

New Hope  
Easter Arts Ministry Art Exhibit  
April 17 – May 19, 2022

## Artists Bios

### Ron Becker



The natural world is a canvas unequalled for drama and visual experiences that move our inner selves. Color and form found in nature inspires Ron to emphasize composition and the values of light and dark, to create movement and mood. As a realist, Ron uses color and variety of tones to create drama, inviting the viewer into the painting. Layering of color and highlighting nuances of texture are elements he strives to imbue in each piece. Exploring new techniques and ways to work with

mediums, as well as expressing the nature of his heart and soul, Ron focuses on environments that illicit a feeling of calm, serenity, beauty or the divine.

“Fragile Beauties” reminds us of the awakening of Spring and the glorious rebirth our God manifests in all of nature. Spring always harkens hope, as the cold, barren winter gives way to warm, peaceful days. [rbeckerart.com](http://rbeckerart.com)

### Patrice Donnell



I’m a sculptor, writer and retreat designer who believes creativity can heal, lift, and bond us. My drawings, like “Hands in Prayer” tend to focus on human spiritual interaction. On my website you’ll see my sculptures celebrating the joy of animal companions. In my mystery novel, “Untouched,” empathic creativity brings forgiveness and powerful healing to a family mired in pain.

In 2021 I was awarded a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts for my design event, “Tapestry of Hope”, using art and ritual to help others tap into the power of transformation and tell their stories. Attendees were invited to tell a story of a woman who inspired them, and to choose a scarf to represent her. With only fabric, pins and cardboard, I was able to create a powerful tapestry of diverse women holding each other up - and the attendees actually formed a supportive community. In these fractured times, I’m committed more than ever to continue to bring messages of joy, hope and love through all of my work. Please visit my website: [PatriceDonnell.com](http://PatriceDonnell.com) Thank you!

“Hands in Prayer” Conte Crayon on Paper 12" x 14"

“Tapestry of Hope” Fabric Installation Scarves, pins and foamcore on wire 4" x 20"

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**Karen Harris – visual artist**



Hello Everyone. I am Karen Harris, Visual artist, happy to be celebrating this Spring holiday 2022 with you here in New York City.

I want to thank all the Marble Collegiate staff and especially Mario Sprouse our Arts Ministry Coordinator as well as Victoria Pepe, another brilliant artist who has done so much to move our creative programs forward!

May you enjoy my two colorful works.

The first is a photo I took recently. The abundant plethora of pink cherry blossoms in late March really excited me.

There is nothing like the first green buds of Springtime and their family of flowers!

My second artwork is a small 8"x8" canvas on which I composed an acrylic painting of two large pink peony flowers and their buds about to blossom before our very eyes. If you think flowers are easy to portray; try to paint a rose or a peony or a lilac on a stem - you will soon find out otherwise!

My love of flowers first began in childhood when my mom planted seeds in our house front garden. These seeds gave birth to large white and pink peony bushes galore with such a sweet scent as we drove up our gravel driveway road, we could smell them at the side of the road before entering our house parquet walkway.

Thank you for visiting our show!

Please have an abundant and fulfilling Easter with lots of loving memories.

[Karenharris998@gmail.com](mailto:Karenharris998@gmail.com)

You can send your contact information to my above address or

Call me at 1- 646 - 353 - 1118 and leave a message for me to call you.

Monday through Friday 12 noon to 6 pm.

**Leon Nicholas Kalas – Curator, Artist**



Painting to me is a life force not a career. My work consist mostly of figurative and portrait paintings, however, I do experiment in various art movements; pure abstract, abstract expressionism, minimalism, symbolism, and conceptualism.

All art movements interest me. I have studied portraiture and human anatomy at the New York academy of Art, the Art Students League of New York, and FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology). My work has been exhibited extensively in New York and Maryland galleries, and in June of 2005 one of my paintings was exhibited at the Metropolitan museum of Art in New York. On May of 2011 I was exhibited in Cuba at the invitation of the Ministry of

culture. My work is collected throughout the United States, Europe, Morocco, Canada, and the Caribbean. My work is also in the library of Congress, the Clinton Presidential Library in Little

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Rock, AK, the Ministry of Culture in Bucharest, Romania, the Museul de Art in Cluz-Napoca, Romania, Royal Collection of Morocco, and the royal collection of HRH King of Greece. I have been published in NYArt magazine, Boheme magazine, Paris, France, Brooklyn Fine Art magazine, and various newspapers such as Caribbean News, The Brooklyn Eagle and the Brooklyn Currier. I have participated in art camps for cultural exchanges in Morocco, Romania, Cuba and Haiti.

Important portraits that I have painted are for actors Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis, fashion designer Valentino Garavani, US Senator Roland Borris, His Majesty, Mohammed VI King of Morocco, HRH King Constantine of Greece, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Harry Belafonte, Ultra Violet ( Andy Warhol's Superstar.) and Minister of Culture, Port Au Prince, Haiti.

STUDIO 149, Brooklyn, New York

Website: [www.leonkalas.com](http://www.leonkalas.com)

“I Am the Light” – oil on canvas

**Rhonda S. Musak – actor, photographer**



Rhonda S. Musak: Rhonda has been a member of Marble Church since 2007. She is an actor and has been performing her autobiographical solo show, *Rhonda Badonda: The Adventures of a Girl with a Pain in Her Brain*, both nationally and internationally since 2015. Rhonda has appeared in numerous NYC productions including the title role of *Ondine* – which was produced by her company, Deep Water Productions. Other favorites include: *The School for Wives*, *The Good Person of Setzuan*, *A Christmas Carol* and 3 productions of *Romeo & Juliet*. Rhonda has toured nationally and has performed regionally. She is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and coaches actors 9-90 at her acting studio, Art & Soul Acting.

[www.RhondaBadonda.com](http://www.RhondaBadonda.com) & [www.ArtAndSoulActing.com](http://www.ArtAndSoulActing.com) @ArtNSoulActing

Photograph: “Easter Blooms in the East Village.” The photo shows the crucifix atop Most Holy Redeemer Church in the East Village, 3rd Street between A & B. It was taken on a Sunday morning around Easter on the way to Sister Carol's Bible study.

**VICTORIA PEPE PEPE LUMINSONICS**



Victoria Pepe is a lifelong multimedia, multidimensional artist, composer and creator of artistic video and VR presentations. She feels that she creates from a Higher Source, and feels more like a self-taught artist, even with a fine education. She has with a wide range of skills and talents, and creates fine line complex, harmonious, geometric drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography; her videos often include her music. She works in both analogue and digital media. As a fine artist, Pepe's foundation for her images is her free hand unique style sacred geometric drawings and paintings. She is also adept using computer art programs. She lives and creates in

Manhattan and is founder of LuminSonics Inc.

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Pepe's drawings, paintings, photos, animations and multimedia productions have been exhibited nationally, including shows in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and California. Victoria has exhibited in venues and galleries such as The Ballet Shop and Gallery Lincoln Center; Metropolitan Opera Gift Shop; Long Island Arts Festival; The Audio-Video and Film Festival Gallery X; Gallery 49; Digital Bridges at the Westbeth Gallery Digital Arts Video Show; The Godseye Exhibit; Artexpo at the Javits Center; The Visionary Arts Festival at The Palace of Fine Arts San Francisco; The Arts Renewal Program and The Film/Video Showcase at the Marble Collegiate Arts Showcases. She also exhibited at The Atlantic City Art Center, New Jersey; The LGTripp Gallery, Philadelphia, Pa.; The Marble Summer arts festival; The Marble Pop Up Art Exhibit and the Advent – the art of waiting” Marble Art Exhibit; exhibits on the Marble Wall of Healing; solo exhibit The Living Room Gallery with Midtown Arts Common and St. Peter's Church. She recently created the video presentation for Advent, and the very new VR "Christmas Spirit" and "We've Come this Far By Faith" and Lent art shows online for the Marble Arts Ministry.

In addition to being a multimedia visual artist, Victoria is a lifelong composer and performer. Her professional opera career gave her opportunities in music in Vienna and NYC, where, as a pianist she also performed her original music and the classics. Her studies in music ranged from private lessons to North short Conservatory of music, and master classes at Juilliard and Manhattan School of music, adjunct to the Vienna academy of music in Vienna and in-depth studies with maestros of the Met opera and City Opera. Victoria also has accompanied and taught many singers who performed in venues in NYC including Singers at Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center and off Broadway. She also composed music for educational and documentary videos: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The University of the Arts, Pa The Philadelphia School, The McKinney Gallery, Pa. and the TV show Ultimately You. As an accomplished composer, she creates the music that accompanies many of her art/music videos shown at galleries and other artistic venues. And as an artist, she creates all the covers for her music. Much of her music is currently in World Wide distribution. As a composer she is known as Pepe LuminSonics and is a member of ASCAP. Considered a truly multimedia disciplinary visionary artist, Pepe's life long spiritual quest forms a foundation for her artistic expressions and concepts. Concerning her art and music she states, “Creating connects me to something beyond myself. It is a meditation and a timeless place of profound peace and transcendence. I connect to a higher Source which creates through me. It is hoped that this transcendent transformative energy is conveyed to those who view and hear my work.” In the Philadelphia City Paper art review of Pepe's virtual video painting on exhibit at the LG Tripp Gallery, Robin Rice writes that her video art is "a truly artful night light". Victoria hopes her creative expressions help spread the Light.

For the current Arts Ministry show, "New Hope" Easter2022, she created the video slide show, an art piece and the music. In this video art slide show, Victoria creates a flowing video that showcases each piece of art in an engaging and interesting way. The art glides synchronistically with her music. The music in this video is her original piece: "Hope Eternal." It can be heard in most music platforms such as Pandora, Spotify and Amazon. Victoria's fine art print, "Hope Springs Eternal", is a part of her augmented reality series of art. It is a fusion of the natural and artistically created world. In it, the Easter Lily, a universal symbol of the Resurrection and of hope, emerges and merges within this reality to create a new world. Hope is eternal and always springs forth. It represents the world that we can, through faith, embrace.

Please visit: [www.PepeLuminSonics.com](http://www.PepeLuminSonics.com) and [Linktr.ee/PepeLuminSonics](http://Linktr.ee/PepeLuminSonics) for a more complete overview.

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**Susan Ceely Philips – photographer, poet**



Susan Barbre Ceely Philips

Susan - my given name from my mom and dad

Barbre - my mom's family name

Ceely - my dad's family name

Philips - my chosen family name

All together, it's the name for me.

I have been a waitress, a secretary, a receptionist, a television advertising producer/production coordinator, a speech therapist and teacher, a church member, a volunteer, and a seeker - not necessarily in that order.

Now, I 'seek' to find and to share some of what has brought me to this point in my life. I offer a few of my thoughts, feelings, and observations through poetry in my photography and my writings. Thank you for pausing to 'listen'.

Poems/Photographs – “Hope” “Take a Breath” “Basking In a Sun Bath” “Resurrections – again and again on this day” “Feldging” “Turning Point”

**Douglas Powers - photographer**



Pope Francis recently described artists as “Apostles of beauty.” That phrase resonates deeply within me. I see natural beauty in the many places I encounter when I'm out and about commuting or just walking around.

I have done my job as an artist if this photograph brings you a feeling of beauty.

Photograph - “Resurrection”

Email: [dpow744@gmail.com](mailto:dpow744@gmail.com)

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**Joan Silinsh - Photographer**



Joan did not actively pursue photography until her retirement. By contrast, in her childhood in Mexico, her father, an educator, was an independent film producer documenting the country's culture and screening his films in the United States for ten years.

In her 35-year career with McGraw-Hill (now S&P Global), Joan held various management positions. Her last post was as Director of Advertising and Promotion for two magazines in the construction field - ENR (Engineering News-Record) and Design-Build.

As an avid traveler, photography has enabled Joan to capture memories of the countries she has visited. Besides travel photos, she uses her camera to showcase the variety and beauty of flowers.

Joan studied photography in courses offered by Greenwich House and the Senior Center at St. Peter's Church. She has exhibited her photographs at several Greenwich House art competitions, Su Casa Creative Center and Marble Collegiate. For a number of years she volunteered at Greenwich House's Center on the Square taking photos of events and outings. Joan has produced numerous photo books documenting her travels, and she also uses her photos to design her own greeting cards.

Joan recently relocated to Sarasota, Florida, and is setting her sights on new photo opportunities. She recently exhibited her photographs at Bay Village's Inspirational Art gallery.

Photographs: "Meditation" "Roots: Greater than Branches" "The Purity of Daisies"

**Margery Westin – Photographer**



As a teenager it was fun to experiment with an old camera of my Dad's, creating double-exposure photos. Serving as the candid photographer for the yearbook in high school was also enjoyable.

Photography remained just a hobby until the age of thirty-seven, when I found out I had a 25% chance of losing my remaining 50% of hearing due to Meniere's syndrome. With that scary possibility, I became intent on building my photography skills. During work vacations, I would take week-long classes with established professional photographers all over the country, creating images of pets, people or locations and studying composition, lighting, posing and marketing.

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When my full-time merchandising position was moved to South Carolina in the late 1990's, an SBA sponsored class on starting a small business was helpful. I joined the PPA (Professional Photographers of America) and attended monthly meetings of the WPPA (Westchester PPA). Marketing myself for 5 years as a portrait photographer, I specialized in Pets, Children and Families.

Now retired, my iPhone is my camera of choice, and my subject is whatever captures my eye. However, four-legged subjects will always be my favorite. [mwestinpix@aol.com](mailto:mwestinpix@aol.com)

Photographs: “Life Springs Forth” “Nature’s Perfection” “Springtime in New York”