

Wanda Paulette Harris

Wanda Paulette Harris is a painter for whom diversity is a defining characteristic. Her work includes figurative, abstract expression, cubism, design elements and ethnic motifs; and through the use of oils and acrylics, it combines her great variety of artistic practice, training and life experience.

Her use of color is another defining trait of Wanda's work. In her hands, color itself is a medium; the one that unites the diverse styles. Bold color imparts rich emotion reminiscent of Picasso to some of her figurative work. In her abstract work, color is an important compositional element whose intensity conveys strong emotion and something quite stirring.

Wanda's work, especially the cubist expression paintings, has an undeniable universal quality, drawing on deliberately planned themes for its imagery, inspiration, and structured method of composition. "Mostly I want to express an impactful story or strong message that is quieted or accentuated by my use of color," says Wanda.

Wanda credits her African American heritage for her interest in studying the Ashanti (West African) Adinkra symbols, a collection of visual aphorisms that communicate qualities of love, strength, nature, and social responsibility. She incorporates these symbols occasionally in her work. She also draws on her attraction to elements and features of architecture and period structures, such as walls, doors, columns and stairs.

The rich milieu of her beloved South Florida has been the inspiration of many of Wanda's tropical compositions that provide a vibrant and joyful color palette. Her figurative work is usually rendered in bold colors, and her cubist expressions evoke a touch of the whimsical.

Wanda is a self-taught artist. She grew up in South Florida, where she currently resides. She began exploring her talent as early as the second grade, drawing figures, portraits and animals. Her passion for drawing grew along with her proficiency and soon every day after school, she was drawing images inspired by everything around her.

She taught herself by studying the works of and reading the biographies of well-known artists. Art supplies were limited, but her mother occasionally gave her gifts of tools and art supplies. She practiced her art constantly and discovered her strengths and interests through art classes in public school. Though she was not able to pay for art school, she did continue to take classes whenever she could, thereby adding a dimension of formal training to her art education. Essentially, she developed her talent and techniques through self-discipline, passion for her work, and a willingness to pursue any opportunity to perfect her abilities.

To speak of Wanda Paulette's artistic journey is to conjure a long road with many stops, as she discovered one form of expression after another, marshaling them all to create a distinct personal style that, while eclectic, is consistent but never static.

Wanda Paulette Harris - Artist Resume
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EXPERIENCE

Wanda Paulette Harris, Fine Art Painter, Portrait Artist, Muralist and Illustrator
 Inner City Renaissance Artists Incorporated, President, November 1996 – 2012

EDUCATION

Florida A&M University, Clothing & Retailing, Fashion Design, 1973-1974
 Atlanta School of Fashion Design, 1973
 Miami Dade College, 1970-1972

Exhibitions	Location		Date
Women's Impact Luncheon	Florida Atlanta Univ. Kovens Conference Ctr.	Miami Beach, FL	March 13, 2019
Ancient Legacy, Myths and Legends Exhibit	Studio 18 Pines Gallery	Miramar, FL	August 10-Sept 26, 2018
Solo Exhibit: HEWE Annual Business Women's Retreat	The Magnolia Leaf	Thomasville, GA	July 9-11, 2006
The Middle Passage - Kuumba Artists Collective	Deluxe Arts Gallery	Miami	November 2006
The 7 th Annual Oscar Thomas Exhibit	Amodlozi Gallery	Miami	April 2007
Solo Exhibition: "Lift Every Voice	The Old Dillard Museum	Ft. Lauderdale	September 28 - November 16, 2007 October 16, 2007 -
Front & Centre	The Centre Club	Tampa	March 15, 2008 October 25, -
Chamber of Commerce Exhibition	Amadlozi Gallery	Miami	November 15, 2007
The Eyes of Painted Voices" - Inner City Renaissance Artists Group Exhibition	Amadlozi Gallery	Miami	November 17, 2007 December 1, 2007 -
2 nd Annual 85@85 Exhibition	miArte Gallery	Coral Gables	February 29, 2008
Solo Exhibit: WIFF (Women's Int'l Film Festival)	CineArt Lounge	Coconut Grove	February 1-18, 2008
The 8 th Annual Oscar Thomas Exhibit	Amodlozi Gallery	Miami	April-May 2008
Juneteenth & The Quest for Independence in the Americas	Old Dillard Museum The African American Research Library and Cultural Center	Ft. Lauderdale	June 19-August 18, 2008
Soul On Ice		Ft. Lauderdale	July 5-26, 2008 December 5, 2008 -
3 rd Annual 85@85 Exhibition	miArte Gallery	Coral Gables	February 29, 2009
The 6 th Annual Carrie P. Meek Outstanding Education Leadership Achievement Award Ceremony	Nova Univ. Black Heritage Council - Signature Grand	Davie, FL	February 26, 2010
Art Shows			
NeoCon Trade Show	Art-Exchange Group International	Chicago, IL Ft. Lauderdale	August 2005
Sister Cities International Conference	Marketplace	Lauderdale	June 2007

Art-Exchange Exhibition	Mandalay Resort	Las Vegas, NV	September 28-30, 2007
The Wynnwood Latin Music and Art Festival	Miami Design District	Miami	October 25, 2007
Bellafonte Tacolcy 40 th Annual Anniversary Celebration Art Exhibition	Bellafonte Tacolcy Center	Miami	November 3, 2007
Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce - 2 nd Annual Gala Art Show	Sheraton Convention Center	Miami	December 7, 2007
Calabash Art Festival	African Heritage Cultural Art Center	Miami	May 15, 2008
The Wynnwood Latin Music and Art Festival	Miami Design District	Miami	October 6, 2008

PUBLIC MURAL INSTALLATIONS

Mary McLeod Bethune Pre-K School, Miami, FL - 94' Interior Wall - Completed December 23, 2007
 Brentwood Park Pavillion, Miami Gardens, FL - "Cultural Diversity and Peace Mural" Completed January 19, 2008
 I-95 at 54th Street - "Garden Reflection" Mural Tribute to Arthur Teele - Completed January 2010
 Tacolcy Center, Miami, FL - "One Village Mural" - Completed March 2010
 Tacolcy Center, Miami, FL - Ndebele Inspired Mural - Completed January 2012

BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS

"The Professional Development Briefcase for College Students" - Author: Dr. Gail Thompkins - Cover Design, Copyright 2004 by Pearson Custom Printing, ISBN 0-536-81524-0

NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Women in Art 278 - October 2017 featured page 48-48
 South Florida Times - July 18, 2008
 Westside Gazette - November 11, 2008

AWARDS

AHCAC 2009 Impact Award - presented by the Miami-Dade County Division of Arts and Culture – May 1, 2009