

"We've Come This Far by Faith"
Sponsored by The Arts Ministry of Marble Collegiate Church
Black History Month 2021



Ron Becker rbeckerart.com Ron's usual work, as a realist of landscapes and nature, uses color and variety of tones to create drama, inviting the viewer into his paintings. Ron focuses on environments that illicit a feeling of calm, serenity, beauty or the divine. He has exhibited in a variety of Long Island galleries, the RIVAA Gallery in NYC and a solo exhibition at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, NY. He has won several awards in juried shows and his work is in private collections around the country.

"Witness For Racial Justice" was envisioned while participating in a virtual Ignation retreat, focusing on racial equity issues and being introduced to writings from "The Cross and the Lynching Tree" by James Cone. The racial injustice in our country, brought to light last summer through killings and protests, moved Ron to use his art to join the conversation in addressing these painful truths. The men and women in this piece are witness and examples of living Christ's message, showing love and compassion for others:

Sister Thea Bowman - shared the message of God's love through a teaching career. She then traveled the country breaking down racial and cultural barriers through presentations combining singing, gospel, preaching, prayer and storytelling.

Venerable Augustus Tolton - Born into slavery, he was the first black Roman Catholic priest in America who ministered to Chicago's poorest people.

Venerable Zeinab Alif - Kidnapped by slave traders, ransomed and entrusted to poor Clare nuns, she became Abbess, emerging her life in God and prayer, serving the community of Serra de' Conti.

Mother Mary Lange - founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first African American religious order - educating youth, founding a home for orphans, nursed the terminally ill, sheltered the elderly and provided social and pastoral services to all ethnic groups.

Venerable Teresa Chikaba - A Ghanaian princess, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Once free, entered the Dominican convent of La Penitencia, caring for the poor, sick and down hearted.

Saint Martin de Porres - Reared in poverty, he entered the Dominican order, nursing the sick and caring for the poor. He founded an orphanage, took care of slaves brought from Africa and became procurator of the priory and city.

Saint Katherine Drexel - Born to a wealthy Philadelphia couple, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated her life to giving oppressed minorities in America access to education, founding 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans and 12 schools for Native Americans.

Saint Peter Claver - A native of Spain, he worked as a missionary in Cartagena. During his 40 years of ministry, he instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves, giving basic instruction and assuring his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's love.

"Witness For Racial Justice" – Egg tempera & gold leaf 28" x 36"

All Artwork is for sale. Please contact the artists directly

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About the Artist: **Hellen Cha-Kim**

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 in Jersey City, NJ. I look forward continuing to serve my community through visual art.

Portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Watercolor on paper

www.hellencha.com | <http://www.portraitsbyhellen.com>



Karen Harris, Visual Artist, is grateful to be participating in her first **Black History Month** online exhibition at Marble Collegiate Church.

Different than her usual in-person and landscape semi-abstract works - Karen felt an important need to express her views.

"Contemplation" her current work here specifically displays a profound look into the thoughts and feelings of a complex, young black woman who reflects on life (and her life) and what it means to be alive in today's challenging world. The viewer cannot completely know her thoughts - one can only guess. It is this, with a pastel medium and diversification of colors, that contributes to her mystery and wonderment. Perhaps she is contemplating "What the heck is going to happen next?!"

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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.

"The Hem of His Garment" – Charcoal

"Public place – Sacred Space" – Charcoal



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.

Spirit in Flesh I – Oil on wood

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Victoria Pepe is a lifelong multimedia artist, composer and creator of artistic video and VR presentations. As a self-taught artist, with a wide range of skills and talents, she 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. Her music (known as Pepe LuminSonics) is in worldwide distribution.

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 Godsey 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" art shows online for the Marble Arts Ministry. As an accomplished composer, she creates the music that accompanies many of her art/music videos. 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. Victoria has professional experience in design, theater and media for: Vivian Beaumont Theater, Lincoln Center, scenic design; Metropolitan Opera Gift Shop, designed gifts at Lincoln Center; Westbury Music Fair, Long Island, props and properties; AIS (J. Walter Thompson) TV quality and content control. As a photographer she has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Life of the City; Our Flag, Grace Gallery; and the Ritz Broadway Window Photo Exhibit, NYC. Her sculptures have been shown at Roger LaPelle Galleries, Philadelphia. Pepe's art is also in and private studios and showcases.

Considered a truly multidisciplinary visionary artist, Pepe's lifelong 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 VR presentation "We've Come This Far By Faith" she presents: "Spirit of Resilience: Inspired by Judith Jamison", who is recognized as one of the most prominent dancers in the world and among the most influential African American dancers. A magnificent dancer and choreographer; she is also the first African American woman to direct a major modern dance company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Thus, this art is inspired. Victoria originally painted Resilience on a 4'canvas in acrylic. She then created it in this entirely new way as vector art for exact reproduction. The art has sweeping geometric forms which express her dynamic and resilient energy and with balance and harmony. The current print is 19X13 and can be enlarged as desired, POD, keeping its clarity, shape and vibrancy.

Contact Victoria and visit her website www.LuminSonics.com

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