbow Flower Cushion, 2017*

2. *Circus: Embrace Peace and Darkness within Thy Heart, 2020*

4. *Portrait of Murakami, 2017*

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS & ISSUES

Who is most qualified to teach the contents of minority cultures?" (Adejumo, 2002).

Will multicultural education ever be fully achieved?

What impact does the internet and social media have on multiculturalism?

Should regional political preferences be removed if the representation of the individual is at risk?