

CARRBILL

The Carr Center Gallery | June 10 – July 1, 2023

AS I SEE ME



Darin Darby

SEASONED



TIA NICHOLS

Curatorial Statement

AS I SEE ME | SEASONED

As I See Me is a series of exhibitions that features a generational study of self-portraiture, reflecting how artists at varying stages of their lives see themselves. We undertook this series because we were interested in examining how self-portraiture often interrogates how an artist views themselves, with hopes of allowing others to gain insight on what is personal, influential, and essential to the creator.

As I See Me | Seasoned, is part two of our three art series focusing on the artists' perceptions of the self through the demarcation of age and time. This fascinating, multi-media exhibition. *Seasoned*, will feature the juried work of lifelong, senior career artists.



AS I SEE ME | SEASONED

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Majored in photography at the CCS in Detroit. Experimented in "Molecular landscape photography " at Wayne State University directed studies. Worked professionally in small product advertising, architectural/ interiors, portraits, high school and college sports and other commissioned selected special events over twenty years. Member of the; Photographic Guild 2009 - 2022, served as President, 2017-2021.

Ron has exhibited images in the Detroit Artist Market, Lawrence Street Gallery, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Argentina, France, China, and Canada. He is the Owner of Magic Moments Sports Photography and Ridgedale Creative Studios. I enjoy producing images that "they say" you can't do or are not supposed to do, in any format from view camera to mirrorless, film, or digital. Currently, he is teaching at Oakland County Community College, Directed Studies in Photography.



This exhibit is a collection of images I created over the last two years. A few images are from specific themed projects. The abstracts are all experimental techniques.

Some of the images are taken at my favorite locations and events including Greenfield Village, Frederick Meijers Gardens in Grand Rapids, Belle Isle State Park, and the many beautiful churches in and around the City of Detroit. Some are from the Concert Of Colors, The Michigan Renaissance Festival, The Detroit Nain' Rouge Festival, and other street musical events.

The portraits are of people who take an opportunity to dress, act like someone else, and have fun doing it. When taking these portraits, I asked them to show me who they really are. I was inspired to photograph the images by doing it differently through my own pre-visualization and high dynamic range photography, producing high-quality photographs with exceptional detail and tonal range.

DARIN DARBY

About the Artist



Darin Darby was born and raised in Detroit, MI. He is a self-taught visual artist. He began by drawing comic book characters with pencils. In 2014, he created a new art technique which he trademarked Laypuzzim® (layered puzzled image). Laypuzzim® art is created by cutting textured card stock paper, matboard, leather or wood.

Each individual color of the artwork is cut out by hand, layered, and puzzled together to create an image using negative space. Darin's art is part of the permanent collections at Henry Ford Hospital in Jackson, MI, the Dayton Art Institute, and the Detroit Historical Museum.

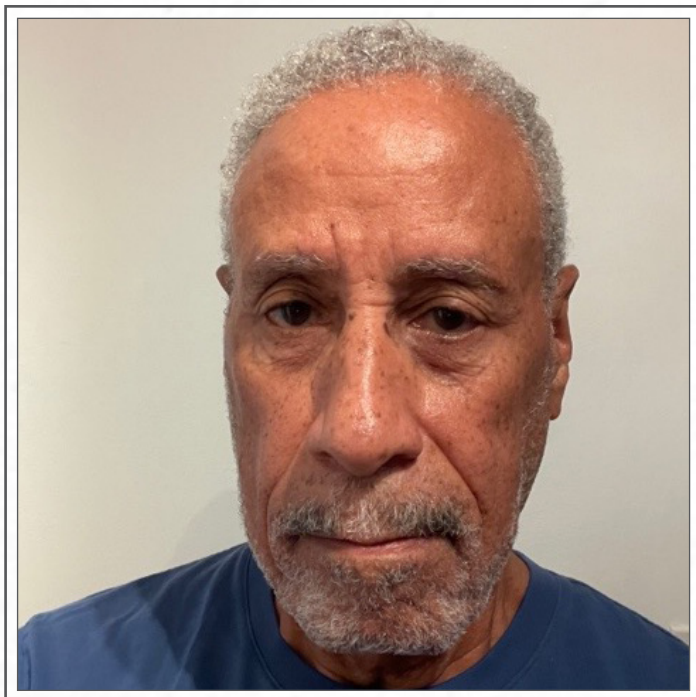


I'm a self-taught visual artist from Detroit. I create art in an innovative process that I call Laypuzzim® (layered puzzled image). Laypuzzim® art is created by cutting textured card stock paper, matboard, leather or wood. Each color of the art piece is hand cut, layered, and puzzled together to create an image using negative space.

Many people mistake my artwork for a painting when they see it from a distance. Once close, they see the depth and dimension of the layers. Most of my artwork is inspired by childhood memories, biblical themes, thought provoking messages and uncredited historical black figures.

JOHN HUNTER

About the Artist



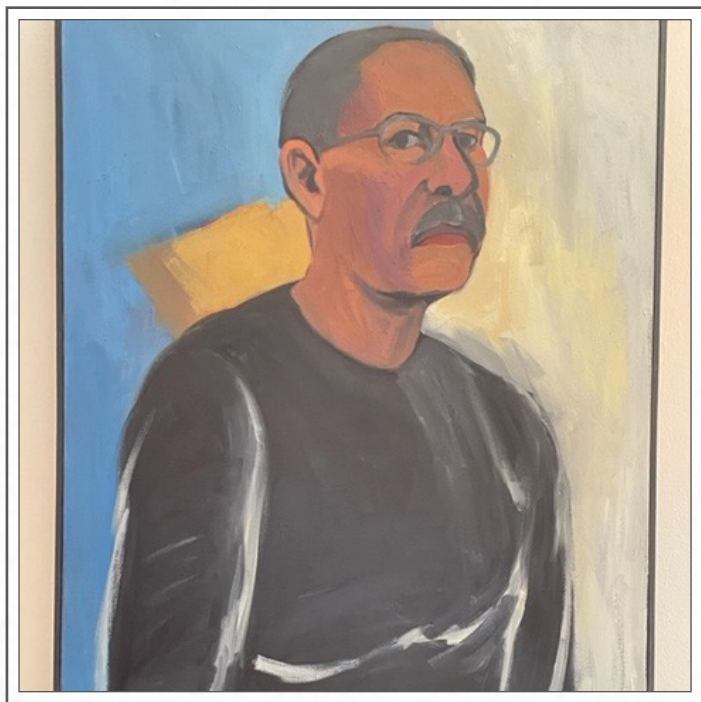
In the 1960s and 1970s, I studied painting with Robert Wilbert and John Egner at Wayne State University in Detroit, completing a master's degree in 1972. However, I stopped painting after graduation when I began working at the Detroit Institute of Arts as an education curator. My interest in art shifted from making art to teaching art history. So, I returned to graduate school, completing a doctorate at the University of Michigan.

In 1983 I began teaching Italian Renaissance art history at Cleveland State University. Later, I also served as head of the Art Department and as Associate Dean in the former College of Arts and Sciences. I retired in 2003 and moved to New York City. It was not my plan to resume painting, but, after studying drawing with George Cannata at the Art Students League in Manhattan, that is exactly what I did. It was something of a surprise to me that a drawing class would stimulate my interest in painting.

In 2006, I decided to acquire a studio in Manhattan's Washington Heights, set up shop and began painting. I had my first studio show in 2007, with many to follow, most recently in 2021. Many of the paintings from those shows are included on my website johnhunternyc.com.

JOHN HUNTER

Artist Statement



My most recent paintings, (2014-23), examine three main themes: Being Black, Being Black and Gay, and Being Black, Gay, and Old. Sometimes, these themes play out as autobiography but often they are more general, one might say—distanced by an art historian's jaundiced perspective. My years of teaching art history underpin the choice of imagery and iconographic memes. In other words, an image that might appear straightforward because of its easy identification often rewards extended viewing and study as a more layered, complex, and elusive comment on our culture and society. The imagery is representational but not necessarily literal.

The paintings (all oil on canvas) range in size from small works to large wall-sized murals. To channel my feelings about the direction of our country, I've embarked on an open-ended narrative of a Black male's fictional life—experiences, dreams, and fantasies—from his youth to old age. While not autobiographical, the images often come from my own experiences, dreams, and fantasies. I consider this work a meditation on contemporary life as viewed through the perspective of my personal history.

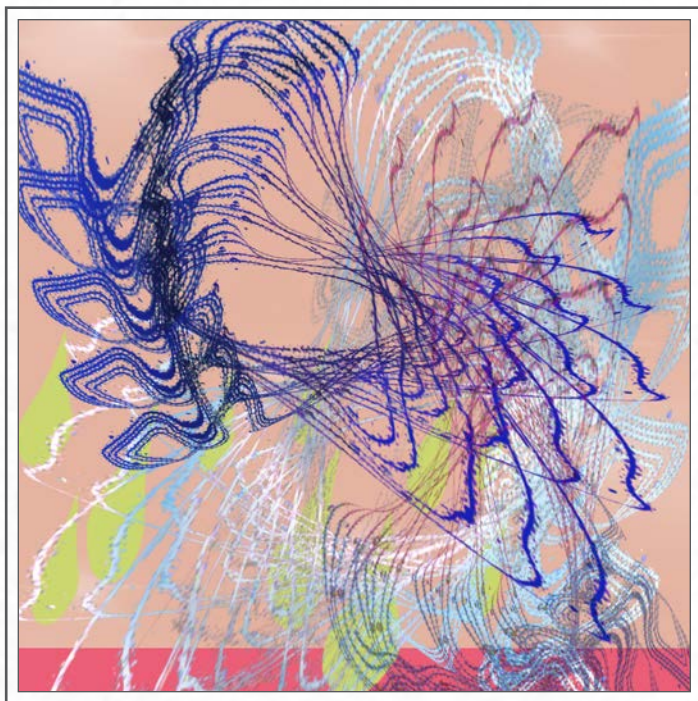
ROBIN JOURDAN

About the Artist



At a certain point, we realize that we are more than bodies on Earth. We are layers of divinity and self-awareness. Robin has trained over a lifetime to access these layers in herself. Understanding them is more often elusive. Trusting the melding of her voice with the surrounding and relevant agents unseen, she has found specific windows to support expressions.

Her process has a quasi-connection with artists from the Transcendental Painting Group, such as Agnes Pelton, Georgiana Houghton, Hilma af Klimt, and Raymond Jonson, and from Surrealism, such as Joan Miro and Man Ray.



Ideas and stories inspire my digital and 3D handmade paper works, further developed with a connection to nature. Sometimes I draw or assemble forms to see what I'm thinking. I may collect materials to reinforce the idea or concept. Ideas become visible as divine guidance and the materials' voice come forward unpredictably.

My work expresses through a mélange of practices from meditation, research, and receiving divine energies of the natural world. There is a knowing that all life has a place here and a stake in what we do next.

JACQUETLINE LANTE

About the Artist

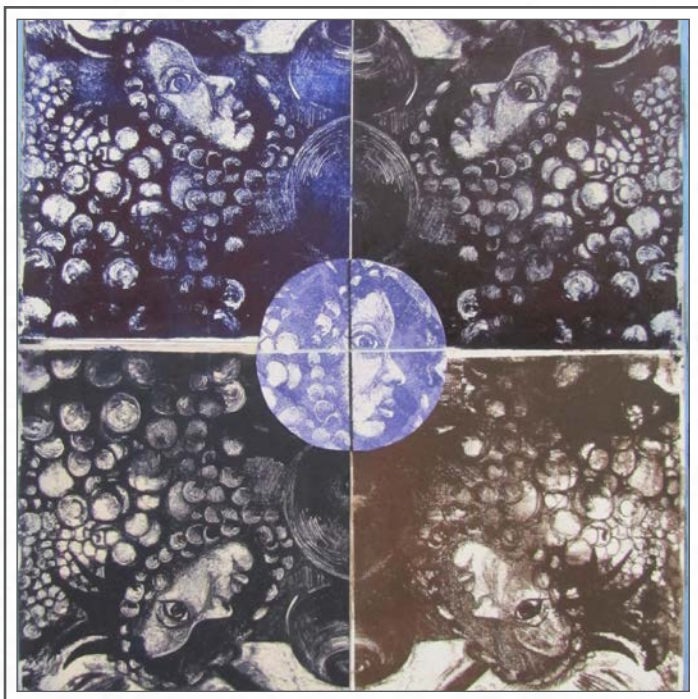


The fine arts have always been a major part of my life. After graduating from the commercial art department at Cass Technical, I attended Wayne State University from which I received a BS/Art Education, 1977, Master/Art Education, 1986 and Post Masters/Education Law and Finance. I also learned much about art from the master artists at Your Heritage House.

Teaching art in Detroit Public Schools, 1977 to 2010, was a rewarding experience. Currently, I teach painting for Mint Artists Guild and I continue to create and exhibit my artwork.

JACQUELINE LANTE

Artist Statement



It is with intent that, “As I See Me”, provokes queries: Is the artist looking forward; looking back; looking everywhere; assuming multiple personas; multiple roles; or, is she indicating a chronology of a lifetime? Whichever way this lithograph/mixed media strikes you, I hope it is with delight and enjoyment.

SHIRLEY LOLLIS

About the Artist



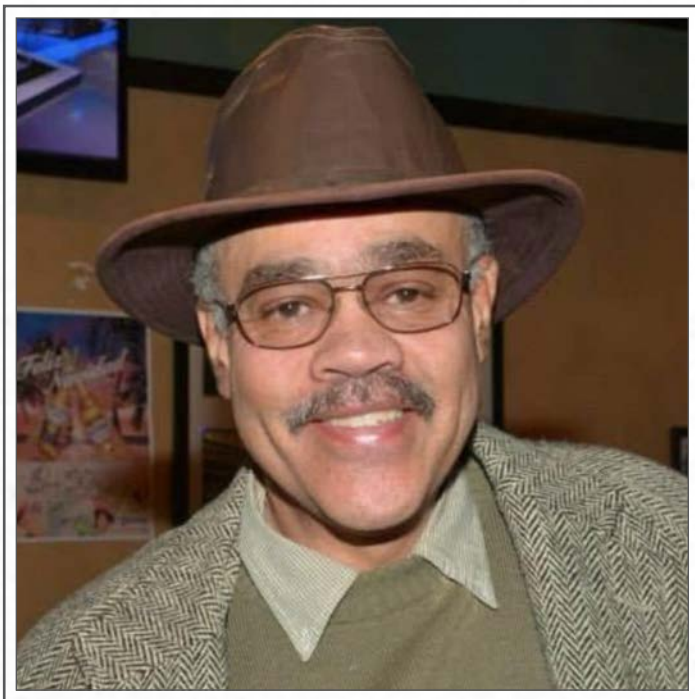
I have a passion for art in general. I like creating art that is unusual and thought provoking. I like to create art whereby you have to look for images that are not easily visible. I like to challenge viewers to tell me what they see. Surprisingly people have pointed out images that I hadn't seen myself. I also like to create art work, paintings and collages that include a number of races. I consider myself to be a people person.

SHIRLEY LOLLIES

Artist Statement



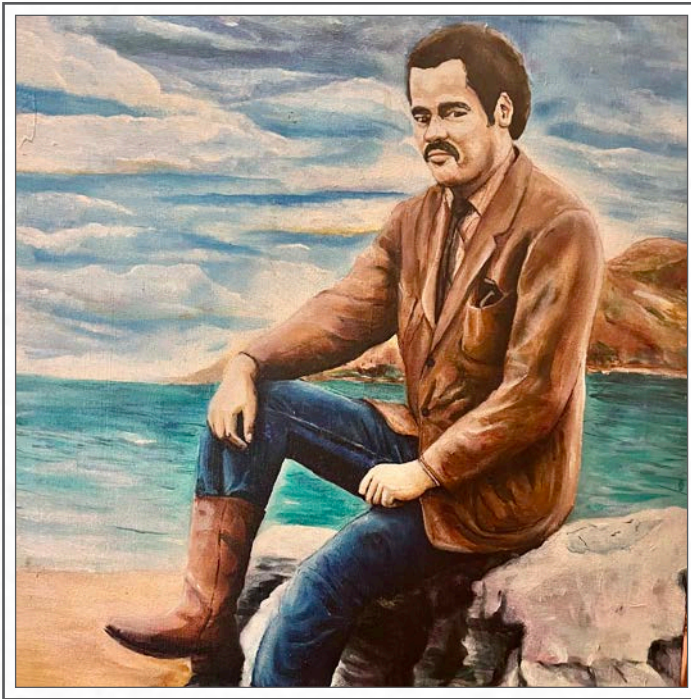
I took art classes for 4 years in high school. Graduated in 1955 and did NOT create any art again until 2002. However, I engaged in creating a number of different crafts. My husband died in 2002 and a church member and my son suggested I take up art again. I registered for the senior art class at the Hannan Center, where I am still an active member. I have promised myself that I will not, ever again, stop creating art.



STEVEN MEALY

About the Artist

Steven Mealy is a local artist, Antique Dealer, and retired DPS art teacher. He has been creating art in the Detroit area for the past 40 years. His works include sculpture, paintings, collage, and other forms of mix media, and has been exhibited in major art galleries, institutions, and other events throughout, the US.



My art is a genetic art that incorporates everyday principles of life and old and new concepts of design. It is a cultural art that does not have to be aesthetically pleasing, but it must be relevant and a reflection of my beliefs. My sculptures, the African extended family symbolizes the strength of our ancestors in America, and throughout the African diaspora.

STEVEN MEALY

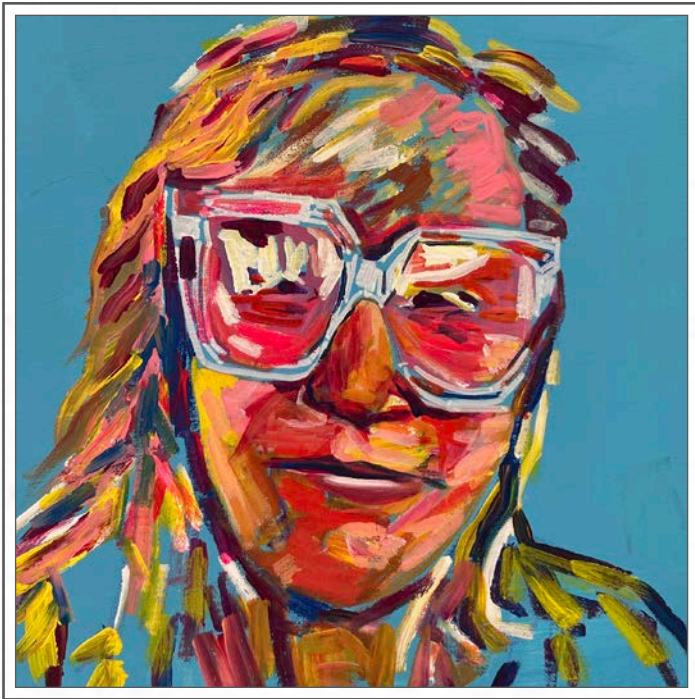
Artist Statement



ASHLEY MIENTTH

About the Artist

I was born in Hillsdale, MI in 1970. In my 4 years of high school, I was taught drawing and painting by the artist Robert Rathbone. I studied art in college, electively at Northern Michigan University. However, I became a registered nurse. Artwork took a backseat to my nursing career and being a mother of three. Recently, I designated a space for a home studio. I work with acrylics on canvas. I completed a series of paintings depicting Belle Isle Park. I will be selling limited edition prints from my Belle Isle paintings at the 2023 Belle Isle Art Fair.



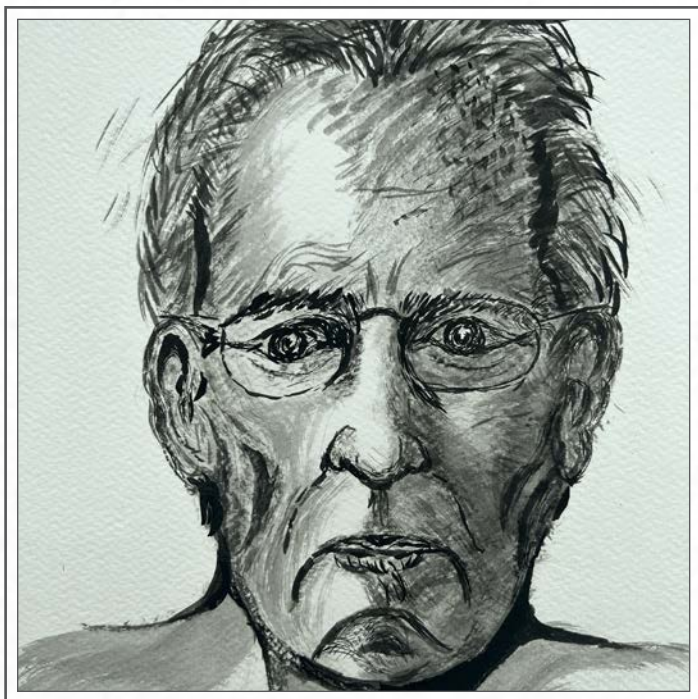
I am an impressionist/expressionist artist. I use color theory to capture the beauty of the everyday images or destinations that inspire me. In the last few years I have focused on scenes that evoke a sentimental setting. My paintings usually only have one focal point in order to convey a sense of simplicity. The painting "Rose Colored Glasses" portrays me trying to see the world as a good place. In order to live our best lives we sometimes need to add a filter to our vision in order to do so.

ROBERT OMILLIAN

About the Artist



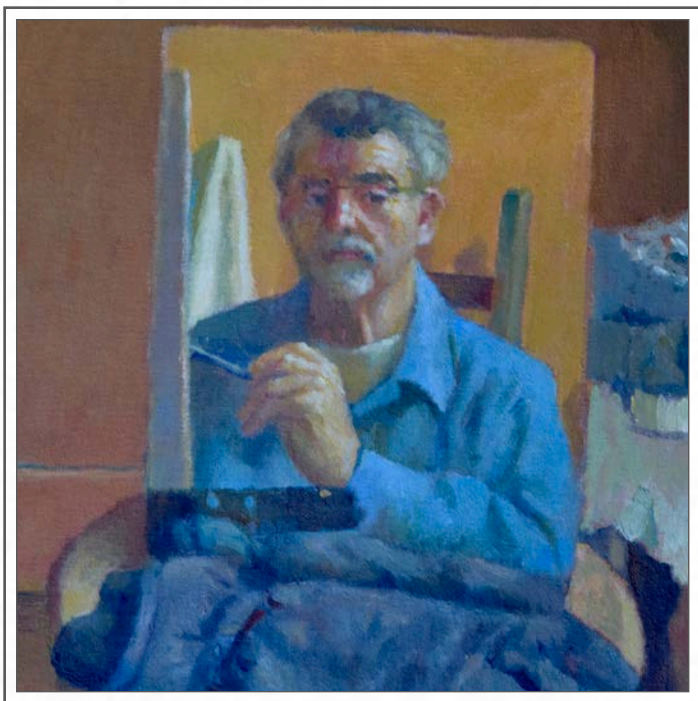
I am a graduate of the University of Michigan where, as an undergraduate, I explored writing, theater, philosophy and economics. I was guided by a professor to begin drawing to expand my thinking and awareness of life. I did so and never looked back. Although not my source of income, I have drawn and painted in several mediums, always preferring to work with portraits. I am the father of three children, the youngest now a student of design at U of M Penny Stamps School of Art and Design. Additionally, I am an author and a Director of IT.



I love making portraits -- visual representations of a person's life story and spirit at a point in time. My self-portrait represents my search for the spirit or guide who has accompanied me all my life. I spoke with my guide as I drew this portrait in pen and ink, asking for clarity of who I am at my present age. This self-portrait startled me with its intensity and feeling of purpose -- telling me I still have much to offer.



Dennis Orlowski was born February 26, 1944, in Detroit, Michigan. At 14 he began 3 years' training with Clela Popovich, a church artist and master craftsman. He then went to New York City on an Art Scholarship to study at The Arts Students' League. After 3 years in Europe, courtesy of the U.S. Army, he returned to Detroit to study at The Society of Arts and Crafts (what is now College for Creative Studies). In 1972 he began work on his Art Education Degree at Wayne State University. Before graduating, however, he spent a year in Mexico City, studying at The San Carlos Art Academy of the University of Mexico, where he specialized in fresco painting. Now retired from 30+ years of teaching art at Detroit Public Schools, he remains active with local art projects.



I work in a Renaissance tradition, drawing from life and using a plein air painting technique to accomplish a finished work. My self-portraits are done with a mirror and the light that is present in the area.



Nancy Lewis Shell, is a retired teacher from the Philadelphia Public School System and an artist. She is disabled. She was awarded the Transformation Award from the Lee Way Foundation and several Art in Change Awards. She sits on the Board of Fleisher Art Memorial and believes art should be available to everyone. She has won many first place awards for her painting and quilt work. She has started many community art programs for the underfinanced and underserved. Her work has been exhibited at the Barnes Foundation. She continues to create new work despite her disability.

NANCY SHELL

About the Artist



Nancy Lewis-Shell, is a senior, female, minority and disabled artist. Her art often portrays themes of: women, science, struggle, history and freedom Nancy has experienced trauma because of poverty, emotional, physical, sexual abuse. She uses her personal experiences in her painting and to educate and inspire hope. Nancy uses light and color to produce these glowing works. Nancy's art work is said to captures the essence of things- its inner light, soul or joy. Her portrait work depicts everyday women as heroes: luminous, powerful and wise who are often go about in life unseen and unheard.

NANCY SHELL

Artist Statement