

CARRBILL

July 13, 2022 — September 10, 2022

The Carr Center Gallery — 15 E. Kirby Street — Detroit, MI



Senghor Reid



the
Carr Center
INSPIRE. ENTERTAIN. CHALLENGE. EDUCATE.

celebrating
25
years
of artistic
excellence

SOMETHING'S COMING

COMING THIS FALL

The Carr Center Performance Studio



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

...and Something's Coming

Dear Patrons, Supporters, and Friends:

Thank you for joining us tonight!

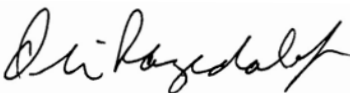
We are proud to present the **Homecoming Exhibition, Part I**, and later this fall, Part II (September 28 through November 26, 2022) here at the Carr Center Gallery. Visual artists have been a foundation of the Carr Center and we're excited that they have come back to celebrate with us, and, in return, we are honored to celebrate them and their extraordinary career achievements in the arts, education, and beyond.

I would also like to give a special thank you to our curator, Lina C. Stephens, and the Carr Center's Visual Arts team for bringing us all together!

As many of you know, Detroit is one of the top cities in the country, experiencing a resurgence of next-generation cultural visual artists, and the Carr Center will continue to be there to provide aid, support, and platforms to help guide their careers.

On behalf of the Carr Center Board of Trustees and its staff, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the visual artists for their gifts, grace, and generosity.

Welcome home!



Oliver Ragsdale, Jr.
President and CEO
The Carr Center



HOMEcoming

part 1

“The Homecoming exhibition celebrates visual artists from around the world, and many of the artists have called the Carr Center their studio, classroom, exhibition hall, or home. After 30 years of robust Detroit-centered and nationally recognized visual arts programming, the Carr Center’s family of visual artists is vast, diverse, and exceedingly talented. It is only fitting that the “Home for the Arts in Detroit” calls on its family to celebrate not only the accomplishment of the organization’s 30 years of excellence but the accomplishments of those who made the past 30 years historic.”

—LINA C. STEPHENS

MEET *the Curator*



LINA C. STEPHENS

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Lina C. Stephens is a product of the Detroit Public School System. She comes to the Carr Center with more than 30 years in the museum space.

Stephens was one of two museum professionals working as part of the team, on the build of the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. She also worked at several museums in the Detroit area. Her museum work has opened many collections across the country, allowing items to be shared with the public.

Her creative interests have opened doors in the areas of crafts, museum work, and architecture. Stephens has also established a fine arts practice since she graduated from Detroit's College for Creative Studies with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She has created art in the areas of jewelry and metal smithing, weaving, and beadwork.

After decades of her sharing her expertise in the museum world, she received a Master of Fine Arts in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Recently, Stephens participated in a four-generation art exhibition with her family members.

THE CARR CENTER

Visual Arts Team

As the Carr Center continues its 30th-anniversary celebration, the Homecoming Exhibition is an integral part of the history of the organization and its artistic development.

The visual artists of Homecoming I and II are the works of artists here in Detroit, whose works have made an impact on the global arts community and beyond. Through the years, many of these artists have called the Carr Center their studio, classroom, exhibition hall, and home. The Center's family of visual artists is vast, diverse, and extraordinarily talented. It is only fitting that the "Home for the Arts in Detroit" calls on its family to celebrate.

The Visual Arts Team including Lina C. Stephens, Tia Nichols, and Erin Falker-Obichigha welcome Pamela Alexander, Christopher Batten, Kaelin Belhmer, Halima Afi Cassells, Kimberly Harden, Jacqueline Edwards Lane, Diamante Lavendar, Richard Lewis, William Mandela Matthews, Steven Mealy, Sabrina Nelson, Onzie D. Norman, Senghor Reid, Dawud Shabazz, Tony Shopinski, Tristan Slade, and Crystal Woodard.

CELEBRATING *30 Years*

To mark 30 years of artistic excellence in the Arts, the Carr Center celebrates the visual artists that have participated in exhibitions, classes, and workshops. We have reached out to many of the artists that we were able to locate and invited them to participate in the exhibition. Though it was challenging to uncover some of the artists from the past 30 years, we have managed to present two exhibits from our findings, Homecoming I and II.

We started by looking through previous catalogs from past exhibitions. We compiled a list of names and email addresses. In the process, we discovered people that were deceased. After that process, we had 141 artists to research. Our team made posts on social media including Facebook and Instagram. We set up a submission page for artists to apply. In the first round, we received about twenty-five applications. Some of them were disqualified because they never exhibited with the Carr Center.

The exhibition is a retrospective of the artists and the variety of media, techniques, and themes they are exploring. We hope our audience will be just as excited to view this exhibition as we are to present it.

Lina C. Stephens, Curator

MEET *the Artists*



PAMELA ALEXANDER

Pamela Alexander was trained as a child in art principles by her artist parents. She pursued art throughout primary and secondary school. She attended Oakland Community College in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In 1996, she graduated from Madonna University in Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Painting and a background in art history.

Alexander spent ten years in the advertising industry. Her professional background included a position as an art teacher, where she taught Kindergarten through Grade 9. She also painted blue jeans for a major department store; designed men's ties and purchased and sold antiquarian prints and primitive folk art.

Throughout the years, her work was presented in numerous juried and one-woman shows by Farmington Community Arts Council, Farmington Hills Artist in Residence, and the City of Farmington.

MEET *the Artists*



CHRISTOPHER BATTEN

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Christopher Batten began his undergraduate training at the Columbus College of Art & Design in Ohio and later completed his training at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration in 2006. Batten is a 2017 graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting MFA program, where he received a Hoffberger Merit Scholarship, the Dr. Leslie King Hammond Graduate Award, and two AIGA Worldstudio Scholarships. While at MICA, Batten also served as a Graduate Program Assistant to Joan Waltemath, Hoffberger School Director. His artwork has been exhibited in Detroit, New York City, San Antonio, Dallas, Baltimore, and Atlanta. Subsequently, Batten's works have appeared at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Red Bull Arts Detroit, and in the pages of *New American Paintings*. He has been an Artist in Residence at Red Bull Arts Detroit and the Creative Alliance in Baltimore. Batten is also an art educator and is currently on the faculty at Bard High School Early College and an adjunct professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art, both located in Baltimore.

MEET *the Artists*



KAELIN BELHMER

Kaelin Belhmer grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and the beautiful Reno and Tahoe region where she explored many mediums of art. She arrived at Cranbrook School Kingswood in Bloomfield, Michigan for her freshman year and has been painting ever since. She is looking forward to her senior year this fall and continuing her art studies with Senghor Reid.

MEET *the Artists*



HALIMA AFI CASSELLS

Halima Afi Cassells is an award-winning interdisciplinary community-engaged artist, mom of three, and avid gardener, with deep roots in Waawiiyaataanong, Detroit, Michigan. She credits gardening as inspiring her move away from painting to a practice where she aspires to use materials and processes that lead to the thriving of all (human and non-human) communities.

Cassells continues to explore relationship-building, notions of freedom/work and value/disposability in a participatory context through projects like the Free Market of Detroit (2015 Knight Arts awardee).

She continually goes down rabbit holes seeking to understand the interconnectedness of the British monarchy and common law, global corporatism, climate crisis, and the impacts on the self to return to a right relationship. As an advocate for all artists and cultural practitioners, she has spearheaded many community processes that uplift cultural capital from often-exploited communities in a collaborative context.

Her work has been featured at the Carr Center, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Skylight Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), and in a multitude of spaces in the public realm.

MEET *the Artists*



KIMBERLY HARDEN

Artist Kimberly Harden enjoys exploring the interplay of shape, color, and spatial relationships, experimenting with the notion of implied movement.

She currently teaches Architectural Design at Cass Technical High School in Detroit. During the pandemic, she spent time creating art and produced a substantial body of work. Her art has been exhibited at several art galleries in the Detroit Metropolitan area.

Harden holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Architecture, a Teaching Certificate in Art Education, and a Master of Education M.Ed. from Wayne State University.

MEET *the Artists*



JACQUELINE EDWARDS LANE

Fine arts and artmaking have always been major factors in the life of Jacqueline Edwards Lane. Growing up in Detroit, Michigan, she attended many community-based arts, dance, and drama programs at the Trade Union Leadership Council on Grand River, the Fisher Branch YMCA, The Tireman House (Parks and Recreation facility), and Taynton Dance Studio, and The Detroit Institute of Arts youth art program. A highlight of her youth was being in the art class and art club at Pattengill Elementary School with art teacher Larry Walker. Lane said, “He made art come alive with field trips, participation in a Channel 56 TV art show, amazing art lessons, and art activities. He is probably one of the main reasons I decided to become an art teacher.”

As a teen and young adult, she continued to pursue her passion for art in the Commercial Art Department at Cass Technical High School. Lane received a Bachelor of Art Education degree at Wayne State University, her master’s degree in Art Education, and a Post Master’s degree in Education Law and Finance. Much of her knowledge about artmaking, creative thinking, and concepts came from Master artists, who she had the privilege of working with at Your Heritage House, where she served as an instructor and assistant to the director.

From 1977 to 2010, Lane taught art in Detroit Public Schools. In addition to classroom teaching, she stayed involved in professional art education and art organizations: National Conference of Artists, Detroit Art Teachers Association, Michigan Art Education Association, and National Art Education Association. While teaching, she currently maintains an artist studio and occasionally exhibits in art shows.

MEET *the Artists*



DIAMANTE LAVENDAR

Diamante Lavendar lives in the Midwest. She enjoys using art as a medium to explore the issues of life and the human reactions to those issues with a strong emphasis on spirituality. Most of her works are abstract in nature with a focus on colors, shapes, and lines. The majority of her work is mixed media digital art which includes some or all of the following: photography, fractals, drawing, painting, and digital art.

Lavendar's work has been shown in numerous online and "brick and mortar" exhibitions and has been awarded in many of those shows. She has also been recognized by the American Art Awards for five consecutive years (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021). Her work has been published in several magazines including *Edge Of Faith* magazine, *Eris and Eros*, *The Closed Eye Open*, and *Beyond Words Literary Magazine*.

MEET *the Artists*



RICHARD LEWIS

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Richard Lewis started drawing when he was four years old. When he was ten, his godmother Belle Banks told him to study his family, and to go into the next room and draw, which is where he started studying and drawing faces.

A graduate of Cass Technical High School, he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the College for Creative Studies (Detroit, MI) and his master's degree from Yale School of Art (New Haven, CT). He returned to Detroit, drove a cab, and taught African American art history. He was an artist-in-residence at The Studio Museum in Harlem.



WILLIAM MANDELA MATTHEWS

A native of the Motor City, William Mandela Matthews has been painting for ten years. He got his start at 16 years old while attending Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School.

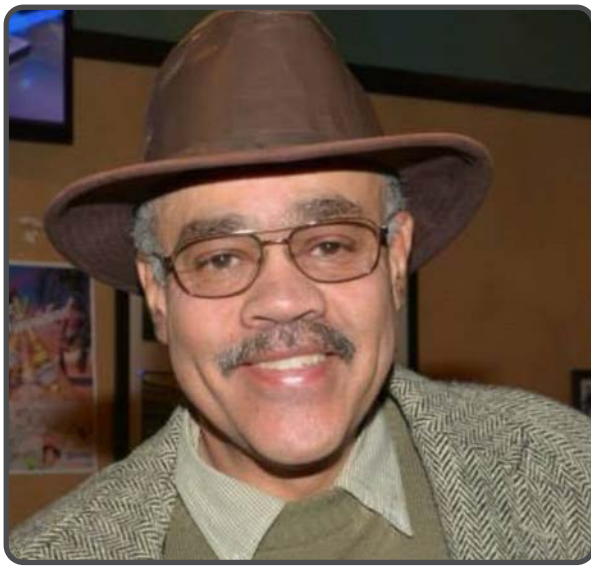
Matthews received the J.P. Morgan “Chase the Dream” Scholarship at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) in Birmingham, Michigan. The training he received there, coupled with the tutelage he received from the Arts League of Michigan’s Young Artists program led him to Kentucky State University, where he earned his degree in studio art and graduated cum laude in 2014.

Currently, Matthews is a freelance artist and poet. He is the CEO of Art Is Life, LLC, and the founder and curator of the William Mandela Fine Arts Gallery in midtown, Detroit.

His abstract work primarily consists of found objects, texturized canvas, and brilliant color. He draws inspiration from artists such as Robert Rauschenberg, Marcel Duchamp, and Kehinde Wiley. Matthews’ figurative pieces draw a connection to his identity as an African American. He describes them as Afro-American folk art. He uses concepts in both abstract and figurative pieces to inspire the connection between artist, critic, and audience. His mural “Up from Oppression” was recently unveiled at the Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Matthews is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Detroit Rotary Club, and a Trustee of the Out The Mud Youth Organization.

MEET *the Artists*



STEVEN MEALY

Artist Steven Mealy has been creating fine art in the Detroit Metropolitan area since 1978. His works include sculptures, paintings, collages, set design, and other forms of mixed media. Mealy's art has been exhibited in many galleries and museums throughout Detroit and the United States.

MEET *the Artists*



SABRINA NELSON

Sabrina Nelson has been a professional interdisciplinary artist for more than 37 years. She works in a variety of mediums and styles, from painting to drawing to sculpturing, to art installations, to performances, and more.

Nelson's work has been exhibited throughout the Midwest, Florida, New York, Louisiana, California, and Paris, France. She is an educator, lecturer, and 'artist'—using her art as a medium for activism.

Her professional background includes key positions at both the College for Creative Studies and the College of Art & Design in Arts Administration for 27 years and with the Detroit Institute of Arts Education Department for 26 years.

Nelson has taught African American Art History at the College for Creative Studies (Detroit, MI) and Oakland University (Rochester, MI). She served on the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (Twin Lake, MI) faculty. She has been a curator for the Carr Center and Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

Nelson is currently a Kresge Arts Fellow (2021-2022). She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the College for Creative Studies. Recently, her work has been featured on PBS.

MEET *the Artists*



ONZIE D. NORMAN

Onzie Norman is a self-taught mixed media painter and wood sculptor from Detroit, Michigan. He started in the field of carpentry in high school and later graduated from the Detroit Carpenters Apprenticeship School. His craft would later play an important role in his artistic development.

In 2014, Norman had a vision to draw, which led to his experimenting with paint on wood. He constructs canvas out of wood and uses acrylic, enamel, spray paint, ink, paper, collage, and resin to create one-of-a-kind artworks.

Norman has worked diligently towards building his art career, his work has been exhibited at ArtPrize (Grand Rapids, MI), the BOMBAY SAPPHIRE Artisan Series, Essence Festival (New Orleans, LA), Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (Detroit, MI), Actors Theatre (Louisville, KY) National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center (Wilberforce, OH), Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago, IL), Agora Gallery (New York, NY), and The Dayton Art Institute (Dayton, OH).

His artwork is also in many private collections and recently his work has been acquired by Don Tuski President of the College for Creative Studies, actor Charles Michael Davis, NFL linebacker Deandre Levy, writer and public speaker Everette Taylor, and American journalist Stephen Henderson.

MEET *the Artists*



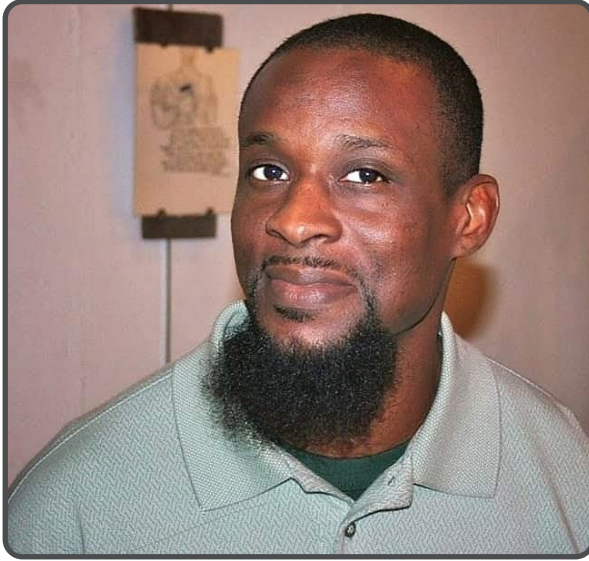
SENGHOR REID

Senghor Reid is a visual artist. His work has been exhibited in the United States and abroad in galleries and museums including the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), Kentler International Drawing Space (New York, NY), St. Catharines Museum (Ontario, CA), and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Harlem, NY).

Reid has been recognized for his outstanding work and has received many awards including the Kresge Foundation's Kresge Arts in Detroit Visual Artist Fellowship prize and the prestigious Governor's Award for Emerging Artist. His work is in many private, public, and corporate art collections.

Reid earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI), a master's degree in Teaching in Art Education from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) and he attended the internationally recognized Marathon Program at the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture (New York, NY).

MEET *the Artists*



DAWUD SHABAZZ

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Duwad Shabazz is an abstract artist. His original art is created with archival materials. His desire is to capture the eye of the beholder, spark a moment of serenity and encourage an inspiring message. Ultimately, his goal is to ensure that his clients receive quality art that will last a lifetime. Shabazz said, "Art is meant to last so it can be passed on to generations."

MEET *the Artists*



TONY SHOPINSKI

Detroit artist Tony Shopinski is a painter, potter, and printmaker. After 27 years, he retired from Davison Elementary School in Detroit where he taught arts, animation, and produced a daily student TV news broadcast.

MEET *the Artists*



TRISTAN SLADE

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Tristan Slade's art consists of a wide variety of mediums including painting, screening, printing, woodworking, photography, and even sewing. His work is influenced by many themes from love to humor to depression to stereotypes, along with strong characteristics of Detroit's brand of uniqueness. He uses interesting colors, textures, and pop art. He combines the most emotional and questionable moments in life and brings them to a relatable level.

Slade attended the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan.

MEET *the Artists*



CRYSTAL WOODARD

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Crystal Woodard inherited her artistic skills from her father and demonstrated them by creating colorful drawings at an early age. She entered and won her first art competition in middle school for designing a poster for staying drug-free. Her strong love for art and design compelled her to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Industrial Design at Wayne State University in 2004.

From 2005 to 2014, she taught several Kindergarten through 12th-grade art classes at Charter Schools and after-school programs around the city of Detroit. Her love for teaching and creating art curriculums led her to take online courses at the Academy of Art University (San Francisco, CA) in 2014. In March 2018, she was featured in her first group art exhibit titled, "Women." The following year, she earned her master's degree in Painting

Woodard currently works as an art teacher at Detroit Public Schools Community District and recently completed her graduate certification course in Urban Education at Davenport University (Grand Rapids, MI). She has returned to painting and is entering her work at gallery shows to build her art resume to fulfill her dream of becoming an art professor.

THE CARR CENTER TEAM

the Staff

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Sarah Norat-Phillips	Marketing Manager
Brenda Terrell	Development Office
Lumumba Leon Reynolds	Technical Director
Lina Stephens	Curator
Tia Nichols	Gallery Manager
Raymond Martin	Technical & Production Assistant
Erin Falker-Obichigha	Visual Arts Team

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Rodney Whitaker	Resident Artist
Debbie Allen	Resident Artist
George Shirley	Resident Artist
Juanita Anderson	Resident Artist

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Sabrina Nelson



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