

CARRBILL

September 28 – November 19

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

HOME COMING *Part 2*



Carole Harris

HOMECOMING

part 2

“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 field.

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 one decade 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 Oluwatoyin Akintoroye, Gigi Bolden, Morgan Boulders, Austen Brantley, Deborah Brown Cage, Hugh Grannum, Carole Harris, Patricia Kabore, Laura Macintyre, Steve Mealy, Mindy Mitchell, Marian Stephens, Carrie Mae Weems, Raymond Wells

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*



OLUWATOYIN AKINTOROYE

Oluwatoyin Akintoroye is a working artist still in the early stages of their career. They began getting to know other artists through university activities and installing shows around the city of Detroit, where they were born and raised. Through installation work they observed many styles of art and continue to use their experience as inspiration for their own art. Driven by the desire to create pieces that spark joy in others, Toyin looks to their inner child when drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking. They expect to be earning a degree in Industrial Design with a minor in Printmaking in their 5th year of college, 2023.

MEET *the Artists*



GIGI BOLDEN

Gigi has been an artist from the moment she was able to hold a paint brush between her fingers. She studied at Columbus College of Art and Design, in Columbus Ohio, and in 1983 received a BFA from the College for Creative Studies, in Detroit, Michigan. In 1993 Gigi boldly left her lucrative corporate career as a Graphic Designer to pursue her art on a full-time basis. As this decision left her facing divorce and single-parenthood one can feel her work the essence of womanhood and love. Her work is in several corporate and museum collections, including Northwest Airlines, AT&T, MichCon/DTE, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History & The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Gigi has also designed and created artwork for posters: United Way, United Negro College Fund/UNCF 2001, Detroit African World Festival 2001. Gigi is inspired by Pablo Picasso, Romare Bearden, Benny Andrews, William Johnson, Jacob Lawrence, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Matisse. She prefers to work in acrylics and mixed media on paper, wood or canvas.

MEET *the Artists*



MORGAN BOULDERS

Morgan Chandler Bouldes is an Interdisciplinary Artist, Writer, Educator, Mentor & Experience Curator. Presently, her thoughts are heavily centered around the invisible web & connective tissue of Humankind that are shared experience & emotion. The foundation of her practice is deeply rooted in sharing her personal narrative through experimental storytelling. As she evolves her methods of art making follow suit & have taken various forms such as, but not limited to, photography, ritual performance, film, audio & spoken word. Embracing the Ethereal, she meditates heavily on connectedness, spiritual identity, ancestry & the passing of time. Morgan is a recent graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art, obtaining a MFA in Photography as well as holding a BFA in Photography from Wayne State University. She is also a 2021 recipient of the AICAD Post-Graduate Teaching Fellowship per the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

MEET *the Artists*



AUSTEN BRANTLEY

The intensity of the sculptor is propelled in the work of Austen Brantley. Many sleepless nights are seen and roaring sounds and thunderous motions are heard from within his studio in Detroit. Brantley involves his whole physicality in his work and his whole self. The good and bad parts the light and dark, inspired from the place he grew up. He often refers to his practice as a necessary chaos to produce poetic forms while he works on 20 pieces simultaneously to produce series with the a similar breadth. He compares his creative process to making love. An intimate but tumultuous affair. It takes time and it doesn't at the same time. The precision in his sculptures to him must be matched with the duality, rawness, crudeness, and imperfections of the human soul. Emotional scars are seen profusely in details to involve his pieces in his psychological drama. His search for meaning and fulfillment drives his intense love affair with ceramics, stone and of course, bronze. Brantley provides us with a quiet but graceful and powerful voice that confronts us with the retaliatory statements of his suffering. Often his mission is to create details in his work that require a second glance.

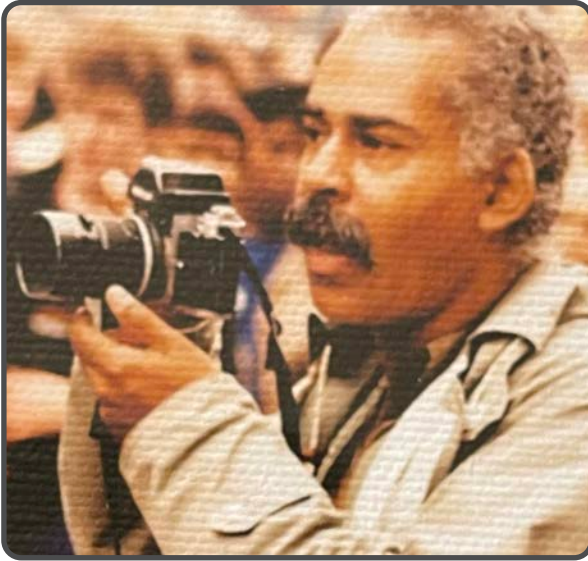
MEET *the Artists*



DEBORAH BROWN CAGE

Presently a Professor of Visual Arts at Wayne County Community College District, she retired from Detroit Public Schools in July of 2012 as a Visual Arts Instructor and Visual Art Teacher of the year(2011-12). A graduate of Detroit Northwestern High School, Western Michigan University and Wayne State University. Dedicated 44 years to educating Detroit children in visual art life skills. The techniques she loves working with are painting, needle felting, printmaking, drawing, ceramic and jewelry making.

MEET *the Artists*



HUGH GRANNUM

Photographer Hugh Grannum, a native of Brooklyn, NY, on staff at *The Detroit Free Press* for 37 years, is also widely known outside the field of photojournalism. He has conducted a number of photography workshops, taught at Wayne County Community College, from 1977 to 1988, College for Creative Studies, 1987, Oakland Community College, 1995 and Wayne State University Dept. of Journalism.

His work has been shown at The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, Arts Extended Gallery, Your Heritage House, Children's Hospital, AAA Headquarters of Michigan, The Black Photographers Annual, a touring exhibit seen in the U.S., Europe and Russia, Cranbrook Institute, Scarab Club, Detroit Public Library, Detroit Institute of Art, National Conference of Artists, Senegal, New Initiative in The Arts. Hugh has been published in *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Life*, *Black Enterprise*, *Ebony*, *Art Magazine*, *Fortune* and many others.

Before coming to Detroit, he served as a freelance photographer covering assignments for television, the publishing industry and many other organizations and agencies. He has received national and local awards for his work. In 1983, Hugh received a Michigan Council of the Arts grant for his documentation of dance in the state and in 1995, he was the recipient for the Arts Foundation of Michigan Creative Artists Grant.

MEET *the Artists*



CAROLE HARRIS

Carole Harris is a fiber artist whose work has redefined and subverted the basic concepts of quilting by extending the boundaries of traditional quilting through inclusion of other forms of stitchery, irregular shapes, textures, material and objects. Captivated by the interplay of hue, pattern and texture, her work often draws inspiration from the color, energy, and rhythms of ethnographic textiles that she collects: as well as the music of and changing rhythms and history of her environment. Harris' work has been exhibited extensively nationally and worldwide. Her work was included in "The Sum of Many Parts: 25 Quiltmakers in 21st Century America" which toured China in 2012, where she was a guest lecturer. In 2018 she was one of two veteran artists honored with an exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Recent exhibitions include solo exhibits at the Dennon Museum, Traverse City, MI, The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids MI. Sargents Daughters Gallery, NY, The Hill Gallery, Birmingham, MI and Simone DeSousa Gallery, Detroit, MI. Her work is in multiple museum collections as well as private and public collections nationally. Her work has been published extensively, and she is much in demand as a lecturer and juror.

In 2015 she was awarded a Kresge Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship.

In 1976 she established her own interior and graphic design firm, Harris Design Group, LLC. In 2009 she shifted the focus of the firm to her studio art practice.

MEET *the Artists*



PATRICIA KABORE

Pat Kabore was always interested in art, but did not pursue a career in the arts until after she suffered a life changing accident.

After an apprenticeship with a Nun who was a master silk screener, she was bitten by the art bug, and she began to study seriously.

An initial eight week course in Canada, on the various printmaking mediums got her started. Pat had found her calling and dedicated her focus to this exciting art form.

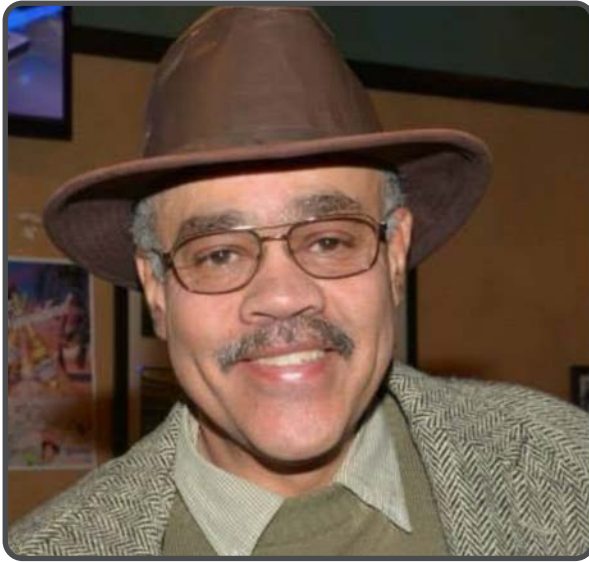
Exhibited widely in one woman and group exhibits, Pat's work has appeared in fine art galleries, and has her work in the permanent collections of 8 national and regional galleries, the University of Miami, and in the Michigan chapter of the ACLU's permanent art collection, The Smithsonian and others. Her work is also in private collections.

Teaching is important to this artist, as she was twice appointed a Michigan mentor teaching artist, as well as artist in residence in Michigan, Virginia, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

Dedicated to the ideal that beauty belongs to everyone, Pat has taught children, seniors, and adults and children who have special challenges, which is so rewarding to her.

Pat Kabore signs her work, Paga a west African word for woman, and this woman has a passion for creating art that makes people think.

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*



MINDY MITCHELL

A artist first, I continue to discover various ways to express complex patterns with textiles, color, and metal work. I researched past ancestors who paved the way for the making of hand-woven cloth or work in jewelry and metals. The closest I came was my maternal great-grand parents both tailors from Lithuania, and three great uncles had a successful scraped metals business in Ypsilanti, MI. I wish Dr. Henry Gates Jr. could dive deeper with his knowledge. My fascination to find a connection to these two mediums inspires my creative process. My earliest link when I was twelve years old I pulled a booklet on dyeing cloth out of a Life magazine. I love to work with color and fiber dyes; it's all about the "unexpected" result when the dyes react with the manipulation of the cloth. In my twenties I enrolled at The College for Creative Studies. This journey gave me skills to begin a career in the arts. I had many incredible opportunities to build and master techniques.

I remain curious in exploring how these techniques haven't changed in past cultures and I wanted to share these skills and techniques in both metals and textiles by teaching future generations. I set out to become an educator in my forties and it has been a fruitful adventure.

MEET *the Artists*



MARIAN STEPHENS

Marian Camille Stephens is a lifelong Detroiter, born and raised on the west side of the city. Educated in the Detroit Public School system, finishing her high school experience at Cass Technical High School, where she met her future husband, Erwin Stephens. Marian went on to Wayne State University where she earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Art Education.

Marian spent her working career in the Detroit Public School System for 41 years. After spending 14 years teaching in elementary and junior high school one of her mentors convinced her to go into teaching high school and that is where she found her “sweet spot”. It was during her years of teaching high school, she received the High School Art Teacher of the Year Award from the Michigan Art Education Association. Retiring in 1997 after a long and illustrious career, with many awards and accolades.

Marian also pursued her personal interest in being an active artist during her teaching career. In the 1950's she was invited to join Art's Extended Group, later to become a gallery. This organization was started to provide an exhibit space to artists of color. Her brother Richard Kinney was responsible for Marian getting an invitation. She has continued to exhibit with several arts organization.

MEET *the Artists*



CARRIE MAE WEEMS

A graduate of California Institute of the Arts, Valencia (BA) and University of California, San Diego (MFA), Carrie Mae Weems is an American visual artist recognized for her groundbreaking and impactful work in photography, video installation, the written word, and audio. Weems' thought-provoking work views and presents the black experience as a complex symptom of the American landscape, tackling issues such as gender, class, politics, and sexuality through the lens of race. Weems lives in Syracuse, New York where she produces works that provide social commentary on the experiences of people of color in America. Weems is a 2013 MacArthur fellow.

THE CARR CENTER TEAM

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

the Carr Center
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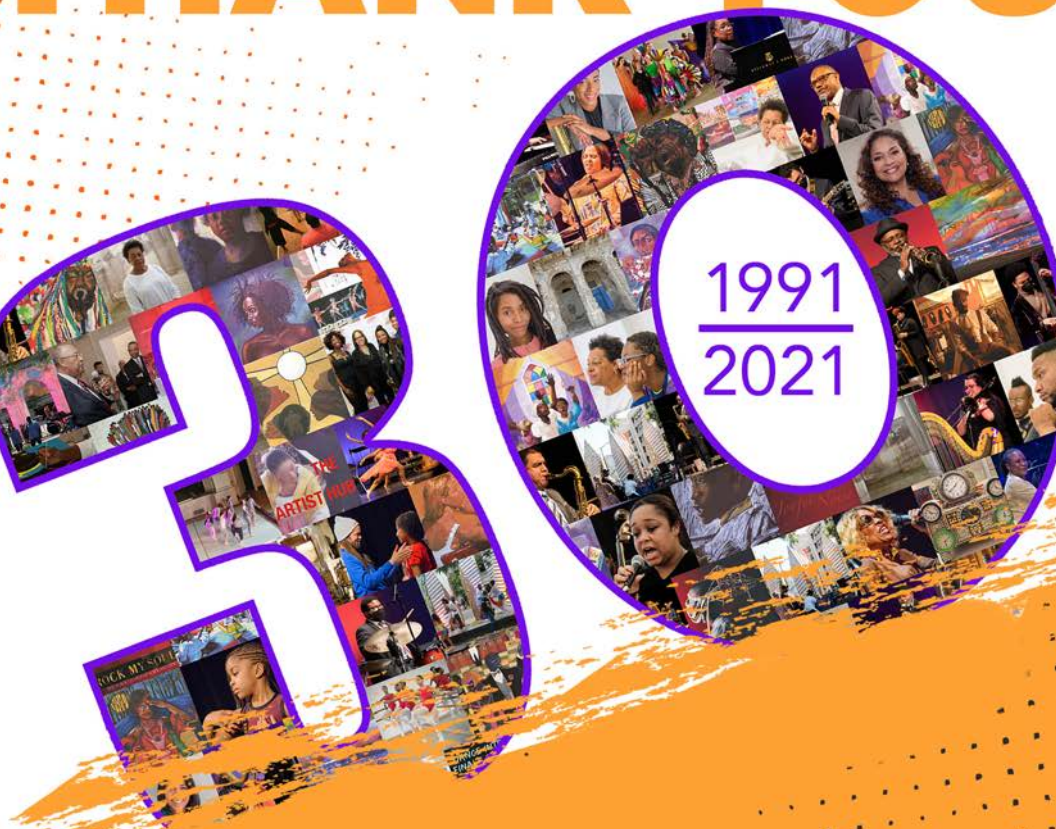
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