

Portraits in Black  
February 8 – 28, 2022

Artists Bios - Arts Ministry Black History Month Exhibit

**Hellen Cha-Kim - Painter**



Figure, portrait and landscape painter; studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and also received M.Div. (Master in Divinity) in Princeton Theological Seminary.

Her works have been exhibited in museums and galleries, including the Harrisburg State Museum, Woodmere Museum, and the Artist house, PA.

She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Irma H. Cook Prize for excellence in drawing, Thouron Prize for excellence in composition, Earl T. Donelson Figure Painting Award, the Charles J. Frith, Jr., Landscape

Purchase Prize at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

She has been on the faculty at Alvernia University from 2007 to 2016 and an art director at Albert Conservatory from 1994 to 2015.

**Artist statement**

The best reward for being an artist is living an exciting life by seeing the world around me more attentively and analytically. As nature reveals to me, a little bit at a time, the interesting relation between form, color, tone and energy, I am amazed and become more thankful for the world we have been given.

With a classical art education background, I have focused on oil painting figures including self-portraits. Also I gradually broadened my interest to landscape, to still life, and to water colors. I am a student of the nature and from it I am able to learn “how I should paint” rather than “what I should paint.”

I am currently a full time working artist and teacher living in Jersey City, NJ. I look forward continuing to serve my community through visual art.

*Portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr.* Watercolor  
[www.hellencha.com](http://www.hellencha.com)      [www.portraitsbyhellen.com](http://www.portraitsbyhellen.com)

P.O.R.

Prices on request. You may contact each artist individually through their email address or website.

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**Brian G. Jones - Artist**



A Carnegie Mellon University graduate and native Washingtonian (DC), he began as a Visual Information Specialist for the Smithsonian Institution, Office of Exhibits Central.

Mr. Jones joined Corning Incorporated in 1984 as a Communications Designer in Corporate Design. As Manager, Creative Design for Corporate Exhibits & Design, Brian's expertise has been applied to the full gamut of creative problem-solving in 2- and 3-dimensional design for corporate branding, tradeshow and events, sales promotion and collateral. Now, as COO / Creative Director at Crystal McKenzie, Inc., since 2001, Jones has done work for a broad array of industries including optical communications, eye care, automotive, life sciences, and information display, cultural institutions and higher education.

In 1998, the Smithsonian invited Brian to design the exhibit *Speak To My Heart: Communities of Faith and Contemporary African American Life*. The 5,000 square-foot exhibit was organized and produced by the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture.

Jones' fine art has been shown in solo and group exhibitions including Marble Collegiate Church (New York, N.Y.) ongoing *Celebrating the Creative Spirit* series; 171 Cedar Arts Center, Corning, N.Y.; published in *Seven Visions: The Spirit of Religion in Contemporary Regional Art* by the Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, N.Y.; and, *Finger Lakes Wine Country: Just Down the Road* Outdoor Billboard Group Exhibition and Website Gallery, The Arts of the (N.Y.) Southern Finger Lakes. Brian has earned recognition from *Print* magazine and the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). Brian also served on the AIGA / Upstate New York Board of Directors.

Not forgetting the value of his educational experience, Brian has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Alfred University, teaching School of Art & Design Courses: *Design for Business Vision*, *Visual Communications*, and *Introduction to Design* and currently teaches *Communication Design* at CUNY CityTech, Brooklyn, N.Y.

“Grandfather” - Woodcut

“Lou’s Barberhop” – Woodcut

“Brian Trussel” – Pastel on paper

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**Leon Nicholas Kalas –Curator,Artist Studio ONE49, Brooklyn, New York**



**Leon Nicholas Kalas.** 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 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.

My artwork can be seen on the website of the prestigious Saatchi Gallery in London. UK. In addition, I have just published a 2 volume book which features over 750 of my paintings.

“Nubas” - Oil on canvas “Ahmad Jamal” - Oil on canvas “Coleman Hawkins” - Oil on canvas

Websites: [www.leonkalas.com](http://www.leonkalas.com) [www.leonkalas.com/video](http://www.leonkalas.com/video)

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VICTORIA PEPE PEPE LUMINSONICS



In addition to being a multimedia visual artist, Victoria is a life long composer and performer. Her professional opera career gave her opportunities in music in Vienna and NYC where she also performed her original piano music as well as the classics. Her music studies ranged from private lessons, classes at the North Shore Conservatory of Music, master classes at Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music and adjunct to the Vienna Academy of Music in Vienna. She also received in depth training with maestros of the Met opera and City Opera. Victoria has accompanied and taught many singers who perform in venues in NYC including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Off Broadway.

She also composes music for educational and documentary videos in productions at 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 which are 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. She is a member of ASCAP.

The beautiful stages of love and passion, in all dimensions, including the spiritual, are expressed by this 3 minute, modern classical piano solo, "Love Passion." It starts with gentle beginnings. As the pace and dynamics of the music accelerate, it builds to a love expressed in passion. Then a special new intimate love results from this passion, which is conveyed by the music as the pace and dynamics float more tenderly. There is a musical harmonic theme that is present which represents the nature of love throughout all these phases. It is a musical journey of feelings, romance, joy, tenderness and the essence and aspects of love on all levels. The video expresses these themes visually, as the colors change, as the spirit light illumines, and the celestial stars glisten. It is music for all time and especially now for this month in which Marble celebrates Black History Month and Valentine's Day.

There are many quotes with the theme of Love in the Bible.. Here are a few:

*Nehemiah 9:17 You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,*

*Isaiah 54:10 ....my steadfast love shall not depart from you,*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. ... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

*Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."*

*Romans 12:10: Be devoted to one another in love.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14 13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.*

*1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly.*

*1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

*John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

[www.PepeLuminSonics.com](http://www.PepeLuminSonics.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. In addition, The Arts Community at Bay Village has invited Joan to do a solo show of her photographs - primarily flowers in their gallery. The show will run from Feb. 14 to March 24th.

Photographs: "Wanawake" "Water Carriers"

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