



2009

# ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

An Art show and event  
of sociopolitical expres-  
sions for peace and  
justice: poetry, music,  
performances, movies,  
lectures and debates at

**The Art Academy of  
Cincinnati**

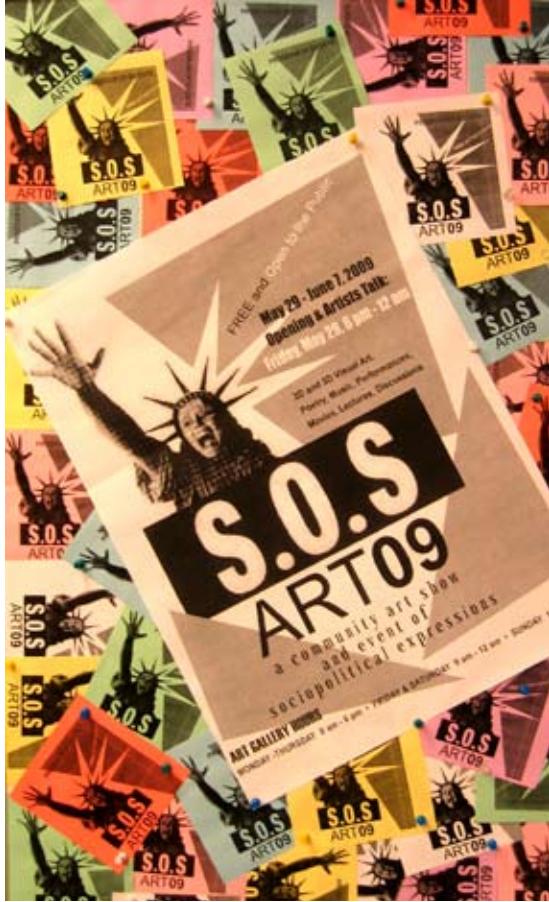
1212 Jackson St  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
May 29 - June 7, 2009



**SOS ART** annual art show and event of sociopolitical expressions for peace and justice was held for the seventh consecutive year at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, downtown Cincinnati, from May 29 to June 7, 2009.

In addition to the 100 plus visual artists, 39 poets, many musicians and performers, the art show included again this year, art works by school children, all grades, from local schools and after-school programs. The children's added voices broadened the dialogue and in many instances pointed to the immediacy and poignancy of the problems our society faces. Through the children, schools and parents became part of SOS ART.

As in previous years, the issues addressed by artists were quite broad covering all aspects of peace and social justice; most were statements about our society, our city, our world, and how to make them better. There was also this year a strong celebration of hope due to the change in administration and the election of the first African-American president of the USA.



Again in 2009, SOS ART achieved its goals not only by giving artists a venue to express themselves and be heard, but also by providing them and the viewers an opportunity to exchange, challenge, educate, strengthen their own voices, and break their isolation by building a community of sharing and trusting individuals. The SOS ART event included introductory remarks on art and social change by Gary Gaffney, artist and art professor, documentary movies, performances, poetry readings, etc., on topics pertaining to peace and justice, on what hinders them, and also on what promotes them. The art show and the event keep growing every year with more viewers, more participating artists bridging various art expressions, and more media exposure. We hope that SOS ART 2010, scheduled for May-June 2010, will continue to build on this solid basis and that its messages of peace, justice, love and tolerance will again prevail and will become part of Cincinnati's daily life.

Sincere thanks to everyone who directly or indirectly contributed to its success and to the dissemination of its messages. Special thanks to Jack Hennen and Bill Howes who were instrumental in planning the event; to Matt Reed who helped installing the show; to Jimi Jones who lead the gallery walk and artists talks; and to Jerry Judge and Jeffrey Hillard who facilitated the poetry readings.

Hope to see everyone again at SOS ART 2010. Until then, please keep the messages of peace and social justice loud and alive.

With gratitude,

Saad Ghosn, SOS ART organizer

## ARTISTS

Char Allen  
Arcane  
Lauri Aultman  
Jay Bachemin  
Gordon Baer  
Steven Beall  
Nelly Bly Cogan  
Jim Bono  
Kathy Brannigan  
Richard Brown  
Brian Camerer  
Terry Leonard Carter  
Jeff Casto  
Amanda Checco  
Catherine Chiara  
Thomas Condon  
Courtney Cooper  
Holland Davidson  
Sue Dillon-Catron  
Scott Donaldson  
Heidi Endres  
Elizabeth Farians  
Albert Jr. A. (Andy) Fausz  
Paul Filipkowski  
Dorothy Gehres Fraembs  
Jariel Galloway  
Barbara S. Gamboa  
Allison M. Gates  
Stephen Geddes  
Saad Ghosn  
Timothy J. Gold  
Charles Grund  
Gena Grunenberg  
Wayne Hambrick  
Kymber Henson  
Jack Holland  
Kim Holland  
Sue Neufarth Howard  
Sandy Howley  
L. Brian Huehls  
Martin Humphreys  
Rob Jefferson  
Jimi Jones  
Larry Jones  
Aaron Kent  
Martine Khadr-Van  
Schoote  
Lonna Kingsbury  
Mary Ann Lederer  
Kenneth Leslie  
Matthew W. Litteken  
Cathryn Lovely

## POETS

Alejandro Mandel  
Gloria McConnaghy  
Tim McMichael  
Ray Miller  
Nikki Nastold  
Jamie Oberschlake  
Rosemary Petrou  
Thomas R. Phelps  
Alan D. Pocaro  
Noella Poinsette  
Ellen Price  
Ayla Rapoport  
Michelle Red Elk  
Matt Reed  
Todd Reynolds  
Keri Sagraves  
Steve Schumacher  
Alison Shepard  
Kim Shifflett  
Jim Shupert  
Billy Simms  
Randall Frank Slocum  
Pamela K. Smith  
Carolyn Stewart  
Laurel Stewart  
Kurt Storch  
Fred Tarr  
Tom Towhey  
Lisa M. Vaughn  
Fran Watson  
Paige Wideman  
Roscoe Wilson  
Aaron Oliver Wood  
Martin M. Zeinway  
  
The Art Academy of  
Cincinnati: Art for Kids  
Highlands High School  
Mount Auburn CRC  
Mount Washington CRC  
North Avondale CRC  
Princeton Community  
Middle School  
Princeton High School

## MUSICIANS

**Soundclick.com/  
Lastboppers**  
(Kenneth Leslie and  
group)

## PERFORMERS

Karen Arnette  
Celeste Brott  
Kim Brown  
Stacey Calkins  
Carolina Castano  
Nicholas Caudill  
Cynthia Colebrook  
Donelle Dreese  
Anna Enzweiler  
Mark Flanigan  
David Garza  
Diane Germaine  
Anni Gibson  
Arturo Gutierrez-Plaza  
Carol Joy Haupt  
Michael Henson  
Jeffrey Hillard  
Sue Howard  
Carol Igoe  
Nancy Jentsch  
Jerry Judge  
Victoria Kahle  
Connie Menefee  
Ali Mramor  
Mike Murphy  
Colin Murray  
Barbara Nagel  
Yvette Nepper  
Steve Penticuff  
Noella Poinsette  
Jessie Ring  
Armando Romero  
Dan Rubin  
Sherry Stanforth  
Jim Swill  
Jean Syed  
Fred Tarr  
Lisa Taylor  
Gary Walton  
Michele Wright



# SOS ART 2009: Program of Events

## Friday May 29

6:00pm: Opening of the Art show  
7:00pm: Introductory notes by Gary Gaffney, artist and art teacher, Gallery Walk/Artists Talk facilitated by Jimi Jones, artist  
8:30pm: Potluck reception and Music Entertainment by "Soundclick.com/Lastboppers"

## Saturday May 30

7:00pm: Poetry reading facilitated by Jeffrey Hillard, poet  
9:00pm: Chanting/Meditation led by Sally Lawson-Bailey and Julia Linkova

## Sunday May 31

4:00pm: "Movement Inquiry Workshop" directed by Ethan Philbrick, performer, musician, dancer, filmmaker and educator: Interactive performance focusing on themes of social justice, accountability, and social responsibility

## Friday June 5

7:00pm: "Immigrants and Immigrant Right issues: a local perspective", panel discussion facilitated by Dan La Botz, historian; followed by a potluck and music.

## Saturday June 6

7:00pm: Poetry reading facilitated by Jerry Judge, poet  
9:00pm: "Intolerance", Dance Performance by Tadashi Kato, Japanese dancer and choreographer

## Sunday June 7

3:00pm: Documentary movie: "The Cats of Mirikitani", an intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of community and art  
4:30pm: Artists discussion and closing potluck reception.

## Art Gallery Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00am - 12:00am  
Sunday: 12:00pm - 6:00pm





## Char ALLEN

charallen@fuse.net

*“Teaching art to retired and disabled nuns have taught me a lot on how to fight peacefully, without guns, for rights.”*

Char Allen has been teaching art to retired and disabled nuns at Holy family Nursing Home, in Melbourne, KY, since 1998. She initially thought all nuns had college education; she found out later that some did not, were cooks, house keepers, or unemployed; all, however, wanted to learn art. The nuns have taught her a lot in their peaceful ways; they are stellar examples of fighting for rights without guns!

**Sr. Marguerite Marie C.D.P.**  
ceramic sculpture; 6"x6"x4" (with table: 2"x2"x3")

**Sr. Considine C.D.P.**  
ceramic sculpture; 3"x5"x3"

**Sr. Mary Bridgit C.D.P.**  
ceramic sculpture; 5"x5"x3"

**Sr. Rosalie La Parie C.D.P.**  
ceramic sculpture; 4"x5"x3"

## ARCANE

arcane@arcanebazaar.com

*“The artificial ceiling is beginning to crack and crumble as this house of cards tumbles down around our feet, revealing the disguise. You see, the wolf in sheep’s clothing has no need to hide. It gutted us long ago and crawled up inside.”*

Arcane creates from the heart through all mediums and rejects political correctness which is nothing, if not the death of rock and roll. It bores him to tears to see so much mediocrity in art, while extremism, in all its sundry forms runs rampant like the black plague.

**The Webmaster**  
prismacolor illustration; 16"x10"

**Juggernaut Love**  
prismacolor illustration; 15"x21"



## Lauri AULTMAN

laauri@aol.com

*"I look forward to SOS Art each year as a chance to voice my frustrations, plead for peace, or give hope. The past few years my work was about social issues. This year I got personal, addressing sexual abuse and rape. I hope that my openness on the subject gives hope to other survivors."*

Lauri Aultman is a Community Center Director for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission at the North Avondale Recreation Center. She teaches there art, yoga, nutrition, and nature. Lauri's students have participated in SOS Art each year. Lauri enjoys being one of and hearing all the diverse voices of SOS Art each year.

**Yes, #6**  
body print in acrylic; 24"x20"

**Proceed With Caution**  
body print in acrylic; 20"x16"



**Jay BACHEMIN**  
jbachemin@yahoo.com

*"My two images are from a series of photographs dealing with the physical, emotional and spiritual vulnerability of children."*

Jay Bachemin; professional photographer, studied photography at Ohio University and Northern Kentucky University (BFA in Photography). Taught photography at NKU & Kennedy Heights Art Center. Recently exhibited at Carnegie Art Galleries, ArtWorks Gallery, Gallery Salveo, Prairie Gallery.



**Caught in Web**  
archival inkjet photograph; 18"x36"

**Lingering Shadows**  
archival inkjet photograph; 18"x36"



**Gordon BAER**  
gordon.baer@gmail.com

*"My photographs in the show address the sad casualties of war but also the resilient hope of determined humans."*

Gordon Baer is a photojournalist whose photo-essay Vietnam, The Battle Comes Home, was the first photo-journalistic book depicting Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It was the key exhibition at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial dedication in Washington, DC. and owed him the "Nikon World Understanding Award". Gordon's landmark essays, Aunt Beck and Shattered Myths, deal with the fields of Nursing Home reform and the bringing home from Iraq US soldiers.

**Today He Had a Dream**  
b&w photo; 16"x20"

**The Roster of the Dead** (in collaboration with Ron Dredder) (shown detail)  
b&w photo collage; 22"x47"

**Still Fighting: Vets for Obama** (not shown)  
color photo; 11"x8.5"

**What Price Glory**  
color photo; 9"x12"

**Steven BEALL**  
513-407-8917

*"Cross-Pollination" is loosely based on mixed heritage; an examination of our similarities and differences, with a focus mainly on the idea that despite the ridiculous amount of fuss, we're all more or less the same."*

Steven Beall briefly attended UC Clermont College as a fine arts major, but he is mostly self-taught. He uses art to express ideas that he finds difficulty expressing in other ways.

**Cross-Pollination**  
ink pen on paper; 16"x12"



## Nelly BLY COGAN

nelbly@hotmail.com

*"At Cincinnati Museum Center, while president Bush delivered a nationally televised speech attempting to make the case for war in Iraq, more than 2500 people gathered in peaceful protest. We were advised against using sticks or boards to elevate signs (for those could be considered "weapons")... so I created this hat to carry my message."*

Nelly Bly grew up in the artist colony of Laguna Beach, CA, exposed very early on to ART. She considers herself more of an art appreciator than an artist... She worked at the Miami University Art Museum, and the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, as the exhibitions director, for 7 years. She is now retired, and rents a studio at the Oxford Community Arts Center - creating "Funky Fiber Fashions"

**Peace Relic – October 7, 2002**  
mixed media; 15"x12"x8"



## Jim BONO

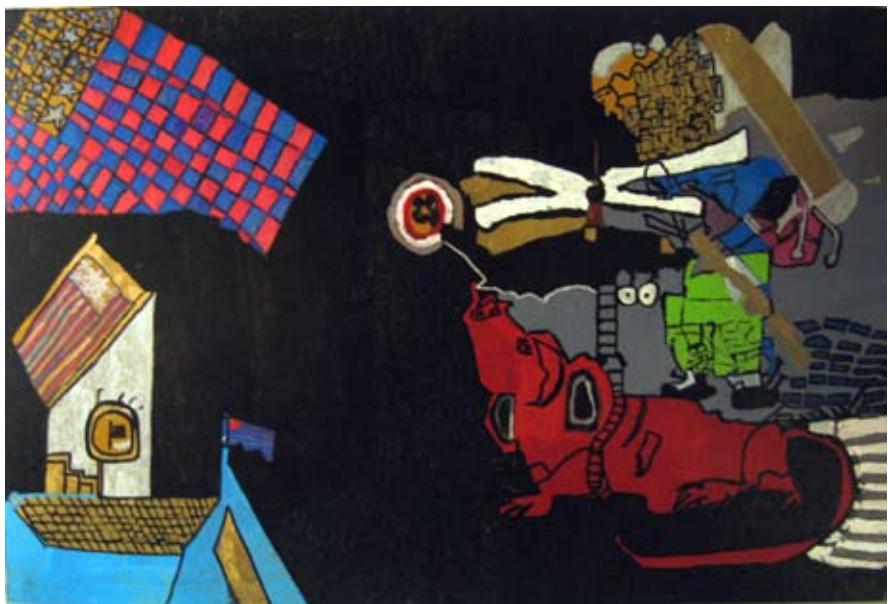
jlbo@zoomtown.com

*"It is said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. My triptych closes up on three famous contemporary pairs of eyes that have engendered worldwide emotion – a sense of hopelessness in the eyes of George W. Bush, the hopeful eyes of the Afghan Girl by National Geographic, and the broadly felt sense of hope the world sees in the eyes of Barack Obama."*

Retired Research Fellow from Procter & Gamble with Chemical Engineering degrees from UC and Oklahoma University, and BFA from the College of Mt St Joseph. Married to Kaye for 42 years, two sons, four grandchildren, and a beagle named Chloe. Product Development Consultant with YourEncore, Inc., with P&G, General Mills, Schwann, Kraft, Coca-Cola, and Unilever as clients. Commissioned artwork – murals, painting, & sculpture, in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky.



**Hopeless, Hopeful, Hope**  
acrylic on canvas; triptych; 12"x74" (side by side)



**Kathy BRANNIGAN**  
**Visionaries and Voices**  
npaddock@visionariesandvoices.com

*"My painting relates to the war in Iraq. The depicted soldier walks toward a flag-draped coffin on the back of a lion, which symbolizes bravery. I thought of smoke, bombs, and guns while painting the black background. War is not right and should not happen; it kills people on both sides. Soldiers should be treated with honor, dignity and respect."*

Kathleen Brannigan is a prolific draftswoman who combines pen, ink, pencil and paint into her intricately detailed work. Her subjects range from Mickey Mouse and rocket ships to flora & fauna, brought to life through a cubist-meets blind contour lens. Kathy takes painstaking care to create her works, often using a small brush or marker to add color stroke by stroke.

**Brave Soldiers**  
acrylic on panel board; 24"x36"

**Brian CAMERER**  
kayneevol@aol.com

*"Free Love" represents hands of God spreading love and peace, a feeling I want to pass on to the viewer. 'A Complete Love' was inspired by sign language using hands to form a heart. By a smile or a small gesture bigger things can be achieved and passed on to everyone. I want my work to inspire a world of just and peaceful harmony."*

Brian Camerer likes to float from animation station to portable recording studio and usually ends his night with music, a poem and a canvas; he studies the harmony of life through art. Like a first kiss or a trip to the five and dime for gummy fish Brian prides himself on the fun nature of his work.

**Free Love**  
digital art; 11"x9"

**A Complete Love**  
nail polish on paper; 30"x24"



## Terry Leonard CARTER

barrywhite2nd@hotmail.com

*"From the ugly past of yesterday into the glorious hope for the new tomorrow! Blaming today's youth is not totally justified; unlike our grandparents, we do not take the time to educate our children about their roots and heritage. Make them aware; give them pride in the history of their people so they don't push it aside like a fictional story that never really happened."*

Terry Carter wants to use his artwork and writings to make statements of social change. He wants to make people look at the America that was and the America today that we call home.

### Journey into Bondage

12 ceramic sculptures; 14"x14" largest piece

### The President That Killed America

3 ceramic sculptures; 9"x14" largest piece

### The Riots of 2001, the Day the City Shut Down

tempera water color; 30"x24"



## Jeff CASTO

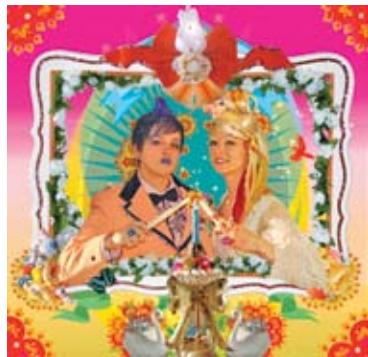
jeff.casto@cincinnatilibrary.org

*"New Eden" is an examination of humankind's constant attempt to conquer nature in the name of "so-called" progress. Western civilization has often exploited the environment and its resources instead of finding a balance to live in harmony with our natural surroundings. 'We were given a garden and made a parking lot'.*

Jeff Casto, 45, born in West Virginia, has lived in Cincinnati since 1982. He has an MFA in Painting from the University of Cincinnati. His work fuses painting with sculpture, found objects with two dimensional design. Jeff's work often deals with personal and social issues. He has exhibited throughout the Mid West and in NYC. His work is included in several public and private collections.

### New Eden

mixed media construction; 48"x60"x4"



**Amanda CHECCO**  
amandamchecco@gmail.com  
**Allison M. GATES**  
aggraphics@live.com

*“Justice is love shown in public. In this photo series we are trying to convey the beauty of marriage regardless of sexual orientation. Creative awareness is about waking up to life, its choices, and possibilities for change.”*

Amanda M. Checco graduated from Miami University with a BFA in printmaking. She is a fulltime staff member at ArtWorks in Cincinnati. Her favorite art forms include fashion, photography, printmaking, and film. Allison M. Gates graduated with a degree in graphic design. She is currently a project manager in the print department at FedExOffice. She is also a freelance designer and illustrator. Her favorite art forms include audio and visual production, meditation, photography, graffiti, digital design, and writing.

**Untitled** (also shown detail)  
3 digital photographs; 24"x72"



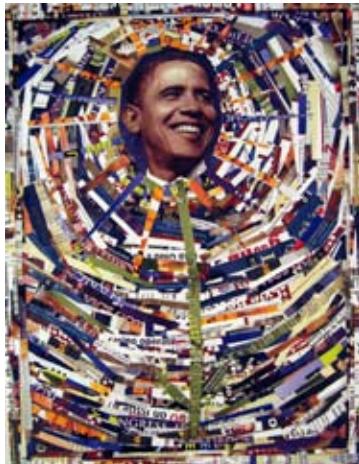
**Catherine CHIARA**  
catherinechiara@yahoo.com

*“My 2 works were created about the new president. Every piece of the collage is made only from political advertisements.”*

Catherine Chiara, a self taught artist, born and raised in Cincinnati, OH, found her talent for art while attending Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA. There, she founded the Flying Squirrel Gallery, then featured on the news and in the Orange County Register. Catherine's work has been displayed nationally and internationally and is in corporate collections including McGraw Hill. She is currently working on a series of soft sculptures, utilitarian bags.

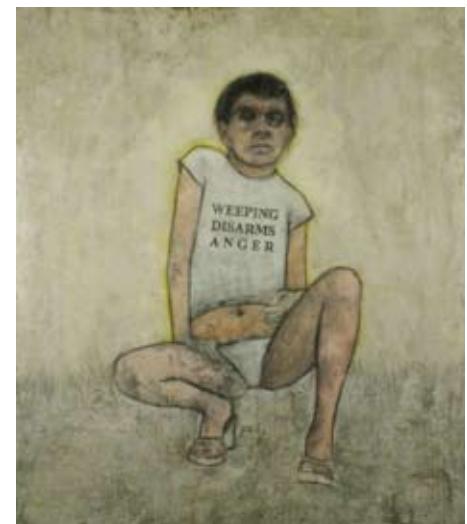
**Seed of Change** (also shown detail)  
collage; 24"x18"

**Eye on America**  
collage; 8"x10"



**Thomas CONDON**  
thomascondon@fuse.net

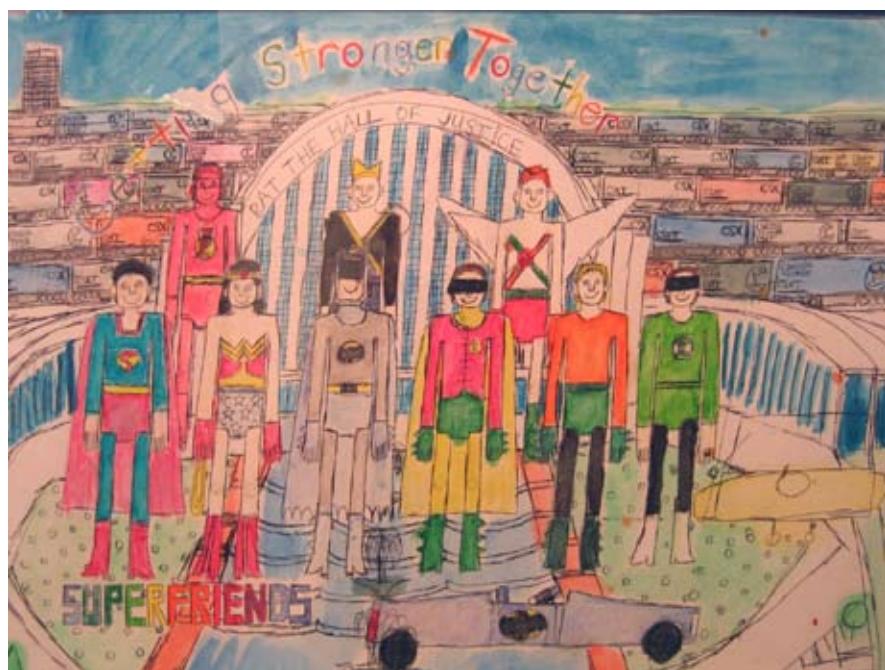
*"My two pieces are part of a current, ongoing series that examines facets of justice based on my personal experience with the Criminal Justice System. The central theme of this work is that Justice must have no other agenda than the pursuit of Truthfulness and Constant Learning. I consider my practice of art to be an act of Empathy for life and living, and eventually, for myself."*



Thomas Condon; born United States, 1971.  
Self Taught. Currently lives and works in  
Cincinnati, OH.

**Portrait Notion of an Element of Justice:  
Justice Is not Blind**  
painting; 41"x36"

**Portrait Notion of an Element of Justice:  
Weeping Disarms Anger**  
painting; 41"x36"



**Courtney COOPER**  
**Visionaries & Voices**  
npaddock@visionariesandvoices.com

*"My picture is about super heroes who have powers to fight crime and create justice. Union Terminal is the Hall of Justice because of its powerful design. Real super heroes like Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman & Robin, the Flash, etc. inspire us to do things right creating peace and justice."*

Courtney Cooper is an artist known for drawing maps of Cincinnati. He also enjoys drawing and painting Pac-Man, Super Friends, Aquariums, and Cincinnati scene pictures. His fantastic memory lets him remember every place he goes in the city which he transfers with accuracy in his work. Courtney enjoys teaching Girl Scouts how to earn badges drawing Cincinnati scenes. He loves working at Walnut Hills Krogers, York Street Café in Newport, KY, and Visionaries & Voices.

**Getting Stronger Together**  
colored pencils & watercolor on paper; 17"x21"



## Holland DAVIDSON

[hollanddavidson@cinci.rr.com](mailto:hollanddavidson@cinci.rr.com)

*"The Captive": Don't steal what I've got baby 'cause it's hardly enough for myself /don't steal what I've got baby 'cause the balance is thin like a shell. -Marianne Faithfull*

*'The Pigs: Like Lambs...': exhumed In Memory of the Big Influenza Gig of 2009"*

Holland Davidson is a fifth-generation native Floridian with a BA in Fine Arts from USF/Tampa. She landed in Ohio in 1983 and immediately began waiting tables. Along the way she manufactured a lot of art. Her work is in the collection of the Cincinnati Art Museum and many, many others all across the universe.

**The Pigs: Like Lambs**  
oil on wood; 36"x48"

**The Captive**  
oil on masonite; 53"x29"

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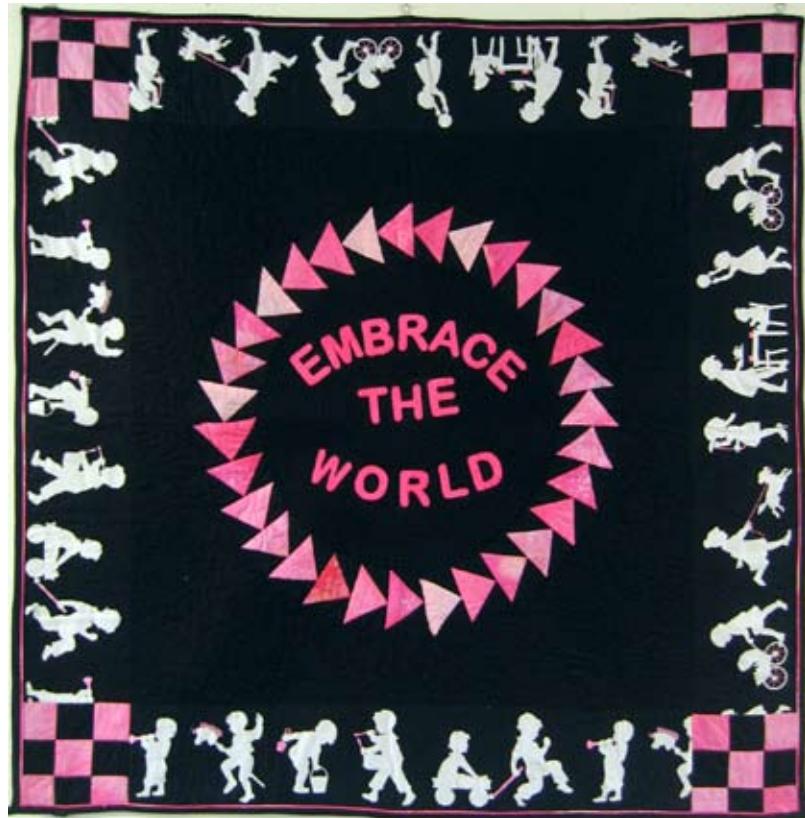
## Sue DILLON-CATRON

[sue.dillon@att.net](mailto:sue.dillon@att.net)

*"My quilt is inspired by the election of Barak Obama. I am hopeful that many positive changes will occur in this country as well as the world as a result of his election. My fervent hope is to live in a world that includes love and respect for all mankind."*

As a retired nurse, Sue Dillon-Catron now has the time to express herself in the fiber arts. She's grateful for this opportunity.

**Embrace the World**  
fabric; 42"x42"



## Scott DONALDSON

donaldson@fuse.net

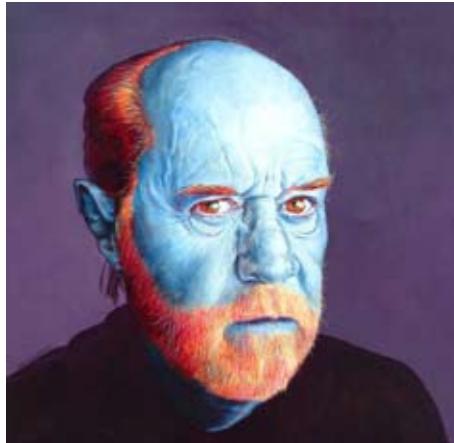
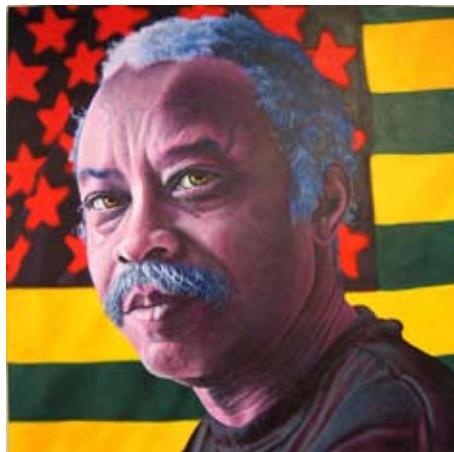
*"My portraits are of individuals who display an original and outspoken understanding of themselves: Carlyle Brown whose plays are an unapologetic avocation for justice and equality; George Carlin inexhaustible in pushing the boundaries of free expression; Curtis Jackson whose music influenced a generation of hip hop and rap music."*

After going freelance in museum exhibit and theater design, Scott Donaldson now concentrates on his art, working on portrait and large scale mural painting. With the sponsorship of ArtWorks he has completed 5 murals around Cincinnati and has had a solo show of celebrity portraits. In 2005, he received a City of Cincinnati individual Artist Grant resulting in works celebrating stories of the Underground Railroad.

**American Playwright Carlyle Brown**  
acrylic on canvas; 36"x36"

**George Carlin**  
acrylic on canvas; 36"x36"

**Curtis Jackson AKA Fiddy Cent**  
acrylic on canvas; 40"x30"



## Heidi ENDRES

endresh@nku.edu

*"My 2 prints explore our relationship to our nearest animal cousins; on looking back at the choice they made to eat meat; and whether it was a good idea for us to acquire bigger brains. Although we feel so far removed from these primate cousins, we actually behave in very similar petty manner".*

Heidi Endres is a native Kentucky printmaker and instructor at Northern Kentucky University. She graduated with a BFA from Northern Kentucky University and received her MFA from the University of Cincinnati in printmaking.

**Murder for the Meat**  
linocut; 18"x24"

**Guilt**  
linocut; 18"x24"

# PEACE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH



**Elizabeth FARIANS**

ejf.ape@juno.com

**Richard BROWN**

wforich@aol.com

*"There can be no peace on heaven or earth if we continue to treat the animals violently."*

Elizabeth Farians is a pioneer woman theologian, veteran feminist and animal person. She designed and teaches a unique course on Theology and Animals at Xavier University and is an animal rights advocate. Richard Brown is a video producer who specializes in producing Personal History documentaries and uses his media skill to support his favorite causes.

**Peace on Heaven and Earth**

ink jet print mounted on foam board; 17" x 11"

## Albert Jr. A. (Andy) FAUSZ fausza1@nku.edu

*"My work is about my life. We all have things that influence us in different ways; lately trouble seems to have always been around the corner. 'Hammer' is about life and the way we build and destroy it. 'Train' is about moving through life, with ups and downs. Whatever happens I have to keep moving and building in hopes of a better world."*

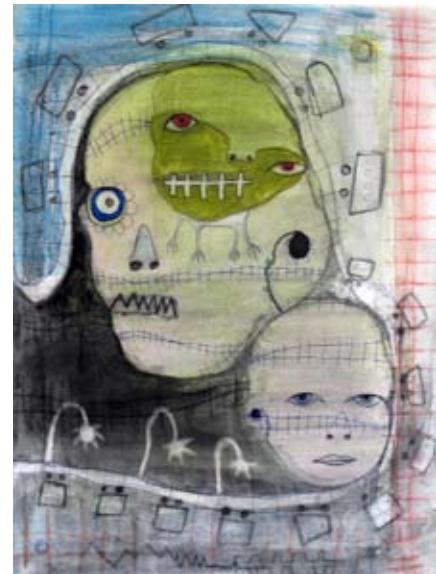
Albert A Fausz Jr is a BFA major in the visual art department at NKU, expected to graduate Spring 2010. He recently received a "Best in Drawing" award at NKU, as well as the "Friends of Fine Arts" scholarship. He has been a volunteer teacher in Covington, KY, and was involved with the poetry book "For a Better World" the last two years.

### Hammer

mixed media on canvas; 24" x 18"

### Train

mixed media on canvas; 24" x 18"



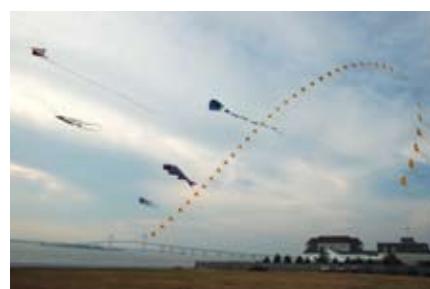
## Paul FILIPKOWSKI

pfilipdds@aol.com

*"Japanese-American relations goes back over 225 years. Highlights vary from Commodore Matthew Perry's opening of Japan to the West in 1754, to a bitterly fought World War II battles in the Pacific, to today's climate of reconciliation and mutual respect.. The annual Black Ships Festival in Newport, RI, commemorates the beginning of this arduous journey."*

Paul Filipkowski is a dentist with a life long interest in art, especially photography. He lives in Oxford, OH, and practices in Cincinnati. His works have been displayed locally at the Fitton Center for the Creative Arts in Hamilton, OH, and at the Indianapolis Art Center.

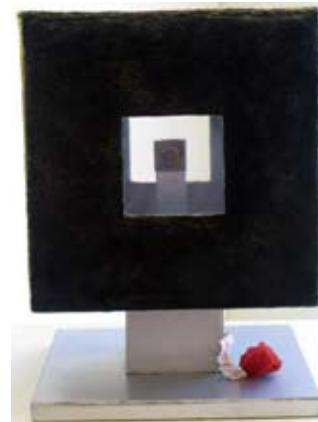
**Honoring Perry**  
color photograph; 11"x16"



**The Photo-op**  
color photograph; 11"x16"

**Japanese Kites**  
color photograph; 11"x16"

**Memories for Shimoda**  
color photograph; 11"x16"



## Dorothy Gehres FRAEMBS

dorothyfraembbs@fuse.net

*"As the Viet Nam tragedy ended, I thought those who had served as the government required them to do should be honored instead of vilified. Today, I think those who care for us and protect us deserve our respect and gratitude."*

Crafts and posters and other childhood projects that she enjoyed led Dorothy Fraembbs to a career in art. From apprentice to illustrator in a Chicago ad agency, as illustrator for a young people's encyclopedia and General Electric plus freelancing and teaching, art has always been part of her life. At eighty, it still is.

**Homage to the Squares, 2009**  
mixed; 16"x16" + illustration board, 16"x16"

**Homage to the Squares, 1972**  
mixed; 14"x10"x10"



**Jariel GALLOWAY**  
jarielgalloway@yahoo.com

*"My works address civil rights and voters rights, here the rights of African American individuals and those of voters in general."*

Jariel Galloway always enjoyed expressing himself through art. He attended Woodward High School and Wilberforce University. His favorite medium is oil on canvas, and his style is greatly influenced by artists of the Harlem Renaissance. Jariel lives in Cincinnati where he exhibits his work.

**Cincinnati Justice**  
oil on canvas; 36"x48"

**Protecting the Dream**  
oil on canvas; 32"x44"



**Barbara S. GAMBOA**  
bsgamboa@yahoo.com

*"Our special angel is concerned about us as a people. We depend on the spirit world only when all earthy remedies are exhausted. Women's roles in our society change as more males lose their jobs and stay at home."*

Born in Selma, AL, and raised in Cincinnati, Barbara Gamboa is a mother, retired teacher and US Army Veteran. She is a Cincinnati Individual Artist Grant Recipient.

**U.S. Angel**  
acrylic on canvas; 14"x14"

**Mother and Daughter**  
acrylic on canvas; 32"x24"

**Angels on High**  
acrylics on canvas; 14"x14"



## Stephen GEDDES

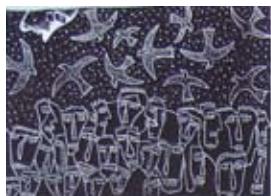
slgeddes@cinci.rr.com

*"My two sculptures are inspired by doom of the last eight years."*

A native of southern Wisconsin, Stephen Geddes has lived in Cincinnati for thirty years, working as a commercial and fine art sculptor.

**Pachyderm's Progress** (also shown detail)  
carved wood, metal; 15"x23"x6"

**Private Splendor Sedan** (also shown detail)  
carved wood, metal; 11"x18"x5"



## Saad GHOSN

saad.ghosn@uc.edu

*"We are frequently observers in this world of imposed and distorted values: violence and war, money and greed of corporations, individualism and callousness to inner spiritual self, chauvinistic and aggressive male domination... We should not allow ourselves, however, to be only passive observers; we have to always be ready for the fight."*

Saad Ghosn, a native of Lebanon, has lived in Cincinnati since 1985. A medical professional and an educator, he resorts to visual and spoken art to express himself and convey his sociopolitical views. Saad believes that activism is at the heart of art expression. He is the founder of 'SOS ART' and the editor and publisher of the yearly 'For a Better World, Poems and Drawings on Peace and Justice by Greater Cincinnati Artists'."

### The Observer

wood cut prints; 9, each 6"x8"; 22"x30" (mounted together)



### Timothy J. GOLD

[timgold@zoomtown.com](mailto:timgold@zoomtown.com)

[www.theartistsgallery.info](http://www.theartistsgallery.info)

*"Our recent presidential election gives one hope for a better future for mankind."*

Timothy J. Gold resides in Independence, KY. Since November 2001, his work has been exhibited in venues throughout Kentucky and southern Ohio. He is a 2004 Summerfair grant recipient and since 2007 a juried member of the Kentucky Art Council.

#### **All Things in Time**

acrylics; 40"x30"

### Charles GRUND

[cegrund@fuse.net](mailto:cegrund@fuse.net)

*"My painting was inspired by the large campaign rally for Barack Obama at Ault Park in Cincinnati, October 2008. It is intended to express some of the contagious enthusiasm and hopefulness in the air at that time."*

Charles Grund has worked since 1994 as a muralist and decorative artist while maintaining a studio downtown and continuing his own work whenever possible.

#### **Hope**

oil on canvas; 44"x54"



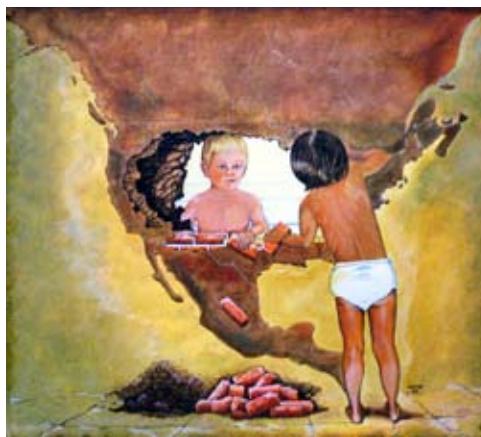
## Gena GRUNENBERG

genag@fuse.net

*"My puppet is a reflection of the fear projected onto our society in recent years. It means to address a generalized sense of anxiety, culmination of the entire spectrum of fearful living conditions in modern society."*

Gena Grunenberg is a life long artist of 20+ years, who began in graphic art and continued to study drawing, painting, jewelry/metal fabrication. Throughout her career she worked in many media returning to painting 5 years ago. She worked in recent years to define her philosophical intent as a painter and sculptor, in order to express her lifelong course of study and interest in humanity and its evolution.

**Fear** (also shown detail)  
mixed; 12"x8"x5"



## Wayne HAMBRICK

waynehambrick7@yahoo.com

*"My painting 'Hole in the Wall' represents 2 children one on either side of a wall shaped like the USA; it questions the effect of illegal immigration on children. 'New Homeless Shelter' raises issues about societal approach to homelessness."*

Wayne Hambrick is a Cincinnati artist, graduate of Withrow High School and Antonelli College. He uses acrylics, watercolors, oil paints, and loves pencil sketches, politically inspired topics, landscapes, individual portraits, fantasy art... Professionally a computer artist, Wayne was diagnosed in 2003 with macular degeneration; it forced him to resign his career but also to devote himself to his true passion, art. He has since been involved with the Inner Eye arts program, and Art Beyond Boundaries, a gallery designed for artists with disabilities. Wayne has exhibited his art widely; he has been featured publicly on radio, TV, in newspapers and magazines.

**New Homeless Shelter**  
acrylic; 18"x30"

**Hole in the Wall**  
acrylic; 30"x36"



## Kymber HENSON

kymber\_h@yahoo.com  
www.kymberlyhenson.com

*"Waiting for the Wolf" relates to the vulnerability of childhood; whether it's a child who suffers from incest and can't do anything about it, or any child anywhere in the world who is at the mercy of human traffickers or serial pedophiles. 'Mourning' is about the noble soul in all of us which sees cruelty and injustice and wants to send relief and light out to the world."*

Kymber Henson lives in Cincinnati with her husband, daughter, 3 cats and a dog. Artistically, she divides her time between making wearable art and producing mixed media sculptures and mosaics. She is interested in telling stories with her work. She wants her artwork to make the viewer feel as strongly about issues as she does. Her inspiration comes from nature, travel and the plight of the oppressed in the world.

**Waiting for the Wolf** (also shown detail)  
mixed; 48"x12"x12"

**Mourning**  
photo transfer, acrylic, found objects; 11"x9"x4"

## Jack HOLLAND

jak21@msn.com

*"My work, whether it pertains to the state of humanity or the conditions that affect it, are all very open to interpretation. I want the viewer to observe my work and take something from it, perhaps unexpected. I hope for the viewer to observe, learn, and be inspired."*

Jack Holland is a 24-year-old Xavier graduate from Cleveland, OH. He minored in Art at XU but is looking for work in marketing and advertising. He currently lives in Over-The-Rhine, taking in the unique blend of art and culture. His work is inspired by the music he listens to, the people he knows, and the places he's been to.

**The Present Is Well Out of Hand**  
b&w chalk pastel; 26"x34"

**I'm Asking for It**  
b&w chalk pastel; 30"x24"



**Kim HOLLAND**

Kkatmommie@aol.com

*“This piece is about my fight with MS and the various treatments (expensive, risky, painful...) I have tried in order to feel ‘normal’. It is often up to the insurance company whether I can afford to try.”*

Kim Holland enjoys art in photography and many other forums. In 2009 she wants to look at healthcare, her own, fighting to keep her vision and her mobility.

## **Que Sera Sera, Whatever Will Be Will Be**



## **Sue Neufarth HOWARD**

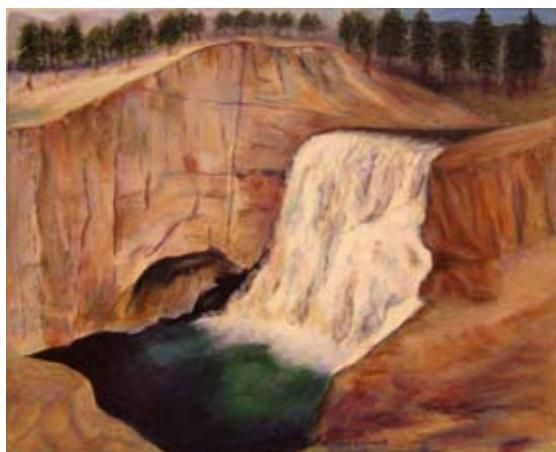
snhpoet@fuse.net

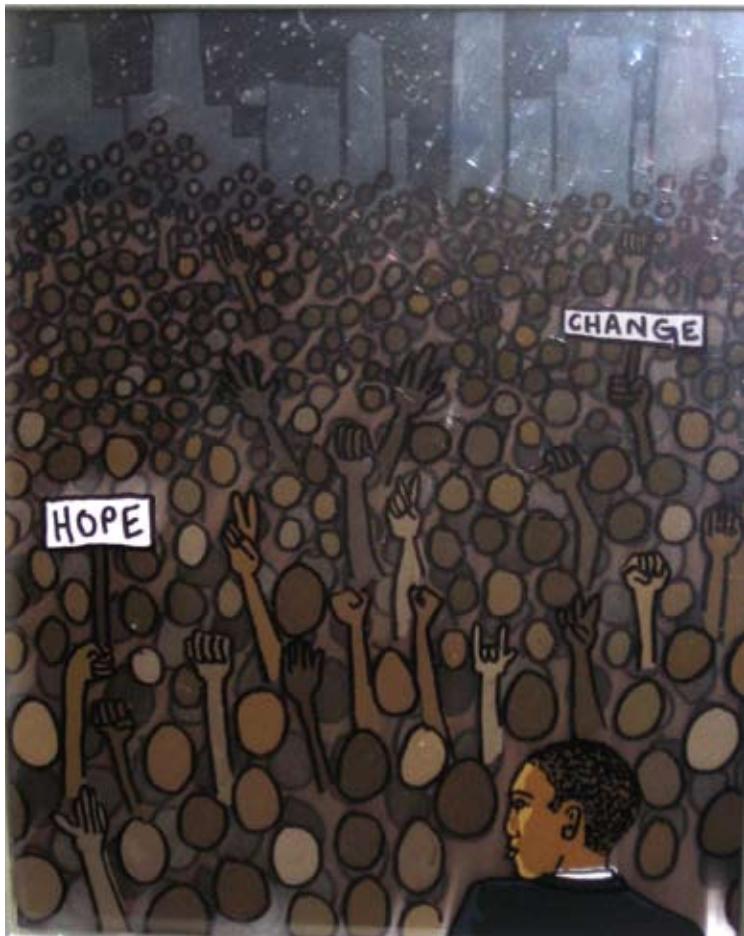
*“Increasing demand and decreasing supply for unpolluted fresh water may lead to international conflict, growing poverty and health problems. International cooperation to conserve fresh water and stop pollution is required, rather than ocean desalination. Equitable management of the world’s water use, ownership, and rights is essential.”*

Sue Neufarth Howard - Native Cincinnati visual artist and poet. Associate Degree in Art from U.C. Evening College. Member of Colerain Artists and Greater Cincinnati Writers' League. Paint in acrylic the peaceful, natural landscapes not yet corrupted by industry, mining, logging, oil drilling, real estate development, or other commercial pursuits. Her work has been exhibited in various local venues, including the Front Porch Coffee House and The Family Nurturing Center Annual Auction.

## Ocean View - San Diego

**Rainbow Falls, Mammoth Lakes, California**  
acrylic; 16" x 20"





**Sandy HOWLEY**  
sandymh17@yahoo.com

*"Grant Park, November 2008' is an ode to Barack Obama's powerful acceptance speech for the US presidency. It captures the excitement of the people who witnessed history in the making."*

Sandy Howley is an artist, music lover, and traveler. She is proud to be exhibiting her work for the seventh year in a row at the SOS ART show. She enjoys making a statement through visual expression.

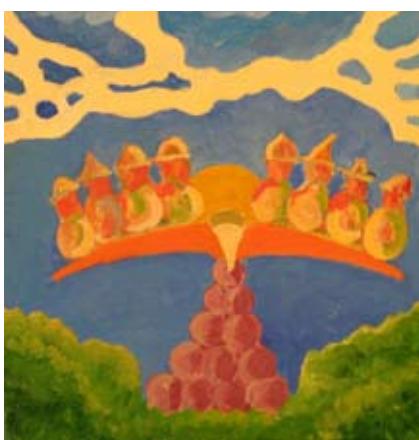
**Grant Park, November 2008**  
ink, acrylic paint, plexiglas; 12"x10"x4"

**L. Brian HUEHLS**  
lbhuehls@hotmail.com

*"We do not have to suffer injustice to seek justice.  
We can seek peace and have some in our day.  
By seeking peace and justice  
We can find Joy!"*

L. Brian Huels; architect (last 30 years); worked helping families have places to live (last 45 years); poet (last 47 years); land planner (last 49 years); carpenter (last 53 years); gardener (last 61 years)

**Peace, Justice, Joy**  
acrylic on canvas; 16"x16", 12"x12", 8"x8"



## Martin HUMPHREYS

513-769 1613, ext. 105

*"In my work I strive to express spirituality through the substance of paint. I feel that my work expresses the social ills that violate the dignity of the human person."*

Brother Martin Humphreys, a 58 year professed Franciscan friar from Baton Rouge, LA, has ministered at Duns Scotus College in Southfield, MI, and at St Mary of the Angels parish in New Orleans, LA. He received his art education at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, was a member of the Hall-Barnett gallery in the French Quarters, and was accepted in the New Orleans Art Association. Brother Martin continues his art ministry at the St John the Baptist Friary in Sharonville, OH.



### **Two Victims of War**

mixed, acrylic, collage; 40"x30"

### **Christ Still in Agony (Katrina)**

mixed, acrylic/cloth; 30"x40"

### **Even Innocent Children Must Suffer**

mixed, acrylic, collage; 40"x30"

### **I Am a Man**

mixed, acrylic, collage; 30"x40"

### **Poverty Line (not shown)**

mixed, acrylic, collage; 40"x30"



## Rob JEFFERSON

rjefferson@cinci.rr.com

*"Not content to count his blessings and just fade into the annals of history, our former vice president continues to threaten and subjugate any attempts at new thought to the point of caricature. It is the only context in which he can exist now."*

Rob Jefferson was born in Memphis in 1970 and graduated from the Art Academy of Cincinnati in 1992. His work has been featured in various publications including Playboy Magazine and New American Paintings. Along with private collections his work can be found in the permanent collections of the Cincinnati Art Museum and Otterbein College.

### **Flight of the Dick**

oil on panel; 11"x9"



**Jimi JONES**  
jaj0421@zoomtown.com

*"Night Watch" is based on a Rembrandt painting. Unlike the citizen soldier of Rembrandt, the soldier here is real; the kid depicted holds the key to stopping the conflict in the Middle East and bringing our troops home. A war with one's self is not a war that one can win; when the loss of life becomes so common with young Blacks, Latinos and Skinheads, hope might be the color red as shown in "Gang Bang".*



Jimi Jones is a Cincinnati artist and graphic designer who graduated from the UC/DAAP, and recently retired after 27 years as art director at Procter and Gamble. Jimi is a founding member of the NeoAncestral art movement; he has exhibited widely among others at the African American Museum in Wilburforce, OH, the University of Cincinnati, Thomas More College, the Weston Art Gallery, the Contemporary Arts Center.

**Night Watch**  
oil on canvas; 30" x 40"

**Gang Bang**  
oil on canvas; 30" x 40"

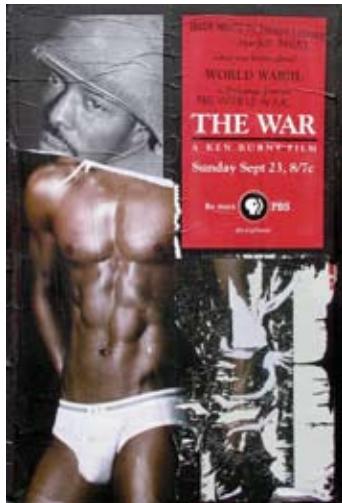
**Larry JONES**  
lejones\_99@yahoo.com

*"Both my images were found in San Francisco. I attempt to document current events through photography of street art. I look for unusual combinations of elements or use different angles of viewing to emphasize the art. Documenting this work is important as it represents a voice of the common people and an alternative to the mainstream media. Much of the work has a very short life as it is often tagged over or otherwise destroyed within days."*

Larry Jones; born and lived most of his life in Cincinnati. Retired from Hamilton County Job and Family Services. Has been living in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost two years. Previously made many mixed media sculptures; currently uses photography to document street art.

**The War**  
color photography; 14" x 11"

**Love Ain't the problem**  
color photography; 11" x 14"



## Aaron KENT

aarontkent@gmail.com  
www.aaronkent.org

*"My piece throws religion and the dark underworld of sex together and questions what is right and who judges wrong!!! Religion looks down on lifestyles that are not of its likeness instead of accepting people for whom and what they are".*

Aaron Kent's artwork confronts political and social issues incorporating modern media images to challenge the viewer into thinking critically about the US government and the values of the American people. It often expressly reminds the viewer of the fundamental American freedom of speech, and thus celebrates America, while at the same time criticizing various elements of modern American life.

**God Told Me It Was OK** (also shown detail)  
silk-screened images on the bible; 84"x36"x3"

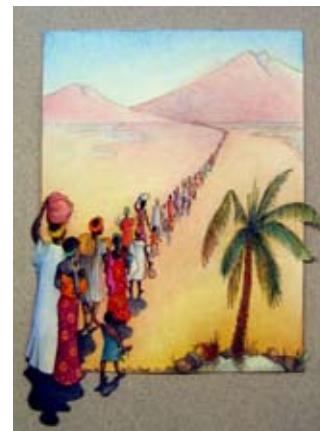


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## Martine KHADR-VAN SCHOOTE

m.vanschoote@gmail.com

*"As a real Obama supporter I have dedicated one of my paintings to the hope he brings us, reversing the sorry state the previous administration has left us with. I am also concerned by the suffering caused to Darfur by warlords armed by international dealers."*



Martine Khadr-Van Schoote is an international artist who has exhibited her work all over Europe and the Middle East; she had several solo exhibits and participated in many group shows here in Cincinnati, OH. Martine has a studio in the Pendleton Art Center (Cincinnati). She is a member of the Cincinnati Art Club and the Woman's Art Club.

**The Hope We Need**  
watercolor, ink and decoupage; 16"x20"

**The Long March to Nowhere**  
watercolor, ink and decoupage; 14"x11"



**Lonna KINGSBURY**  
lonna@kingsburyproductions.com

*"Awakening' addresses the questions we face sharing our art as the only truth. It evokes the wonder we experience when subconscious reality invades the mundane work-a-day doldrums of wondering why. 'A Muse'd' addresses the irony we face as artists. What words, what scenes, what feelings are truly our own? Our artistic muse alone reduces the impending "Big D" to a mere passage through time."*



Lonna Kingsbury is a poet/teacher/artist/producer born in Chicago, residing in Cincinnati. Her works appear in variant publications, film and theatrical endeavors. Her book of poetry *And So It Is . . .* and her children's book *The Story of Blizzard & Snowflake* are now available. She serves her community by her involvement at Sands Montessori, The Cincinnati Museum Center, and The Cincinnati Zoo among others.

**A Muse'd**  
mixed; 18"x24"

**Awakening**  
mixed; 26"x22"

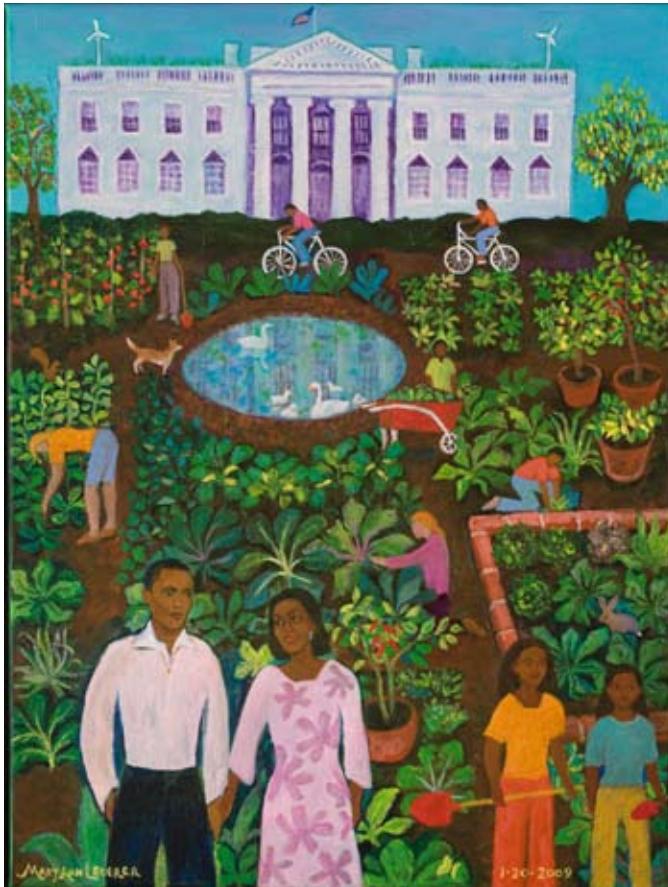
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**Mary Ann LEDERER**  
maryann@bicyclecity.com

*"My painting is a vision for transforming America into a healthier, stronger, 'back-to-the-earth' land with a vegetable garden in every yard. It depicts the First Family on a White House lawn transformed into an idyllic community vegetable garden."*

Mary Ann Lederer, a Cincinnatian, graduate of UC with a Masters degree in community planning, began painting as a hobby after an injury in 1976 left her a paraplegic. She paints her commitment to the compassionate treatment of animals, people and the earth: 'I paint the world I'd love to live in, a multi-ethnic world of freedom, equality and healthfulness, where air is clean and water pure, plants wild or organically grown, animals free - a sustainable natural world.' Her work has been exhibited in many local galleries, restaurants, coffee houses, colleges.

**Transforming America – A Vegetable Garden in Every Yard**  
acrylics on canvas; 24"x18"



## Kenneth LESLIE

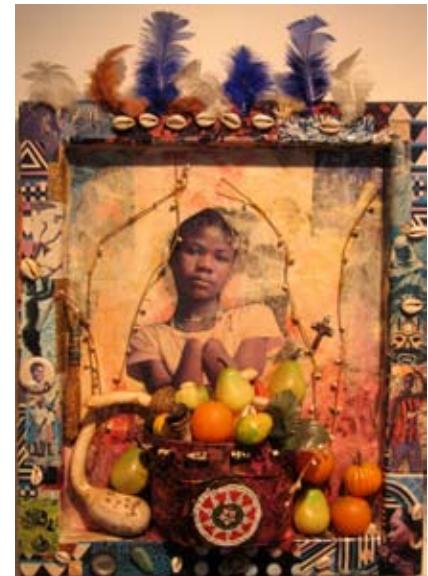
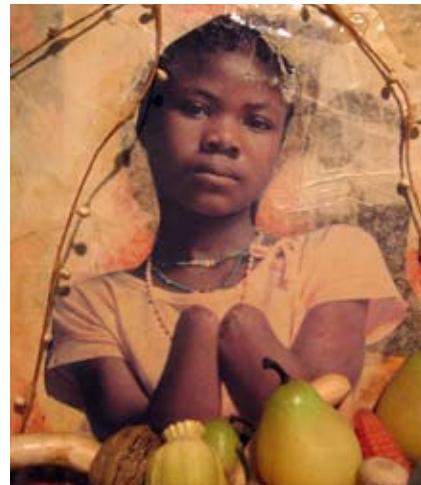
lesliecnc1@aol.com

*"My two pieces are political statements about imperialism and colonial domination. They speak to the spirit of suppression and elitism. 'White does not move first anymore' alludes to the fact that in the game of world politics, cultural control and power are changing. 'Food they cannot eat' states that sometimes more than just plastic solutions are needed for real cultural problems, especially when one is not even physically able to reach for them."*

Ken Leslie attended Philander Smith College and the university of Cincinnati, majoring in art history and music theory. His works are shown in many venues throughout Ohio. He is a founding member of the Neo Ancestral Artist Collaborative.

**White does not move first anymore** (also shown detail)  
mixed media, collage; 24"x24"

**Food they cannot eat** (also shown detail)  
mixed media, collage; 19"x17"



## Matthew W. LITTEKEN

mwlitteken@fuse.net

*"Though the explicit content of my mixed-media collages remains ambiguous, I seek to construct associative narratives by the use of visual/literary prompters. I equate these prompters with the dissemination of advertisements, news clips, internet "wanderings", sound-bites, often in conflict with one another, that one must discern and synthesize to duly separate social and political fact from fiction."*

Matthew Litteken graduated from Miami U., OH, in 1995 (BFA), and from UC/DAAP in 2004 (MFA). His paintings have been included in shows at the Philadelphia Art Alliance, Purdue U. Galleries, NKU. The Artist's Museum in Washington, D.C., and Marymount Manhattan College in NYC. His paintings are in collections across the USA.

**Blood-letting**  
mixed media and collage on paper; 21"x25"

**Before and After the 60-year War**  
mixed media and collage on paper; 25"x21"





**Cathryn LOVELY**  
cathrynlovely@yahoo.com

*"The Confluence of three saw blades and especially the copper grate (cage) in my 'Joseph Cornell box' inspired the assemblage of the 'Caged - Mouth Man'. His words may be impeded by the cage, but they are not stopped as represented by the letter form, mangled as they may be. I think of him as the free speech poster child."*

Cathryn Lovely's interest in art and design came to her as a complete surprise at some point in her 30s. Now in her 40s she is in the process of completing the course work for a BFA.

**Caged-Mouth Man (Let Me Speak)** (also shown detail)  
found objects poster in metal; 19"x15"



**Alejandro MANDEL**  
mandela@xavier.edu

*"My art is about the relationship between social reality and landscape, here photographs of people in Nicaragua living and working in a city dump. I try to observe the changes that occur in my environment and explain them."*

Alejandro Mandel, a Chilean artist living in the U.S.A., lived also in Chile and Israel. He has a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Alejandro is currently a professor at Xavier University. He recently exhibited his work at Yoga Gallery in Cincinnati, at the Dean of Arts and Sciences Office at NKU, and at the Rosenward Gallery in Philadelphia.

**Vida en la Basura I**  
color photograph; 31"x21"

**Vida en la Basura II**  
color photograph; 31"x21"



**Gloria MCCONNAGHY**

gloriamcconnaghy@fuse.net

*"My piece represents a red enamaled tin shrine to The Buddha as a boy and the Dalai Lama, both symbols of peace and justice."*

Gloria McConnaghy; Artist; Jewelry Designer. Background in international public health and specialty retailing. Education: Art Academy of Cincinnati; UC College of Nursing; Mt Zion Hospital School of Nursing (San Francisco). Local exhibits: CAC Inaugural; The Mockbee; Artworks; The Carnegie Art Center.

**Peacemen**

mixed; tin, glass, gilt textiles, jewels assemblage; shrine; 16"x9"x5"

**Tim MCMICHAEL**  
thirteen@fuse.net

*"This suite of prints combines the geographic delineation of nation states and the Rorschach ink blot test to examine the temporal nature of nations along with addressing the psychological impact of their portrayals."*

Tim McMichael is a graduate of the Art Academy of Cincinnati (1994). He has shown recently at Olin Gallery (Kenyon College), Clay Street Press, Aisle and The Contemporary Arts Center. He will be included in *The Map as Art: Contemporary Artists Explore Cartography* by Katherine Harmon (Princeton Architectural Press, Sept.2009). He currently lives and works in Cincinnati.

**USA**  
lithograph on Somerset Gray, edition 20; 18"x23"

**Iraq**  
lithograph on Arches, edition 20; 18"x23"

**China**  
lithograph on Arches, edition 20; 18"x23"

**Mexico**  
lithograph on Arches, edition 20; 18"x23"



**Ray MILLER**  
 raymillr@fuse.net  
 www.raymillerstudio.com

*"My two pieces are about "what's so" in the world today. 'A Different Kind of Vest' is a transformed view of a tool of terrorism. What if suicide bombers gave out candy instead. 'Grow a Pair Tree' challenges those who do not have what it takes to stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves, despite the chauvinistic symbolism."*

Ray Miller is a prize winning sculptor, an educator, engineer and energy expert. He has worked with metals for over 35 years, taught for over 20 years and managed the construction of large scale power plants. Ray is an advocate for energy conservation, smart use of resources and energy education. He uses his sculptures to express his perspective on current issues of political power, energy and social consciousness.

**A Different Kind of Vest**  
 mixed; 36"x24"x24"

**Grow a Pair Tree** (also shown detail)  
 lead, steel, rawhide; 48"x36"x36"

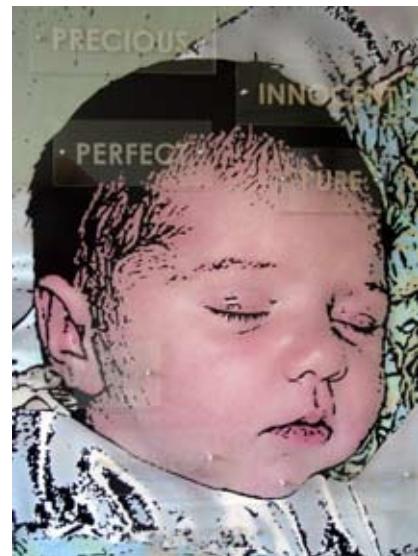
**Nikki NASTOLD**  
 dgkitty70@yahoo.com

*"We all strive for harmony in our lives; we should also strive for it as a community. 'Harmony' shows that all colors and shapes can coexist peacefully and complement each other, as we should with others who are different from us. 'Innocence' depicts how one feels when a loved one is born into a world where there is turmoil and uncertainty."*

Nikki Nastold is a graphic artist of 19 years with a background in sculpture. She works at the Cincinnati Zoo as a graphic designer where she has won awards for her work. She enjoys creating new ways to incorporate sculpture into her paintings.

**Harmony**  
 acrylic and relief on masonite; 22"x13"

**Innocence**  
 mixed, graphic design; 36"x24"x4"



## Jamie OBERSCHLAKE

info@oberschlake.com

*"My work sometimes deals with stereotypes as a launching point for personal reflection. This image starts with a stereotype of material gain in high society and a resulting self-glorification; it is loosely concerned with the absurdity found in attitudes that are backed by perceived status rather than character."*

Jamie Oberschlake initially gained recognition as a book illustrator. He now focuses on more expressive work and experiments with a wide variety of media.

### Tales of the Rich House

mixed media on Art History Book page; 8"x8"



## Rosemary PETROU Visionaries & Voices

npaddock@visionariesandvoices.com

*"My painting, inspired by Picasso's work, expresses my disfavor of America's involvement in Iraq. The blue circle in its center symbolizes a cannonball blowing up the country; the bloodshed manifests itself in oil and in coffins in the background. War hurts everyone. Peace and Justice need to be achieved and people co-exist and respect their differences."*

Rosemary Petrou is a self-taught artist driven to produce fine arts and crafts since childhood. As a gardener and floral designer, she has shown realistic and botanical artistry. Rosemary has exhibited widely throughout the Cincinnati area. Her media are pastel, acrylic and watercolor.

### Freedom

acrylic on panel board; 48"x24"





## Thomas R. PHELPS

513-221 5636

*"My work poses the question: Who are the founding fathers? When, Why and how."*

Thomas R. Phelps, born Cincinnati, OH, is a founding member of the NeoAncestral artists collective movement. He is a mixed media/installation artist whose work reflects various aspects of the African American identity and culture.

**Who Are the Founding Fathers?**  
mixed media, found objects; 70"x44"

## Alan D. POCARO

alanpocaro@hotmail.com

*"My artwork deals with truth in a social, political, and economic environment in which meanings and experiences are often questioned. I am interested in how our past actions haunt us, and the solutions we have developed in response to them. My work attempts to hold a mirror to the viewers, asking how our history affects them, and how their actions will impact the future."*

Alan Pocaro, MFA, Miami U, 2009; born and raised in Cleveland, OH. His experiences and background (factory laborer and teaching abroad) made him acutely aware of various social and political issues. He uses his work to express and understand our present situation as a people and as a nation.

**Been Here Now** (not shown)  
serigraph; 24"x20"

**Prophet Margin** (not shown)  
serigraph; 24"x20"

**Happiness Machines**  
oil on canvas, with 1 dollar bill; 36"x31"



**Noella POINSETTE**

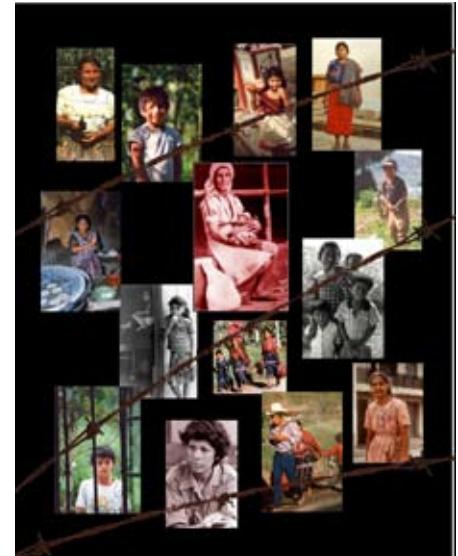
[npoinsette@yahoo.com](mailto:npoinsette@yahoo.com)

*"Both works come out of my love for the people of Central America. Both are two way titles and are statements about the injustice experienced by people who love their families and simply want lives of dignity. "Beyond the Fences" is a celebration of people who are determined, very generous and welcoming of their North American neighbors. On this side of the fence, what is our response?"*

I am an Oldenburg Franciscan long involved in social justice. My ministry has been with music (in Cincinnati, at SBU, on the Pine Ridge Res, in Danville, KY). Volunteer and educational opportunities have been at the US/Mexican border, in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. My friends are here and there; my family lives in the Indy area where I grew up and so I'm a Colts fan.

**Citrus and Me**  
color photograph; 17"x14"

**Beyond the Fences**  
collaged color photographs and barbed wire;  
20"x16"

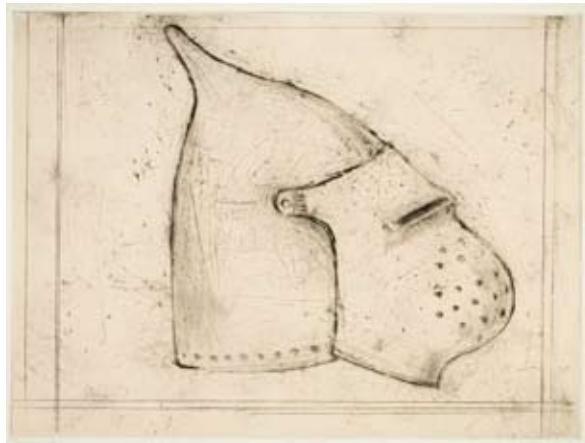
**Ellen PRICE**  
[priceej@muohio.edu](mailto:priceej@muohio.edu)

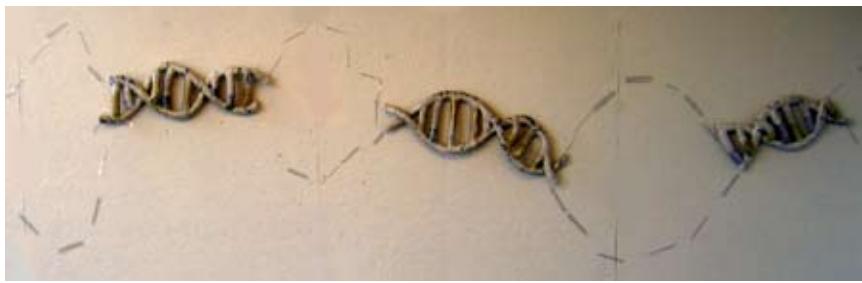
*"My prints depict images of military hardware to examine humankind's long history of organized warfare."*

Ellen Price, born in New York City, is currently on the faculty in the Art Department at Miami University, Oxford, OH. Ellen received her BFA from Brooklyn College and her MFA in Printmaking from Indiana University in Bloomington. Her artwork concerns issues of identity, race, family and history.

**Armor Study**  
intaglio print; 24"x30"

**Bassinet**  
intaglio print; 24"x30"





**Ayla RAPORT**  
chipperahoy@hotmail.com

*"Science and religion, two strains of intellectual inquiry about the universe's beginnings and future, both offer wisdom and insight regarding the human condition and humans place in the universe. These two pillars of thought, commonly polarized in a presumed intellectual war, yet provide humankind with the capacity to understand the world."*

Ayla Rapoport, graduates with an independently designed interdisciplinary degree, entitled, "Spirituality and Healing," which integrates curriculum from across the university's varied disciplines, centrally The McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. Throughout her degree she has mainly combined courses in psychology, religious studies, art and independent studies/internships in healthcare. She will research spirituality and health through the MS of Health Promotion and Education program at U.C.

**Cosmology of the Soul: Mapping the Human Genome through Science and Religion** (shown details)  
ceramics and text; 12"x72"

**Michelle RED ELK**  
nokoni@cinci.rr.com

*"The turtle reveals itself more and more each year."*

Michelle Red Elk is a member of the Comanche Nation. She is recognized by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board and is a member of the Indian Arts and Crafts Association.

**In the Beginning**  
pencil, watercolor; 13"x16"



## **Matt REED**

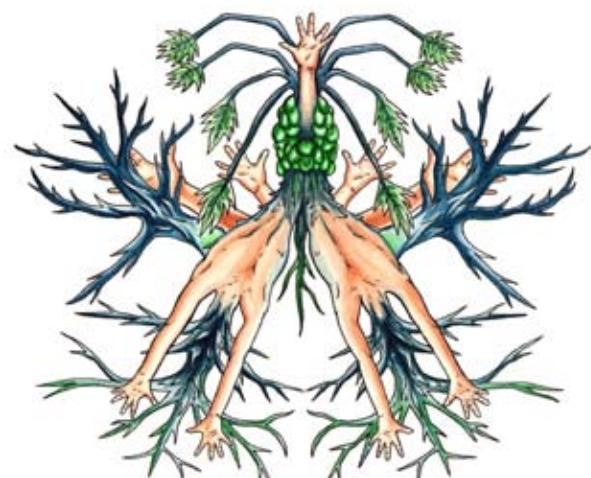
mrmatthewreed@hotmail.com  
www.crazymattreed.com

*"If I Can't Have It, No One Can"* addresses mankind's most basic conflict: the inability to share. Our world is being picked apart and exploited to fulfill the insatiable desires of the most greedy. *'You Will Be Recycled'* states that even if we don't take the time to recycle, in the end the Earth will recycle us."

Matt Reed is an artist, educator, and radical leftist currently living in Cincinnati, OH. His work has appeared in galleries in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Louisville, Los Angeles, and Munich. His illustrations have been used for magazines, comic books, t-shirts, and music album covers.

**If I Can't Have It, No One Can**  
pen and ink with watercolor; 11"x14"

**You Will Be Recycled**  
pen and ink with watercolor; 11"x14"



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## **Todd REYNOLDS**

treynolds@shawnee.edu

*"These images illustrate scenarios of war-torn communities. I have examined the probable outlooks of many people affected, a sense of never ending conflict."*

Todd Reynolds received his Masters Degree in Fine Art from Ohio University. In 1991 he was the recipient of the \$10,000 Ohio Art's Council Individual Artist Grant and is scheduled to have a one man show at the Weston Gallery in 2010.



**Knights in Baghdad #1**  
watercolor; 22"x28"

**Knights in Baghdad #2**  
watercolor; 22"x28"



**Keri SAGRAVES**  
ksagraves@hotmail.com

*“The Instigator” represents the inner workings of a mind disillusioned by the grandeur of war, paranoid-induced vengeance, and the sunny disposition of apathy. It is partly comedic, partly pathetic. ‘The Cloak of Fools’ represents the ‘cloak’ we wear to hide our ignorance, shame in the face of hatred and self-indulgence. Peace comes from understanding, humility and love for one another. To do this we must love ourselves first, because God made us all and God is love.”*

Keri Sagraves is a lover of Gods' creation. Her work is her reactions to what she experiences. She has an appreciation for the arts and is devoting her life to teaching that appreciation. She has a BFA and is working on her visual arts education degree.

**The Instigator**  
oil on canvas; 30"x30"

**Cloak of Fools**  
oil on canvas; 36"x48"



**Steve SCHUMACHER**  
portoall@yahoo.com

*“There is no substitute for popular democracy whether it's the coops and councils of Venezuela or the groundswell of rejection for the Bush regime. There are limits to power.”*

Steve Schumacher founded and led Alliance for Leadership and Interconnection (ALLY); led Center for Peace Education; is an Author, Artist, Educator, dog soldier.

**Limits of Power**  
3 drawings; 2 12"x9" and 1 18"x14"



**Alison SHEPARD**

shepbrant@yahoo.com

[www.theartpocket.com](http://www.theartpocket.com)

*"My work is a reflection of my feelings about peace and freedom. In a time when freedom has been compromised to create an illusion of peace, it is my hope that we as a people will wake up, get up, and stand up for what is right."*

Alison Shepard lives and makes art and music in Cincinnati, OH. She teaches Drawing and Figure Drawing and plays in the band, *entheos*.

**To Forgive the Forgiven**

mixed media; 48"x24"

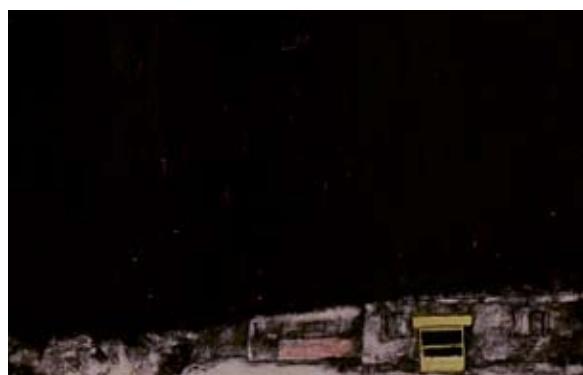
**Two Sides of the Same Beast**

graphite and color pencil; 16"x20"

**Kim SHIFFLETT**

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

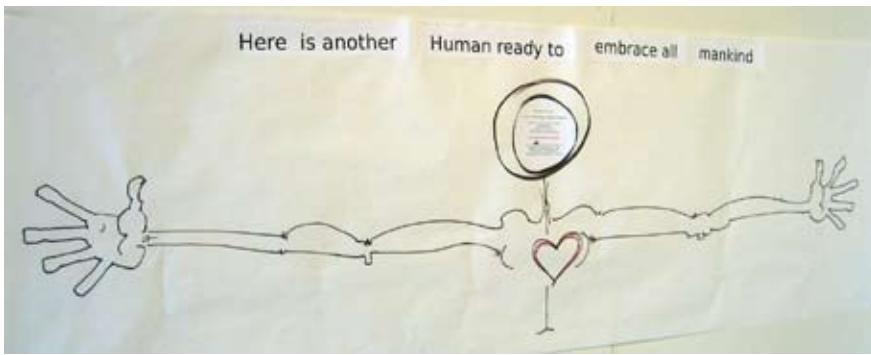
*"My paintings are part of a larger series titled *Borderland*. The series explores the socio-political issues regarding the economic hardships the poor in Juarez incur due to the increasingly aggressive passage restrictions immigrants face in trying to cross the Mexican, United States border."*



Kim Shifflett grew up in Las Cruces, NM, attended University of Arizona, moved to Cincinnati and graduated with a BFA from The Art Academy of Cincinnati and an MFA from DAAP/UC (2009). Kim is a member of Tiger Lily Press and Weave a Real Peace.

**El Paseo del Norte, The Pass To The North in 2009**  
oil on canvas; 36"x36"

**Lotteria National of the Unfortunates**  
oil on canvas; 36"x48"



### Jim SHUPERT

shupejar\_e@theppsgroup.com  
http://208.233.14.244/

*"Here stands the master of the world – ready to embrace all mankind.' People are encouraged to strike the pose- arms open, ready then to embrace their fellow humans in love , compassion. The user sees himself/herself in a mirror. It is a drawing – but also a prayer place, a venue to give testimony. Pictures may be captured for a later website and people across the globe can upload their own images (with arms wide open). Join the affirmation."*



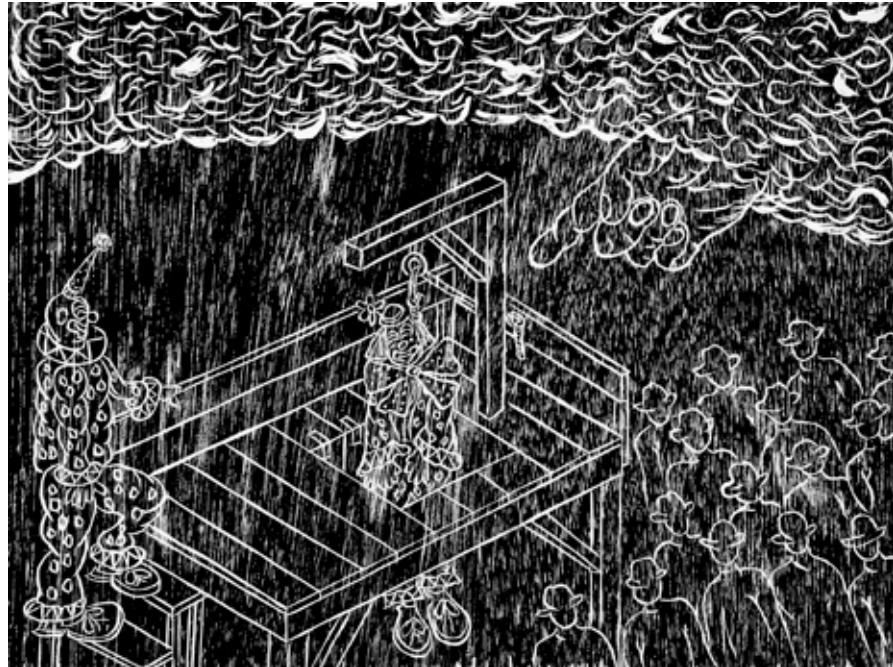
### Billy SIMMS

m67simms@aol.com

*"My print is a study for a larger work entitled "The Clown Genocide: a novel in woodcuts" a series of 43 woodcuts that explore the themes of genocide, racism, and the dangers of blindly following leadership. Here an image of a clown being hung; a metaphor for 20th century genocides."*

Billy Simms is an artist and special educator. He lives in Hamilton, Ohio with his wife and two cats.

**The Clown Genocide**  
woodcut relief print; 20"x24"



**Randall Frank SLOCUM**

slocumrf@uc.edu

*"My triptych represents the Angel of Mercy, the Angel of Death, and a central panel of knights fighting demons off a little girl. It deals with the murder of an old friend's cousin and another friend's child. 'Maps and Legends' is the "key" or "legend" to the symbolism of my other works."*

Randall Slocum; BFA, UC/DAAP; Graduate of Metropolitan Film School at Ealing Studios, London. Painter, printmaker, film and video artist. Randy lives sometimes in Clifton with his cat Lucy, and sometimes in Pleasant Ridge with the love of his life.

**The Last Thing She Said Was I Love You Mom** (only shown 2 panels)  
intaglio etching, drypoint, aquatint, open bite; triptych; 16"x54"

**Maps and Legends**  
mixed media, prints, collaged on a map; 28"x36"

**Pamela K. SMITH**  
psmith21@emich.edu

*"Michigan has put its economic hopes into the auto industry. With the collapse of the big three, the state is in economic peril, and Detroit is the site of home foreclosures and the collapse of hope for public education and democratic policy. My photo reflects that issue by showing how ignorance regarding the environment has been a result of anthropomorphic industrialization."*

Pamela K. Smith has a Ph.D. from Miami U. She now teaches in the College of Education at Eastern Michigan U. in Ypsilanti, MI. She teaches in the social foundations of education program area which is an interdisciplinary approach to looking at issues of social justice in schools. Philosophy, sociology, anthropology, critical race theory, gender and identity, ecojustice etc. are métiers for locating educational issues. Smith uses photography and film to interrogate and to expose issues of social justice.

**Michigan Boneyard**  
photograph; 22"x28"



**Carolyn STEWART**  
ca.stewart@hotmail.com

*"Peace begins as an inside job. It is something we must take responsibility for and do alone in darkness. Only then can peace escape us and move into the outside world to be felt and experienced by others. What is needed is many people working on being peaceful within themselves so our world, and those who live in it, will know peace."*

Carolyn Stewart has been a artist in her soul, her essence, all her life. It has only been with the last years that she has taken that part of herself seriously and has worked on her art in a planful way. Her current passion is painting landscapes but she has experience in silversmithing, photography, basket making paper and book making. As a therapist she used different forms of art as part of the healing process with her clients.

**Peace Is an Inside Job**  
mixed media mobile; 50"x20"

**Laurel STEWART**  
stewa684@aol.com

*"My painting is inspired by Ecclesiastics and the book of Revelations. It depicts a mask with extended arms representing balance; the body represents the world; there are no feet because there is no place to go. Peace is not always easy to achieve; it may require difficult decisions be made."*

Laurel Stewart is a self taught artist actively creating art since her teenage. Her goal is to become an art therapist helping children in hospitals overcoming their illness. Laurel enjoys painting nature scenes and topics relating to her family experiences; she likes to insert her sense of humor in her work.

**In His Hands**  
acrylic; 11"x14"



## Kurt STORCH

storch225@hotmail.com

*"My recent art has been an exploration of the mentally ill or brain diseased self as it relates to how we as individuals see our identities and how society views us. I am exploring issues of alienation and self stigmatization. Each work is an involved process in which the actual doing becomes more important than its outcome."*

Kurt Storch is a local artist, associate director of the Dicere Gallery, and professional picture framer. He is associated with the Mental Health Arts Collaborative, a group of Mental Wellness professionals and artists whose mission is to remove the stigma associated with mental illness. He lives in Delhi with Robin, his wife of 25 years, and their two children, Emily and Brian.

### Jackie

mixed media shadow box; 26"x22"x2.5"

### Jody

mixed media shadow box; 24"x18"x2.5"

### Janey (also shown detail)

mixed media shadow box; 24"x18"x2.5"



## Fred TARR

ibidnah@yahoo.com

*"Disinterment" addresses the displacement of civilians for territory in Pakistan and in the Sudan as mixed tribal warfare is carried on over cattle and grazing lands. 'What I Remember' repeats design elements with religious symbolism and includes combinations of inter-related figure groupings with suggested anthropomorphic relationships."*

Fred Tarr, is involved in building community in Covington where he developed a street ministry affiliated with Grace Immanuel Community Church. He teaches bible study, sits in on recovery network, and helps feed the homeless. Fred resides in Ft. Thomas, KY; he can be heard singing opera and old time music early in the morning as he revises his books of poems and other writings.

**Disinterment : Solemn High Mass for the Sudan**  
(also shown detail)  
mixed; panels, painting, table; 8'x10'x4'

**What I remember: Easter, Dunn Pond Spillway, Fitchburg, Mass, 2007** (also shown detail)  
mixed; panels, painting, limestone; 6'x6'x4'



### Tom TOWHEY

towhey@fuse.net

*"My painting depicts the flood of innocent souls losing their lives as a result of the numerous conflicts around the world. Many of the figures are playing, dancing, creating, planting, as their lives are unexpectedly cut short."*

Tom Towhey is a self taught artist. His work can be found in collections and galleries throughout the world.

### The Ascension of Souls

oil on canvas; 60"x48"

### Lisa M. VAUGHN

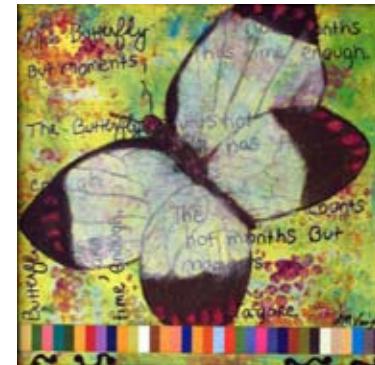
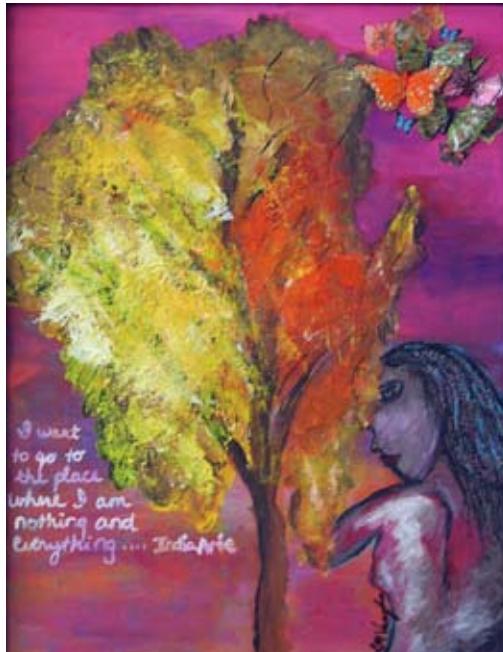
lisa45220@gmail.com

*"Peace starts within. Without knowing oneself and reflecting on why things are the way they are intrapersonally, interpersonally, and globally, it is difficult to do the necessary work of social justice. Both my paintings reflect this notion. My work attempts to take the mundane and explores what may lie beneath."*

Lisa Vaughn paints because words alone don't always do. When she paints she doesn't have to stay within the lines or think "inside the box"; on the contrary she is able to relax, have fun, stop analyzing, and just enjoy the notion that life is inherently messy, "interesting", not that serious, and "weird". Lisa uses acrylics and sometimes incorporates paper and other elements in her paintings.

**Present Moment**  
acrylic, 3D butterflies; 20"x16"

**Butterfly Moments**  
acrylic/paper; 14"x14"



**Fran WATSON**  
watson@fuse.net

*"There was a quoted line from some early English poet that went "a Condition of Warre" At first the spelling intrigued me, then the wording captured me. The print image seen is one I did a few years back from a drawing by the late Jack Meanwell and the words are a description I wrote at one time in answer to an interview query asking for my favorite color While running proofs on scrap paper, I began to see the possibilities of the two joined in mixed media."*



Artist, writer, ceaseless supporter of the arts, musician (flute, guitar and voice) actress, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and happily single; two wonderful men, but that's enough.

**A Condition of Warre**  
relief print and acrylic; 16"x24"



**Paige WIDEMAN**  
paigewideman5@yahoo.com

*"Two countries engaged in a war that many feel was wrong from the beginning. Each has its own views on life, war, and death. We are intermingled in this and many have lost their lives as a result. My piece is a composite of the Iraq and US flags; the circles, plus signs, crosses and bodies represent those that have died, weighted only by the information fed to us by the media."*

Paige Wideman received a BFA in sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1989 and an MFA in sculpture from the University of Cincinnati in 1999. She is currently a Lecturer at Northern Kentucky University.

**Two Worlds, One Result**  
mixed media; 6"x8"



**Roscoe WILSON**  
wilsonr2@muohio.edu

*"These images involve concepts of waste and environmental degradation; energy waste, consumer waste, construction/urban waste, and industrial waste...are all important parts of a global symptom of apathy for the environment. Our backyards, our deserts, our oceans and landfills are receptacles for waste to dump, spill, and leak into our lives."*

Roscoe Wilson was born in northern Indiana. He studied art at Wabash College (BA), Purdue University (MA), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (MFA). He is now an Associate Professor of Art at Miami University Hamilton.

**Having a Ball**  
graphite, oil on paper mounted on panel; 24"x19"

**Last Stand**  
graphite, oil on panel; 21"x21"

**Wasteland**  
linoleum cut relief print; 12"x9"



### **Aaron Oliver WOOD**

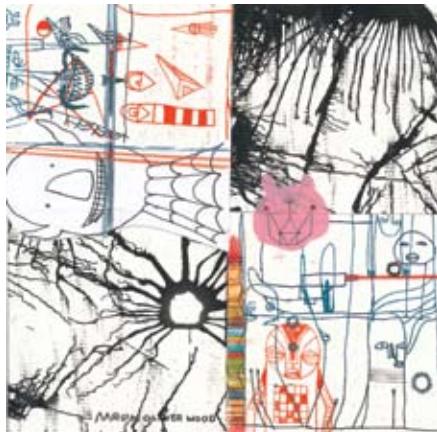
aaowood@earthlink.net  
aaronoliverwood.blogspot.com

*"My 2 drawings were created while researching the current bombardment of political propaganda and misleading information in mass media. News is broadcast in an internal system creating an environment like an unsavory lavatory."*

Aaron Wood makes art that is emotional, inquisitive, and most of all, human. His art making practice involves research and experimentation to create an outline of his experience as a living being. To sum it up he is making self-defense art as well as future Atlantis blueprints. He is currently living and working on planet Earth. He is billions of years old.

**Holograms**  
color pencil and acrylic paint on paper; 8"x8"

**Closed Circuits**  
color pencil and acrylic paint on paper; 8"x8"



## Martin M. ZEINWAY

mzeinway@yahoo.com

*"My artwork is a commentary on my war-torn origins. In my paintings I incorporate figurative images with Adinkra symbols that represent popular proverbs and maxims of West Africa. 'Sex for Food' points to some of the crimes committed by UN peacekeepers in Liberia during the war. 'The Price We Pay to Kill Us' expresses how Africans can be their own problems."*

Martin Zeinway was born in 1979 in Monrovia, Liberia. At the age of 12 his parents sent him to Ivory Coast to escape the rebels trying to recruit him as a child soldier. When he later returned to his country he witnessed the physical, social, financial, educational, emotional, devastating effects of the war. He is currently an art student at the University of Cincinnati and his artwork deals in large part with his experience of the war in his home country.

**Sex for Food**  
pastel drawing; 19"x26"

**The Price We Pay to Kill Us**  
acrylic on panel; 24"x48"



## Children SOS ART

Starting in 2005, schools have been invited to participate in SOS ART in order to create a children's component to the event and add children's perspectives and voices on peace and justice. Art teachers willing to participate in the project are asked to engage their school children during the year to think about issues of peace and justice and to help them provide their own visual statements. Private and public schools of various socio-economic backgrounds and children of all grades are included. In addition to adding children's voices to the event, children SOS ART presents an opportunity to schools, school children and their parents to view the entire show, participate in the 10 day event and contribute to the ongoing dialogue on peace and justice.

In 2009, three schools and four afterschool programs (three Cincinnati Recreation Center programs and The Art for Kids program of the Art Academy of Cincinnati) participated. Below are succinct information provided by the respective art teachers about the activity and its outcome, as well as selected pictures of the art produced and exhibited during SOS ART.

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### Art for Kids: The Art Academy of Cincinnati

bvalley@artacademy.edu  
avbecker@zoomtown.com

*Under the direction of artist and art teacher Tony Becker, 15 students enrolled in the "Art for Kids" program at The Art Academy of Cincinnati were asked to make a story/narrative about peace and what the concept meant to them. Does peace have a feeling, a shape, a color or form? Each student presented their work in the form of a Moving Picture Box, in which a series of images were drawn on a long piece of paper and stretched between two cardboard cylinders. Placed in a box with a viewing window, the images scroll across the screen when the cylinders are turned and present a story to the viewer.*

**Magical Moving Picture Boxes**  
mixed media; 15 boxes, each approximately 8" x 12" x 6"



## Highlands High School:

kathy.skop@fortthomas.kyschools.us

*Under the direction of art teacher, Kathy Skop, 12<sup>th</sup> grade advanced Placement art students researched Genocide, what happens and the issues. It lead to awareness and compassion and to a call to action for peace in the world. The students visited the Skirball Museum in Cincinnati and heard a survivor's story. They used repeated images, proportion with words and numbers, to get their message across.*

*Drawing I students used the artist Keith Haring as an inspiration for art work with a message. They were to find a personal issue they wanted to communicate and used symbols instead of words to do so.*

**We are not numbers**, digital image; 27"x21";  
by Rachel Seifert

**Stop the Spiral**, mixed media, 12"x18"; and **Make Love not War**, digital photograph, 12"x16";  
by Regan Noppenberger,  
**Inspired by Keith Haring**, by Drawing I students



## Mount Auburn Community Center After School Program Cincinnati Recreation Commission

kymm.whitehead@cincinnati-oh.gov

*Under the direction of art teacher Kymm Whitehead, students Laynija H., Greg S., Diamond M., Johnie T., Kilah M., Ke'llijah M., Jaylin J., Patrick P., had discussions about hands; how they can be hurtful when used in violence; also how they can be helpful when used to reach out and make friends. Using fabric they either did cut outs of their hands or made panels of things meaningful- they can use to reach out to others, promote friendship and foster understanding. Just like all the handprints one leaves are unique, so are the individuals leaving them, each bringing to the table something that can make the world a better place.*

**Hands**  
mixed and fabric; 5.5'x11'



**Mount Washington Recreation Center**  
**Cincinnati Recreation Commission**  
casagrandeart@gmail.com

*Under the direction of art teacher Emily Casagrande, after school students at Mount Washington Recreation Center created a collective art piece titled 'All Together Now'. The purpose was to create something about peace and working together, in opposition to wars and the suffering they generate. All the kids got a cut out doll and decorated it to look like them. Then they took turns painting the world and placing their bodies around it, not focusing on skin color but rather on the sharing of close friendships.*

**North Avondale Recreation Center After-School Day Camp Cincinnati Recreation Commission**

*Art teacher Lauri Aultman, got fed up with her K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students' constant desire to play, draw, and create weapons of destruction and war. She wanted them to create "peace games" instead. The students brainstormed peace, what it meant, and drew pictures and words that meant peace or brought peace. Using broken and discarded pieces of old games, they created games reminiscent of peace. "GO IN PEACE" from Ms. Lauri; "PEACE OUT" from the rest of the students!*

**Peace Scrabble**  
mixed; 19"x19"; by grades 1 thru 4 students

**Peace Games #1**  
mixed; 32"x19"; by K - 6th grade students

**Bee Peaceful**  
mixed; 13"x19"; by kindergarten and 5th grade students



## Princeton Community Middle School

mrmatthewreed@hotmail.com

Art teacher Matt Reed's seventh grade students studied the work of Keith Haring, an artist known for using simple cartoons to communicate with the viewer. These students were asked to draw something with a positive message or to address a social issue with their art. They used white on black to emulate Haring's subway drawings. The project gave the students a better understanding of how art can be used as a vehicle for personal or political expression.

### Inspired by Keith Haring

16 b&w drawings, each 12"x18";  
by students artists: DeWayne Brown; Josh Clark, Tyran Collier, Bradley Culver, Katie Ferchen, Kyra Landen, Jamila Latham, Max Maley, Hailey Martin, Dakota McSorley, Lindsay Myers, Kelsy Petersman, Sierra Powell, Joshua Roberson, Theresa Roy, Ilana Weiss.



## Princeton High School

lschare@princeton.k12.oh.us  
rwilliams@princeton.k12.oh.us

Under the direction of art teacher Lisa Schare, students participated during Diversity Day in a group art project on the theme of Unity. They came up with their own idea of unity, how it relates to school, communities and the world, and, produced a flag they hand printed. The flags were hung like Tibetan Prayer Flags so that the wind would carry students' feeling of unity and goodwill into the universe. Students in Painting 2 were also asked by art teachers Lisa Schare and Rachelle Williams to do art based on a social or political cause. They created works on peace; effects of pollution; chemicals in food; genocide in Darfur; women's issues and exploitation.

**Unity Flags** by students at Princeton High School  
Individual works by students artists: Asia Donald, Katie Burkett, Lucas Williamson, Morgan Evans, Abby Friend.

# Art for the Mind and Spirit

## An exhibition for the socially conscious and unafraid

By Margo Pierce  
Contributing Writer

**It's evocative, laden with meaning that the artist brings in addition to that of the viewer. Awareness and thoughtfulness are as much on display as swaths of paint and clay sculptures.**

A Buddhist monk, an unemployed writer and a doctor walk into an art exhibit, and what follows is as surreal as that unusual mix of people. One reason might be that this isn't a made for-TV-movie art show with wine and cheese and people dressed in diamonds and Dolce & Gabbana. This exhibit, at the Art Academy of Cincinnati in Over-The-Rhine, is described as "a community art show and event of sociopolitical expressions for peace and justice." SOS (Save Our Souls) Art has images of controversial comedian George Carlin hanging with collages supporting gay marriage and a drawing of former Vice President Dick Cheney going off a cliff in a wheelchair.

The first piece in the exhibit, Waiting for the Wolf, is a life-size statue of a young girl wearing a red velvet cape. Nothing unusual about that, until you get closer and see the child is covered in pieces of egg shell. Her body is a collage of broken fragile white bits with only the eyes of a retail store mannequin intact. The artist, Kymber Henson, focuses her work on the fragility of childhood and the horrors many children witness, according to Saad Ghosn, the doctor and artist who organizes SOS Art every year. The exquisite detail of those tiny pieces so carefully placed is remarkable, even beautiful, until my mind registers the ironic symbolism, the shattering implications of innocence lost in the red cape of Little Red Riding Hood. Henson offers a chilling description of Waiting for the Wolf. "My piece relates to the vulnerability of childhood, whether it's a child who suffers from incest and feels helpless or any child at the mercy of human traffickers or serial pedophiles," Henson says.

Sexual assault, physical violence, malnutrition, abandonment, under-funded public schools, waking up sick in the middle of the night alone, juvenile detention, addiction and a host of other terrors flood my mind, until it's too upsetting to look at that piece of art that probably took hundreds of hours to create. A voyeur, I want to look. An advocate, I have to tear my eyes away because there's nothing I can do about all of that standing in an exhibit. But is that true?

That is the power of SOS Art. It's evocative, laden with meaning that the artist brings in addition to that of the viewer. Awareness and thoughtfulness are as much on display as swaths of paint and clay sculptures.

What does the monk think of this first piece after hearing about the varied ways in which adults tell him they suffered as children? I wonder but I don't ask. Besides, he's already moved on past the next several pieces and is asking Ghosn about a picture.

The lobby gallery is the first of three – the other two are upstairs – and I'm torn between intrigue and anxiety. If this is just the beginning, what's to come?

### **'Art gets to me'**

"I want to go to the place where I am nothing and everything." This statement by India Ayre is part of a painting called Present Moment by Lisa Vaughn.

Wandering empty classrooms with art on the walls – some nubbly with paint and compositions made of three-dimensional objects – I keep my hands in my pockets, restraining my fingers from touching. The casual setting makes me want to believe it's OK to feel those pieces, unlike a museum with guards and squawking radios. I'm not visually impaired, a reasonable excuse for wanting to touch in order to experience. But not being able to touch makes me feel I'm missing something.

Then I see a series of three paintbrushes caked with white paint, each contained in a box, like a shallow diorama, hung in a trilogy. I can't touch those even if I were allowed, but I can still feel their stiffness. As I read artist Kurt Storch's description of Janie, Jackie and Jody, my body stiffens: "My recent art has been an exploration of the mentally ill or brain-diseased self as it relates to how we as individuals see our identities and how society as a whole views us."

Is art supposed to consider those unpleasant and uncomfortable things that we don't discuss over dinner when the entire family has gathered and young ears are present? Why not? Who said it has to just be about flowers and pretty landscapes that make us feel happy or connect us to pleasant experiences from our past? These pieces make me think, challenge my preconceived notions, inspire reactions I couldn't anticipate. This art gets to me.

The use of words stands out to me, the writer. As a woman, it was also annoying. Man, mankind and humanity – nowhere did I see womankind. At the top of Who Are the Founding Fathers by Tom Phelps is a picture of four Native American men in full feather and animal-skin regalia positioned in front of the four dead U.S. presidents on Mount Rushmore. The center of the piece is a T-shirt with a row of American Indians on horseback done up in war paint and full "riot" gear of bows, arrows, guns and other weaponry. "Fighting terrorism since 1492," the T-shirt says. No indication is given that, prior to the arrival of Europeans, women served as the head of most American Indian tribes or that white men refused to acknowledge their positions of power and respect.

Words are as powerful as images, so when Ghosn says "patriarchy" when describing one of the nine panels of his woodcut I react internally. A circumcised penis poking down out of the sky dropping globs of semen onto a landscape of people below isn't something I would have chosen to illustrate the missing feminine. My mind rebels at the male focus on the missing feminine. As I stand on his right and the monk on his left, he explains that a portion of The Observer illustrates his frustration with the negative impact male domination has had on our culture. It was another piece I didn't feel comfortable discussing with a monk.

Walking the classroom galleries, my head already swimming with thoughts and reactions, I take in the pictures: One is "two victims of war," depicting the killer and the killed and the obituary pages of the New York Times post 9-11-01 – many faces smiling, some not.

The walls are covered in controversy, suffering, anger, hope (more Obama images than I was prepared to count), fear, passion. I felt surrounded by the most important issues of our time, uncensored. Ghosn is right: The art school is the perfect place for this exhibit because he isn't forced to choose which images must be left out because of being politically incorrect or offensive – the standards are content and quality.

As a feeling of being overwhelmed starts to grow, I hear my name called. After looking at Peace Men, a sculpture by Gloria McConnaghy – a happy Buddha in the center – we move down the hall to look out the window at the end. An artist several stories below is painting a mural on a brick wall. The painting is of people painting: a pretty picture in the real world devoid of controversy.

## For a better world

SOS Art isn't just an opportunity for like-minded people to gather, bemoan the current cultural climate and go home feeling depressed and disempowered by the impossibility of significant change. A schedule of events that engages people in conversation and inspires action is part of the two-week exhibition. "Movement Inquiry Workshop," directed by Ethan Philbrick – performer, musician, dancer, filmmaker and educator – is an "interactive performance focusing on themes of social justice, accountability, and social responsibility." Sally Lawson-Bailey leads chanting and meditation. "Immigrants and Immigrant Right Issues: a Local Perspective" is a panel discussion facilitated by Dan La Botz, historian, followed by a potluck meal, music and the documentary film, *The Cats of Mirikitani*, "an intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of community and art."

Live music and poetry readings are interspersed throughout the schedule, with poets scheduled to read the night we visit. They are all published in *For A Better World: Poems and Drawings on Peace and Justice by Greater Cincinnati Artists*. After the visual stimulation it's hard to just listen. My eyes wander over tattoos, clothing, hair and looking for what people do while they listen. One woman knits.

Unable to follow the words I hear with my eyes open, I follow along with the poems in the book Ghosn autographed before handing it to me.

I want to see the tables turned,  
George Bush stopped at the border  
Incoming, stripped of his cowboy boots and jeans,  
His counterfeit dignity.....  
Five hundred detentions per day, in this land where we are free  
to ignore the truth, the home of the brave and patriotic  
bumper sticker. (excerpted from *Mohammed's Return* by Karen Arnett)

My fingers flip pages, not as satisfied as they would be trailing over bumpy paint, but content to wander. The black/white/gray drawings paired with each group of poems feel stark. But maybe that's the point.

So many fight to protect their right  
To gluttony, ease, ignorance and spite  
The right to be crude  
The right to eat any food  
They desire. It sits and expires  
While others subsist on handouts  
And sound-outs, and closeouts  
"Get your nose out" and  
"Mind your business"  
Are fired like arrows at those who care  
Enough to say, "Wait, stop there  
And just think." (excerpted from *Lines* by Celeste Brott)

This is the monk's favorite so far, the poet's thoughts clearly communicated on paper and in voice.

The bios of all contributors reveal contributors from ages 9 to 85. At the beginning of the reading, the moderator thanks Ghosn for giving local poets an opportunity to publish and be heard each year. Not one to read poetry, I'm not aware of the lack of a market or audience, but given how infrequently poetry gets the spotlight and the low value place on cultural pursuits, it makes sense. I'm glad to be present, to witness the creativity.

Poet (and *Streetvibes* columnist) Michael Henson takes the stage and demands attention with a seemingly spontaneous presentation of an engaging piece. He doesn't sound rehearsed or hesitant – he's excited and pulling us along with a happy and energetic cadence. What follows is *A Poem for Esme* and the reason for the gathering is driven home with somber silence between spoken lines. Two women close to me cry and hold hands – friends of the family of Esme Kenny? Peace and justice are complicated concepts to understand but their lack seems obvious as the death of a young girl. Inspiring action to address the lack is important and essential.

Throwing around words  
Only shows we're lazy  
Letter will fall on deaf ears  
And empty heads.  
If words could change the world,  
Mouths would be gods  
And language would be magic.  
But we're thrown words around  
Long enough.  
The world doesn't need more words,  
The world needs action.  
And we need the world. ( *All Talk* by Christopher Patterson)

